

## Moses—Exodus 3

### The Burning Bush

#### I. Additional Scriptures...

1. Acts 7:30-35
2. Verse 8... Description of the Land... Josh 5:6; Jeremiah 32:22; Ezek 20:6
3. Verse 14... I AM... John 6:35; 8:12; 10:9, 11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1-5
4. Verse 21... Gen 15:14
5. Favor with the Egyptians... 3:21; Ex 11:3; 10:7

#### II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Egyptian Bondage.** Toward the end of those difficult years of affliction for the children of Israel.

#### III. Summary.

As Moses kept the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, there appeared before him a very strange sight which immediately aroused his curiosity. There was a bush burning which should have quickly been consumed by the fire, but which continued to burn. As Moses turned his attention to this burning bush, a voice called out his name and instructed him to remove his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. Moses heard from the bush: "I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses was fearful.

God announced to Moses that He had seen the affliction of His people and had heard their cries and that He would deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians unto a land that flows with milk and honey. It was the next news that really startled Moses. God told Moses that He would send him unto Pharaoh to bring forth His people out of Egypt.

Moses asked God, "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh...?" Moses was assured that God would **certainly** be with him and that he would indeed bring the children of Israel back to this very place. He was telling Moses that there was no question about whether or not His will would be done.

Moses was concerned that the people would not listen to him and asked God what He should say to them when they asked about who sent him. God said to tell them that I AM sent me. Moses was to gather the elders together and let them know that God knows about their treatment in Egypt and that He will bring them up out of the affliction to a wonderful land that flows with milk and honey. Moses is told that the king of Egypt will oppose him, but God will smite Egypt and then he will let them go. The children of Israel will not leave Egypt empty-handed, but God would give them favor in the sight of the Egyptians and they would take out with them silver, gold, and raiment.

#### IV. Outline.

1. Moses at the burning bush (Ex 3:1-4).
2. Moses was standing on holy ground (Ex 3:5).
3. Moses was afraid (Ex 3:6).
4. God has heard the cry of His people (Ex 3:7-9).

5. God will send Moses to deliver His people out of Egyptian bondage (Ex 3:10-11).
6. Moses begins to EXCUSE himself (Ex 3:12-13).
7. God says to Moses, tell them “I AM hath sent me unto you” (Ex 3:14).
8. Moses is given further instruction about what to say (Ex 3:15-18).
9. Moses is told the king of Egypt will refuse (Ex 3:19).
10. Moses is told that after God smites Egypt, the king will let the people go (Ex 3:20).
11. The children of Israel will not leave Egypt empty-handed (Ex 3:21-22).

**V. Questions.**

**True or False**

01. \_\_\_\_\_ Israel would take nothing with them when they exited out of Egypt.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Moses was told that Egypt would be smitten.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ Moses was told to deliver a message to the elders of Israel.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ In this chapter God calls the children of Israel MY PEOPLE.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ Moses was afraid as he stood near the burning bush.

**Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)**

06. \_\_\_\_\_ This chapter tells us that Jethro was: (a) eighty years old; (b) a powerful man; (c) the priest of Midian.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ When Moses saw the bush burning but not consumed, he called it: (a) astounding; (b) the work of Satan; (c) this great sight.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ When God spoke to Moses He told Moses that He had seen something: (a) the faith of Moses; (b) the affliction of His people in Egypt; (c) the kindness of Jethro.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ Moses’ first question to God was: (a) Who am I that I should go?; (b) What shall I say unto them?; (c) Are you sure?
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following were NOT mentioned as inhabiting the land to which God would bring the children of Israel: (a) Hivites; (b) Jebusites; (c) Hittites; (d) Kennites.

**Fill in the Blanks**

11. “...Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, \_\_\_\_\_ hath sent me unto you.”
12. Moses was told—“...Draw not nigh hither: put \_\_\_\_\_ thy \_\_\_\_\_ from off thy \_\_\_\_\_, for the place whereon thou standest is \_\_\_\_\_ ground.”
13. “And I am come down to \_\_\_\_\_ them out of the hand of the Egyptians...”
14. God said to Moses, “...\_\_\_\_\_ I will be with thee;...”
15. “And I will give this people \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of the Egyptians...”

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers will be found on next week’s handout*

**ANSWERS to Lesson 01-50 ...** [01—False, Ex 1:22; 02—True, Ex 1:7; 03—False, Ex 1:20; 04—True, Ex 1:10; 05—True, Ex 1:17; 06—c, Ex 1:6; 07—b, Ex 1:21; 08—c, Ex 1:14; 09—b, Ex 1:15; 10—b, Ex 1:10; 11—taskmasters, afflict, Ex 1:11; 12—rigour, Ex 1:13; 13—37, hundred, thousand, men; 14—knew, not, Ex 1:8; 15—Deuteronomy, iron, furnace.]

