

Men's Sunday Night
A Study in the Book of Exodus
Lesson 2 – Exodus 3-4
Journey to Freedom
Who God Calls and Why

A new day dawned and everything had to change for Moses. When he went out with his sheep that morning, he had no idea that he would meet God. It pays to be ready, for we never know what God has planned for us.

The burning bush had a threefold significance. 1. It was a picture of God. 2. It was a picture of Israel going through the fire of affliction, but not consumed. 3. The bush illustrated Moses, a humble shepherd. Note that Moses was brought to the place where he bowed before God and adored Him in wonder, for this is the true beginning of Christian service. Moses often had wondered about the condition of his beloved people, and now he was shown that God had been watching over them all the time. There had been eighty years of preparation for Moses; now it was time to act.

Moses did not immediately agree with God's plan to send him. He had God's Word, the miraculous signs, and the assistance of his brother Aaron; yet these verses make it clear that he still was not ready to walk by faith. The people who wanted to slay Moses were dead, and God wanted Moses to trust Him and not be afraid. How patient God is with His own. How encouraging are His promises.

In 4:14 God had promised that Aaron was coming, and now He fulfilled that promise. While both Moses and Aaron had their weaknesses, and each failed God and each other more than once, it was a great help to Moses to have his brother at his side.

As we see chapter 4 come to a close, it's sad to say these same Jews who received Moses and bowed their heads to God, later hated him and criticized him because of their increased labor. It is wise not to fix our hopes on the reactions of people, for people often fail to live up to their commitments.

Read Exodus 3:1-22 and Answer the Following Questions:

1. God got Moses attention with a burning bush. What was so unusual about this bush? Why do you think it was necessary for Moses to remove his sandals?

2. What was God's plan for the people of Israel?

3. The Lord revealed what He intended to do about Israel's suffering, and Moses' part in the plan. What five objections did Moses raise? (See 3:11, 3:13, 4:1, 4:10, 4:13)

4. How did God respond to the false humility of "Who am I" in 3:11-12?

5. In verse 14, what does the name "I AM WHO I AM" apply to? What other name does God give Moses to use?

6. How did God deal with Moses' second objection in 3:13-22?

Read Exodus 4:1-31 and Answer the Following Questions:

7. In his third objection, Moses attributes unbelief to Israel. How does God deal with this third objection? (See 4:2-9)

8. How would you put in your own words the Lord's response to the fourth excuse?

9. What are your thoughts on Moses' fifth excuse? (See 4:13)

10. Why do you think God made the concession in 4:14-17? What does this say about His character?

11. Moses takes his family with him to go to Egypt. What does this tell you about his plan for the future?

12. How did the people of Israel respond to Moses' and Aaron's leadership?

Crises of Confidence

Exodus 3:11

When Moses asked, “Who am I” he appears to have had an answer already firm in his mind. “I’m nobody”! Three aspects of Moses’ background may have caused him to feel inadequate for the task. First, he was a Hebrew by birth, but the Hebrew’s were slaves to Pharaoh. Furthermore, why should his people accept him now, when 40 years earlier they had rejected his help? Second, Moses was an Egyptian by upbringing, but he had left behind a reputation for murder and perhaps rebellion. He no longer had influence among Egyptian royalty. Third, Moses was a Midianite shepherd by vocation, but the Egyptians despised shepherds. Nor was Midian of any importance to Egypt.

Perhaps Moses was like many people today that struggle to integrate their ethnic or cultural heritage into a larger society. Often, they go through a crisis of identity and self-doubt.

But God reassured Moses by giving him two strong promises. The promise of His presence and the promise to bring Moses back to the very spot where he was standing. In like manner, God gives His people today the same strong word of encouragement: “*He will not leave you or forsake you.*” Hebrews 13:5-6