

Exodus 3

And he said, "Here I am."

We want to know the heartbeat of Jesus

- **Deliverer Born**
 1. Miraculous birth: Escapes Pharaoh's decree to kill all Jewish boys
 2. Pharaoh's daughters adopted Moses as her son
 3. Raised by his own Hebrew mother
 4. Dignitary of Egypt/Good Life

- **Remembers his Hebrew roots/Upbringing/True God**
 1. Goes to inspect work of the slaves
 2. Kills/Buries Egyptian found beating Hebrew brethren
 3. Next day two Hebrews fighting

Exodus 13b..."Why are you striking your companion?" 14 Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?"

As Joseph was/Jesus would be...Moses was rejected by his Jewish brethren at his 1st coming rejected

- **Flees from Egypt/Life of Luxury to desert of Midian/School of Hard knocks Seminary**
 1. Delivers seven young girls from bad guys
 2. Marries one
 3. Find him tending sheep in Midian

Moses jumps the gun. Postpones his destiny living now in God's *permissive not perfect* will

40 years later God is not done with Moses...

I. Moses meets Jesus

1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian.

Moses a long way from Egypt

- Tending the flock of **Jethro:**
 1. AKA Reuel; Moses Father-in-Law
 2. Priest of the True God; i.e. the **God of Israel**

1b...And [Moses] led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the **mountain of God.**

- **Led flock to back of desert**
 1. **Horeb:** Lit. desert or desolate
 2. Mountain of God AKA "Mount Sinai"

2 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush.

- **Angel:** heb. *mal·äk'* messenger
- **The Angel of the LORD:** Pre-Incarnate Jesus Christ

Paraphrase: Jesus appears to Moses from a burning bush

- **Angel of the Lord:** 62x in OT all referring to pre-incarnate/pre-existing Jesus

Judges 6:22 [Read] When Gideon saw that he was **the angel of the LORD**, he said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face." 23 The LORD [YHWH] said to him, "Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die." 24 Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and named it The LORD is Peace.

Jesus appears to Moses from a burning bush

- Moses knew Jesus

Hebrews 11:26 [Moses esteemed]... the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt

2b...So [Moses] looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

- Bush burning not consumed/Moses moves to check it out

4 So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

When the Lord saw...? The Angel of the Lord now called "**the Lord**"

- **Calls Moses by name:** Moses responds "Here I am!"

Exodus 33:11 So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

- How did Moses get that close to God?

Psalms 138:6 Though the Lord is on high, Yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar.

Numbers 12:3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)

Humility: Quality of being courteously respectful of others. Opposite of being aggressive, arrogant and boastful

- **Humility** [Meekness] Heb. *ā·nāv'* : Prefers to bear injuries rather than return them

God loves a humble, meek, and contrite heart

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— [lit. broken to pieces] These, O God, You will not despise.

- **Moses:** "Here I am"

5 Then [God] said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet..."

- Don't come as you are/Take off your shoes

Not the man upstairs/a higher power...but the Eternal Awesome Holy God

Removing the sandals showed an **appropriate humility**, because the poorest and most needy have no shoes, and servants usually went barefoot. It also recognized the immediate presence of God. In many cultures, you take off your shoes when you come into someone's house, and now Moses was in God's "house," a place of His immediate presence. [Guzic]

- Don't take another step...

5b...for the place where you stand is holy ground."

- Holy Ground
- **Holy:** Lit. apartness, sacredness, separateness
 1. Separated from falseness
 2. Separated from unrighteousness
 3. Separated from inequity
 4. Separated from darkness

1 John 1:5 ... that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 **But if** we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- We are called to be Holy: Separate from Falseness, Unrighteousness, Inequity, Darkness

1 Peter 1:15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

- Moses attempts to approach God too casually
 1. Take your shoes off
 2. This place is Holy because I am here

6 Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

- Angel of the Lord speaking/Jesus Speaking

"I Jesus AM the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob"

6b...And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

- Fear of God. Reverence for God. New Awe of God

We need a new fresh Awe of God

Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

7 And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

- God is **very aware** of our hurt
 1. Sarai is barren and give Abram her maidservant Hagar bear a child for her
 2. Sarai casts pregnant Hagar out into the desert
 3. Alone, abandon, undeserving of God's grace?

Genesis 16:7 [Read] Now the Angel of the Lord found [Hagar] by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. 8 And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai." 9 The Angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand." 10 Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude." [vv. 11-12 prophesy of Ishmael] ... 13 Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?"

- Hagar names the well Lahai Roi: Well of the One Who Lives and Sees Me

God sees when we are oppressed, depressed, discouraged, paralyzed with fear

1 Peter 5:7 cast... all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- God hears our cry/ knows our sorrow. He knows us better than we know ourselves

1 Corinthians 2:10 ...the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?

- God knows our need and helps us to pray

Romans 8:26 ... the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

- God hears the cry of His people in Egypt

8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. 9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

- **God's time:** Prophesied to Abram 400 years earlier...

Genesis 15:5 Then [God] brought [Abram] outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness...**13** Then [God] said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years...**16** But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

- **I have come down?**
 1. The Angel of the Lord revealed to Moses

2. Commander giving Moses instructions
3. Later He will instruct Moses successor Joshua...

Joshua 5:13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" 14 So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" 15 Then the Commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

- Who was this Commander of Lords army?

Joshua 6:1 Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. 2 And the Lord said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. 3 You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once.

