

## Moses—Exodus 4

### Moses Leaves Midian for Egypt

#### I. Additional Scriptures...

1. Jeremiah had a similar reluctance to be God's spokesman to that which Moses possessed (Ex 4:1; cf., Jer 1:6).
2. Aaron's rod was connected to some supernatural events... Ex 4:2, 4, 17, 20; 7:9; 7:12; 7:17; 8:5; 8:16; 9:23; 10:13; 14:16; 17:5, 9; Num 17:5-11; 20:11.
3. 4:11 + Gen 18:14; Ps 94:9.
4. 4:12 + Matthew 28:20.
5. Anger of the Lord kindled (4:14; cf., 2 Sam 6:7; 1 Kings 11:9; 1 Chr 21:7).
6. 4:21... Hardening of Pharaoh's heart. 20 times it is mentioned [see chart at end of lesson]... Ex 4:21; 7:3; 7:13; 7:14; 7:22; 8: 15; 8:19; 8:32; 9:7; 9:12; 9:34; 9:35; 10:1; 10:20; 10:27; 11:10; 13:15; 14:4; 14:8; 14:17.
7. 4:31... 12:27; Gen 17:3; 24:26; 1 Chr 29:20; 2 Chr 20:18.

#### II. Chronology.

**BIBLE PERIOD: Egyptian Bondage.** Here Moses is being sent by God as he one He has chosen to deliver the children of Israel out of this bondage.

#### III. Summary.

In this chapter Moses continues his conversation with the Lord before the burning bush. He begins to argue that his Hebrew brethren will not believe that God has sent him. God gives three powerful supernatural demonstrations that Moses will be able to use to convince anyone who doubts that God has sent him:

- Turning the rod into a serpent and then back into a rod.
- Making his hand leprous and then cleansing it just as quickly.
- Drawing water from the river and turning it into blood to be poured out on the ground.

Next Moses argues that he lacks the necessary eloquence to deliver the message to his people and to the Pharaoh. God asks: WHO HATH MADE MAN'S MOUTH? God promises to "be with" Moses' mouth and will teach him what to say. Moses still attempts to get God to send someone else. Finally, God's anger kindled against Moses and he offers to send Aaron, Moses' brother, to do the speaking. Moses is told to take the rod with him and with it he will do SIGNS.

Moses returns to Jethro and asked him to return to Egypt to check on his people. Jethro told him to "Go in peace." Before he leaves Midian, the Lord once again speaks to Moses, telling him that the men who sought his life were now dead. He further instructs Moses about what to say to Pharaoh, even to the extent of giving warning to Pharaoh about the death of the firstborn.

Moses had not circumcised one of his sons. This caused the Lord to seek to slay Moses (24, 26). Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of the child and God let him go. She then described Moses as a husband of blood. One version says, "You are my bridegroom in blood."

Moses would meet Aaron in the wilderness and tell him all that he had been commanded. They gathered the elders of the people together and did the signs in the sight of the people. The people believed and worshipped God because He had looked upon their affliction.

**IV. Outline.**

1. Moses continues to make excuses (Ex 4:1).
2. God provides 3 supernatural signs he can use to convince doubters (Ex 4:2-9).
3. Moses claims lack of eloquence disqualifies him (Ex 4:10).
4. God gives a solution for the lack of eloquence via his brother Aaron (Ex 4:11-16).
5. Moses is to take his rod with him wherewith he will do signs (Ex 4:17).
6. Moses returns to Jethro's home to give his farewells (Ex 4:18).
7. Moses is given further instruction from the Lord (Ex 4:19-23).
8. Moses is nearly slain at the inn, but for Zipporah's quick action (Ex 4:24-26).
9. Moses meets Aaron in the wilderness (Ex 4:27).
10. Moses & Aaron gather the people, show the signs, and are well received (Ex 4:28-31).

**V. Questions.**

**True or False**

01. \_\_\_\_\_ There is a strong contrast between what Moses THOUGHT about the reception he would receive from his brethren and how the meeting actually took place.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ The signs of this chapter are said to have a voice.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ Aaron would be instead of God to Moses.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ This chapter only mentions one son of Moses.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ At first, Aaron refused to go out into the wilderness to meet his brother Moses.

