

## Out of Bondage onto Promise

### Exodus 3:1-22

- Moses started out being thrown into the River, but he landed in the King's palace, only to end up on the backside of the desert. So Moses went from being born a slave, to becoming a prince, before finally spending the next forty years living as an obscure Shepherd in the desert of Midian. At this point his life was so humble that he didn't even have a flock of sheep to call his own, the sheep that he cared for all belonged to his father in Law Jethro, but he was content.

### V1-22

- **V1-2** when God calls Moses he is "**working**" the word "**tending**" means this is what he usually does and where you can always find him. One of the most important traits of a servant of God is "**consistency**" and God uses a variety of regular activities to produce it and one of them is work, as God often calls people who are busy not idle. Remember four of the Apostles were managing their fishing business, another Mathew was collecting taxes, Elisha was plowing, Gideon was threshing grain, Samuel was serving in the Tabernacle, and David also tending sheep.
- Also where this happens **Mount Horeb**, is later called **Mount Sinai**, which is the place that Moses climbs in order to receive the Ten Commandments. So Moses is going about his day as he usually does when he notices something peculiar, a bush that is burning but is not being consumed, it's like a foreshadowing in which God's people are tried in the fires of affliction yet not consumed, or believers, where we should all be burning for God and yet not consumed by this world, there are a lot of metaphors that can be used from this incredible scene.
- **V3-4** Moses is so curious about what he sees he goes over to take a closer look, its amazing how God can take an insignificant thing like a desert bush and ignite it, and use it as a miracle to get our attention. I want you to think about this if Moses hadn't been alert or so apathetic toward his life and the world he might have walked right past the miracle and not think any thing of it. I wonder what every day, mundane thing God is using in your life to try and get your attention, that you may be walking right by and not seeing the miracle right in front of your face.
- I want you to notice God doesn't speak until Moses acted, and once he turned aside and came over that's when he heard the voice of God calling to him by name Wow! Moses must've crossed this path a thousand times in forty years of leading the sheep to grasslands, and never did he think that something like this would happen, why do you say that?
- Moses thought God was through with him, he had his shot and blew it back in Egypt, you see like many of us Moses didn't see God as "The God of the second chance" he wrongly thought God was like the Egyptians you get one time to get it right but if you blow it that's it. We can think like that as well, depending on our personal experiences with failure and how others treated us afterward, and then we equate God in the same manner, but God is not like man thankfully, He's longsuffering, patient, and forgiving, and what He starts in us He also completes.

- **V5-6** The Lord speaks to him telling him not to come closer without removing his sandals because to approach Him is “**Holy ground**”. This is the first time we see the word “**Holy**” it means “**sacred**”. Although Moses doesn’t see anyone he is told that he is in the presence of the Lord, the One that he had been told about by his mother all those years ago. Remember Moses is now eighty years old, he doesn’t know if his mother is still alive or his siblings, I’m sure he’s wrestled with whether or not those stories he heard as a boy were true, because when he acted on them it certainly didn’t seem to do him any good or he wouldn’t of ended up in the desert.
- The Lord deals with those doubts by declaring exactly Who He is “**I Am the God of your father, The God of Abraham, The God of Isaac, and The God of Jacob**”, right here He’s letting Moses know that everything you heard all those years ago are true. Moses immediately hides his face, this is a show of humility because he knows how sinful he is and how pure God is, this is the appropriate response when creation meets its creator, its not with pride but in humility.
- **V7-10** God lets Moses know His plan, that He has seen and heard the cries and oppression of His people, and that it is now time for The Lord to deliver them out of Egypt and bring them into the land that He had promised Abraham all those years ago. So come on and get ready as I am sending you back to Pharaoh as My representative to bring My people out of Egypt. This is a great example of what Jesus said about us His people in > **Jn 15:15**- He tells us His plans.
- In this the Lord lets Moses know this is why your plan failed forty years ago, you wanted the same thing that I’ve said here, except you wanted to do it in your time and not Mine. So it didn’t work, and I brought you to this desert to learn to wait on Me, to follow Me, and not run ahead of Me, because you thought that you were **somebody**, but I have used these forty years making you a **nobody**, and preparing you to see how God will take a **nobody**, and make them into His **somebody**, in order to tell **everybody** about Him, now we’ll see Moses response to all of this.
- **V11** Moses is still seeing himself as the failure who ran out of Egypt fearing for his life, he’s still missing the point that before he tried delivering Israel in his own strength and that’s why it failed, but now he’s going back in God’s strength and that’s why it will be successful. So he tells God I’m a nobody, who am I to speak to Pharaoh, in essence “**God you got the wrong person**”.
- **V12** God tells him that wasn’t the right question “**who am I**”, instead its “**Who is God**” it’s not about you and your power it’s about God and His power, that’s what all of us need to remember. The sign is I will bring you and three million people back to this mountain where you doubted Me, and here you will serve Me, what God is speaking of is this is where Moses will also receive God’s Word the Ten Commandments, which won’t happen until several months later.
- **V13-14** Moses after first objecting by saying “**I’m a nobody**” gives his second objection in saying but “I don’t know your Name” of course God’s name “**Jehovah**” had been known for centuries to the Jewish people, but what Moses was asking is when people want me to explain to them why should they follow him what persuasive answer should I give to make them follow me. God answers him tell them “**I Am that I Am**” the self-existent One, The One Who always was and Who always is, has sent you, centuries later Jesus would take the name and complete it.

- **Jn 6:35** “I Am The Bread of Life”, **Jn 8:12** “I Am The Light of Life”, **Jn 15:1** “I Am The True Vine”. **V15-17** The Eternal God knows the end from the beginning, so He tells Moses exactly what will happen when he returns to Egypt, start with Who I Am and not where you’ve been or who you are, and go to the elders of Israel don’t start with the gossipers or opinion makers. In the end tell them that their God has seen what has happened to them and what is being done to them.
- **V18-20** once you have the ears and heart of the people you will have trouble with Pharaoh, he will not let you go no matter what you say about Me or you, so I will convince him by giving him and them some of the same affliction that they have given to you. How sad it is that man often will not respond to God’s goodness but through suffering that he finally will relent and give in to the Lord, which is why often it takes us having no where else to go before we turn to the Lord.
- **V21-22** God not only promises to move upon Pharaoh’s heart but also the heart of the entire Egyptian nation, so that when Israel departs they will be showered with silver, gold and clothing, almost like reparations for all their many years of suffering, as its appropriate wages for their forced labor. This lines up with what God would later say in **Deut 15:12-14**- here God will make the Egyptians obey this commandment even before it has been written. This generosity will go a long way into what **Deut 8:4**- says about their feet not swelling or their clothes not wearing out.