10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

- **Burning Bush:** I'm sending you to deliver MY PEOPLE out of Egypt/Bondage

11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

Moses...Didn't you say '**Here I am**' when I called you?

- **Moses:** First, Here I am...now Who am I?

I do not wonder that Moses opened his eyes when he knew what a poor creature he was for God to say, "Come now, therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh" — the very man whose life was sought by Pharaoh — "I will send thee unto Pharaoh" — the man that had been rejected by his own people— "Your will bring forth my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." Oh! let us be ready for any commission. If God were to say that He would build up heaven by the poorest and average among us...let us not draw back. Let Him do what he wills with us! Oh! for a faith to believe that in the midst of our weakness God's strength would appear. [Spurgeon] [In my weakness He is strong]

12 So [God] said, "I will certainly be with you.

- Moses would covet these Words all his life...

Exodus 33:15 [Moses to God] "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.

12b...And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

- Sign I am with you:
 1. You will accomplish the mission
 2. You will serve me on this same mountain [You won't die trying]

God told Moses **"You won't be certain I was with you until you are done"**

- Sometimes we don't see the sign that God was involved until after obedience
 1. Step out of the boat
 2. Walk in faith

How big is our God?

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- God will now reveal his Bigness/Awesomeness to Moses

SUMMARY Moses meets Jesus

How near God seemed in those ages when he could be beheld in a bush or sitting under an oak! And is he not equally near to us if we are but prepared for his presence? Surely pure eyes are scarce, or sights of God would be more frequent, for "the pure in heart shall see God." [Spurgeon]

II. Who is the I AM?

13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

- Moses said "Who am I" now says "Who are You?"
- Still speaking to Burning Bush Moses "What is Your Name?"

NOTE: It is the Angel of the Lord who says **"My Name is I AM"** [YHWH]

- **Jesus says He is God**

John 8:56 [Read] Your father Abraham **rejoiced to see My day**, and he saw it and was glad." 57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I AM.**" 59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Abraham rejoiced to see Jesus day?

- When? Genesis 14: **Melchizedek** comes out of nowhere to meet Abram
 1. King of Salem [Jerusalem] King of Peace
 2. No beginning or end [Alpha/Omega]
 3. Bread and Wine
 4. Accepted Tithes from Abraham
- You have seen Abraham?

"...before Abraham was, I AM."

- Jews took up stones? Why?
- They knew He was claiming to be God: ...before Abraham was, I AM."

John 10:30 [Read] I and My Father are one." 31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" 33 The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because **You, being a Man, make Yourself God.**"

Jesus is the great I AM

15 Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.'

- **The I AM:** Always existing One

The name I AM has within it the idea that God is completely independent; that He relies on nothing for life or existence God doesn't need anybody or anything - life is in Himself. Also inherent in the idea behind the name I AM is the sense that God is "the becoming one"; God becomes whatever is lacking in our time of need. [Guzic]

1. **I AM** everything you will ever want or need
2. **I AM** the heart's desire of all who desire:
 - a) Truth
 - b) Righteousness
 - c) Equity
 - d) Light/Love/Life**

- **Seven I AM Statements** of Jesus in Gospel of John
 1. I AM the Bread of Life
 2. I AM the Light of the World
 3. I AM the Door
 4. I AM the Good Shepherd
 5. I AM the resurrection and the Life
 6. I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life
 7. I AM the Vine

SUMMARY Who is the I AM? Jesus

At the end of that pilgrimage, Jesus returned to Nazareth and was obedient to his parents (cf. Lk 2:51). This image also contains a beautiful teaching about our families. A pilgrimage does not end when we arrive at our destination, but when we return home and resume our everyday lives, putting into practice the spiritual fruits of our experience. We know what Jesus did on that occasion. Instead of returning home with his family, he stayed in Jerusalem, in the Temple, causing great distress to Mary and Joseph who were unable to find him. For this little "escapade", Jesus probably had to beg forgiveness of his parents. The Gospel doesn't say this, but I believe that we can presume it. Mary's question,

moreover, contains a certain reproach, revealing the concern and anguish which she and Joseph felt. ... [12/27/2015 Pope Francis]

- How important is it to believe Jesus is God and the Great I AM of Exodus?

John 8:24 ...I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that **I am**, you will die in your sins."

III. The Game Plan: Commander gives Moses the Plan for Victory

16 Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, "I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt; 17 and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.'" 18 Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, 'The Lord God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.'

- **First**, Go to Egypt and speak to the Elders of Israel: Elders yet slaves. **Say...**
 1. The God of Israel sent me
 2. God has taken notice of your affliction
 3. I promised Abram
 - a) I would deliver you out of a land of confinement and bondage
 - b) I would deliver you into a spacious land of plenty
- **Next**, take the Elders of Israel to Pharaoh and **say...**
 1. Our God has met with us
 2. Let all the slaves free for 3 days to go to the wilderness
 3. We would like to sacrifice to a God you don't know

Moses...you are the spokesperson

19 But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. 20 So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.

- You will go and it will not work

Jeremiah 7:27 "Therefore you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not obey you. You shall also call to them, but they will not answer you.

- Afterward I will strike Egypt with wonders
- **My will is going to be accomplished:** We can do this the easy way or hard way

21 And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed. 22 But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles

of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.”

- Not only are will the people be delivered but much more

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

SUMMARY The Game Plan: Go to Egypt, grab the Elders and go tell Pharaoh what he needs to do. It'll be okay!