

Out of Bondage onto Promise

Exodus 4:1-31

- Moses after forty years of shepherding for his father and law Jethro on the backside of the desert is called by God to go back to Egypt and be His messenger as He uses him to deliver Israel from out of Pharaoh's hand. This is something Moses had wanted to do decades ago but because he didn't wait on the Lord when he tried in his own strength he failed miserably. Now God is sending him back and but not in Moses name or authority, instead its in the name and power of "**I Am Who I Am**" The Self Existent One, The One Who always was and Who always is.

V1-31

- **V1** in the last chapter Moses first objection was "**he had become a nobody**" therefore Pharaoh won't listen to him, and then the second objection is "**The children of Israel don't really know You**" in fact "**I don't even know Your Name**". The Lord answered his objections with it doesn't matter if you're a nobody because it is not you who will be doing the delivering it is Me, and I will do it with signs and wonders, second My name is "**I Am Who I Am**" The self Existent One.
- What God is telling him is because it is He that is with Moses it doesn't matter who it is that is against Moses > **3:12 "I will certainly be with you"** and that should be enough. God says the same thing to you and I > **Rom 8:31, 38-39**- it doesn't matter whether Angels, Demons, life or death is against us nothing can or will separate us from the love o God, so "**if He is for us then who can be against us**", and to them who are against us then "**woe unto to them**" as thankfully they will be fighting God and not us and we know that is an unwinnable battle.
- It's good that Moses clearly **has no confidence in the flesh**, that's what these forty years in the desert shepherding sheep has produced, but it is bad that he also **lacks confidence in God**. Notice how after God answers Moses concerns instead of trust he follows up with doubt, as he's trying to justify to God why he is not the person to represent Him in going back to Egypt. So instead of faith his questions reveal his unbelief more than a sincere seeking of God's will.
- **V2-5** I love this section as it shows God will work with what we have, and all these years tending sheep weren't wasted years as what is in Moses hand God is going to use for His glory. God did this with David **1Sam 17:49**- a rock, a jawbone of a donkey with Samson **Judg 15:15**, and a man named Shamgar in **Judg 3:31** where he killed **600** Philistines with a farm tool. God does this with Moses asking him what is in your hand "**a rod**" which later God will use to part the red sea and strike a rock in the desert and bring forth water, here he simply tells Moses to throw it down.
- When he does it becomes a serpent which causes Moses to take off barefoot in the hot sand across the desert, Moses comes back and to take it by the tail which he does and it turns back into a rod. When God asked Moses "**what is in his hand**" it wasn't because God didn't know it was that Moses didn't know what God could do with what He's given to us. We are like this also, we look at what we have at our disposal and to us it doesn't look like much, what can God do with this, instead we should be looking at God and saying with an open hand Lord use it for Your glory, God tells Moses that with this seemingly useless rod I'll put the fear of Me into Egypt.

- **V6-9** so Moses would get the point God tells him to take his hand and put it into his bosom and when he takes it back out again its leprous, and then He tells him to put it back and take it out again and it was restored like the other one. God tells him if they won't listen to the first two signs then they'll heed the third sign where He will turn the Nile River into blood. Moses asked two questions > **1.** Who am I, **2.** Who are You, God asked one question "**what's in your hand**". The first two questions came from a place of doubt and unbelief, the last came from faith, if we allow the first two questions to determine our actions-potential then we won't ever act in faith.
- **V10** even after all that Moses still offers resistance to doing what God asked of him, saying "**I don't speak well**" I'm not eloquent enough, **Acts 7:22** says Moses not only possessed wisdom but also was mighty in word and deed, so he wasn't confident in his ability to impress upon the Hebrews and Egyptians God's message, but again Moses needed to know its not by anything that we possess that makes us a success, its all about God taking what we have and blessing it.
- **V11-12** God Who has made the sun and the moon, says He also made "**the mouth, the deaf, the blind, the seeing**" its all because of God and His power, therefore He'll be the One Who teaches Him what to say. **V13-16** Moses again resists and asks if God can send someone else, and that provoked the Lord's anger in which God asks "is not Aaron your brother" then the Lord says "**I know he can speak well, so don't give me another objection, he'll come with you, and I'll put the words in his mouth and will be with both of your tongues teaching you what to say**".
- **V17-18** finally Moses goes and first he shows his respect for his father in law asking him if he could leave and go back to Egypt but notice he doesn't say to deliver Israel he says to visit in order to see if his relatives were still alive. **V19-21** while on his way God reassures him that those who wanted to kill him were dead, and when he arrives in Egypt all the signs that God shows him for hi to do it but understand it won't be easy as Pharoah's heart will be harden. Notice it doesn't say Pharoah hardened his heart but that the Lord has hardened his heart.
- **V22-26** we see that God sees Israel as His firstborn son which allows them to receive the blessings of the firstborn, which is why the promises still apply to them even though they have disobeyed the Lord all these centuries. Before Moses reaches Egypt there is some business that hasn't been taken care of and that is Moses 2nd son had not been circumcised. **2 Cor 10:5-6** before we can lead others out of bondage we first must be obedient to what we are supposed to do. His wife doesn't like this but despite her objections Moses must obey God over her, as she calls him "**a bloody husband**" this no doubt is in reference to what Hebrew custom requires.
- **V27-28** Moses meets Aaron at **MT. Horeb**, which later is called **MT. Sinai**, where the burning bush occurred and where God would give Moses the ten Commandments. Here a reunion that takes forty years happens with Moses and Aaron, and Moses tells him all that the Lord has been doing. **V29-31** afterward they gather the elders of Israel tell them what God said and intends to do and to authenticate the message performs miracles in front of them as **V8-9 > 1:22**- God knows that the Jews require a sign and again the Lord meets them where they are.