**VI. Lessons & Applications.**

1. Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro ... and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb (Ex 3:1). This mountain is the “mountain of God” only in the sense that it was the place God chose to speak to Moses. It was a holy place because of the presence of the holy God. It would also be the place where God would later give to Moses His law for the children of Israel. Solomon, in building the temple made it clear that no place

could contain or would be sufficient to hold God (1 Kings 8:27). Thus, the term is used here in a figurative way.

2. **...I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt** (Ex 3:3). It was not strange to the eyes of Moses to see a bush in the wilderness with which he had become so familiar in the last 40 years, but it was very curious to see a bush burning which just kept on burning. This aroused the curiosity of Moses. Of course, it was a miracle of God designed to get the attention of Moses. This same purpose is seen throughout God's revelation whenever the "laws of nature" are suspended and something **supernatural** takes place. The design of miracles is to produce faith and gain the serious attention of people to God's will. It certainly worked in this instance. In our day we are, instead, blessed with a completed written revelation from God, protected down through the ages (Mt 24:35; Jn 12:48), upon which we may safely rely as a guide to distinguish truth and error (Jude 3).
3. **...Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground** (Ex 3:5). Moses is told to stay where he is. It is only through the great scheme of redemption, involving the blood of Christ, that men may draw nigh to God as James tells Christians to do (Js 4:8). That wonderful plan is being prepared for even as Moses stands on that holy ground in the presence of the Lord. We have to stop and wonder about reverence before God as we read this text. What about in our assemblies? Do we show due reverence to the God of Heaven as we assemble to worship? What about our outward appearance? What about the thoughts of our hearts? Sometimes we emphasize that the church BUILDING is not holy to the degree that we ignore the fact that it IS the place where GOD IS during our assemblies for worship. Are there any implications here for us with regard to our own worship to God?
4. **...I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry...** (Ex 3:7). It is surely a remarkable and wonderful blessing to have a God who SEES and HEARS!!!
5. **And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh...** (Ex 3:11). The answer to the question of Moses is VERY SIMPLE. Moses, you are the one whom God has selected to do this great task! To make personal application of this conversation, I should remember the words of Jesus in the giving of the Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20), and remember that GO YE MEANS GO ME (to borrow the words of brother Ivan Stewart's book on personal evangelism).
6. **And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM** (Ex 3:14). The answer Moses should give to his inquiring brethren is given here by the Lord. The emphasis of the name here given is that God is SELF-EXISTENT. He is not contingent upon anyone or any other thing.
7. **...I have surely visited you...** (Ex 3:16). Here is a good way to think about visitation. God saw that the children of Israel had a problem and he made the determination to solve that problem. As we VISIT those who are in need, we would do well to follow that pattern.
8. **And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go** (Ex 3:20). At this reassuring statement from the Lord, all further discussion of the matter should have been ended, however, as we read further, Moses continues to offer up excuses to the Lord about why he cannot do the task. We have to be amazed at his lack of understanding. Eventually, the excuses arouse the wrath of God (Ex 4:14), and Moses is persuaded to go and accomplish the great exodus (v. 18) for which God has assured him victory.

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

W N S X C D E R F V B H T G B N H Y U J  
M E U J M K I O P L O T E R F V B E D C  
X E G B N M H Y U E R F V A Y H N F E C  
V S M N B V C X Z G L K J H R M I L K H  
G F A D S A P O I Y U Y T R E D E O W Q  
A Z X F W E D O P P R E S S I O N W D C  
V P F R F T G B N T H Y U J M I O I L P  
L H K J H L G F D S A P O I U H O N E Y  
U A Y T R E I W Q M N B V C C C X G Z A  
S R D F G H J C K L Q W E R S R T G B N  
Y A U J M L O U T T J N H W Y Y T G B V  
H O F R E D C X P I S W O E D C V F R T  
D H G B N H Y Y U J O R O I P O L K I U  
E M J U Y H G N B G R N T R F V E D C X  
L S W Q A E Z X E O D C V F R T G B N H  
I Y H N F U J M S R E T S A M K S A T X  
V C V O B N M N B V C X Z P O I U Y T R  
E R T F V B G T Y H G O O D L A N D H N  
R U J M N H Y T G B V F R E D C X S W Q  
O A Z X S W E D C V F R T G B N H Y U J

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

<sup>7</sup>And the LORD said, I have surely **seen** the **affliction** of my people which *are* in **Egypt**, and have **heard** their **cry** by reason of their **taskmasters**; for I know their **sorrows**; <sup>8</sup>And I am come down to **deliver** them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a **good land** and a large, unto a land **flowing** with **milk** and **honey**; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the **oppression** wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto **Pharaoh**, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel **out of Egypt**.