

How did we get here?

- 430 years of captivity for Israel
- Joseph's generation had died, and the new Pharaoh knew little about Joseph
- God appears to Moses amidst the burning bush

Exodus 3:2-6

There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight-why the bush does not burn up." When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob."

How did we get here?

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- Joseph's generation had died, and the new Pharaoh knew little about Joseph
- God appears to Moses amidst the burning bush
- Moses returns to stand before a new Pharaoh
- 10 Plagues (Exodus 7-11)
- Release by Pharaoh

The Exodus (Ch.12-13)

- 600,000 men
- Carried the bones of Joseph back to Canaan
- Led by a pillar of cloud by day
- Led by a pillar of fire by night
- Arrival at the Red Sea

The Presence of God

- Moses meets God amidst the Burning bush
- God is leading the nation of Israel to the Red Sea

Exodus 14:19-20

Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

- God tells Moses, "I will be with you" at the burning bush
- Deut. 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

 Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

- "Wilderness experience"
- Dependence on God's provision and guidance

Amy Carmichael

"Bare heights of loneliness . . . a wilderness whose burning winds sweep over glowing sands, what are they to HIM? Even there He can refresh us, even there He can renew us."

• Matt. 28:20 - And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

His presence brings victory

• Isaiah 45:1-2 "This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron.

His presence brings victory

- The Exodus
- Jericho
- 2 Kings 19:35: The Angel of the Lord kills 185,000 Assyrians

His presence is our defender

• **Psalm 18:2-5** - The Lord is my protector; he is my strong fortress. My God is my protection, and with him I am safe. He protects me like a shield; he defends me and keeps me safe. I call to the Lord, and he saves me from my enemies. Praise the Lord! The danger of death was all around me; the waves of destruction rolled over me. The danger of death was around me, and the grave set its trap for me.

His presence is our defender

 Deut. 32:4 - "The Lord is your mighty defender, perfect and just in all his ways; Your God is faithful and true; he does what is right and fair.

His presence brings blessing

• Isaiah 45:3-8 - I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name. For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other.

His presence brings blessing

 I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things. "You heavens above, rain down my righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness flourish with it; I, the LORD, have created it.

His presence brings blessing

- Blessings into your finances when you are struggling.
- Blessings onto your hurts when you have lost someone
- Blessings into your physical body when your health failing
- Blessings into your family when you call upon HIS name
- Blessings to this nation when we invite him in!