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

06. \_\_\_\_\_ What was Moses' reaction when the rod turned into a serpent: (a) he laughed; (b) he fled before it; (c) he was awed by it.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ What kind of TONGUE did Moses claim to have: (a) slow; (b) ugly; (c) quick.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ God said Aaron would be this when he saw Moses: (a) surprised; (b) mad; (c) glad.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ God told Moses he would do signs with: (a) amazement; (b) his rod; (c) style.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ When the children of Israel worshipped they: (a) wept; (b) shouted; (c) bowed.

**Fill in the Blanks**

11. Zipporah's operation was conducted with a sharp \_\_\_\_\_.
12. God had \_\_\_\_\_ upon the affliction of the children of Israel.
13. Jethro said to Moses, "\_\_\_\_\_."
14. Moses told the Lord, "I am not \_\_\_\_\_."
15. "And the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord was kindled against \_\_\_\_\_, and he said, Is not Aaron the \_\_\_\_\_ thy brother? I know that he can speak well."

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

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

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

**ANSWERS to Lesson 01-51 ...** [01—True, Ex 2:1-10; 02—True, Ex 18:4; 03—True, Ex 2:9; 04—True, Ex 2:24-25; 05—True, Ex 2:16; 06—Gershom, Ex 2:22; 07—Moses' sister--Miriam, Ex 2:7; 08—Reuel or Jethro, Ex 2:18,21 + Ex 18:2; 09—An Egyptian, Ex 2:19; 10—Moses, Ex 2:2,10; 11—looked, respect, Ex 2:25; 12—Hebrews, faith, hid, proper; 13—drew, Ex 2:10; 14—7, suffer, avenged; 15—27, endured, invisible.]

## VI. Lessons &amp; Applications.

1. **...they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee** (Ex 4:1). At this point, Moses is getting dangerously close to angering the Lord. His excuses continue to roll off the tongue. His spirit of pessimism is very similar to that of the vast majority of the people who believed the evil report of the ten spies a little later in history. Surely we can learn from this situation that if we are doing the Lord's will according to His revelation to us, then we should have no place for pessimism. In this instance, God provide EVERYTHING that was needed to accomplish the task (vv., 2-9). The same is true of our task to go into all the world and preach the gospel (Mt 28:18-20; 2 Pet 1:3).
2. **... if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign** (Ex 4:8). Once again we have confirmation that supernatural signs were provided for a purpose. Here the Lord uses the very interesting description of saying that these signs will have a VOICE. They **say** that you can rely upon what Moses is telling you. We wish our pentecostal friends would understand this!
3. **Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say** (Ex 4:12). Our Lord made a similar promise to the apostles in the first century (Jn 14:26; 16:13). Because the Holy Spirit came and guided the apostles into all truth, we have a reliable standard today by which we may order our lives. It is not subjective, but rather an objective standard for all times (Jn 12:48).
4. **... he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God** (Ex 4:16). This is a very interesting description of the relationship between Moses and Aaron. Really, it is a good definition of what a prophet is. Also, any faithful preacher or teacher of God's word fits this description in relationship to standing and delivering God's word to others.
5. **...Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren...** (Ex 4:18). In a very respectful and dignified way, Moses addresses his father-in-law to make a request. Lots of jokes are told about relations with in-laws, but this respectful way of speaking is always best!
8. **...but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go** (Ex 4:21). See the chart at the end of this lesson. This appears to be an instance of the "permissive will of God." God permitted Pharaoh to continue in his self-imposed hardness and withdrew from him whatever inducements there might have been to listen to the demands of Moses.
7. **And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the Lord met him, and sought to kill him** (Ex 4:24). This is a very strange interlude here between Moses' last conversation with the Lord and his return with Aaron to Egypt. It seems that Moses had made a big mistake of not having one of his sons (likely the younger son, Eliezer) circumcised. It is difficult to imagine how Moses could have disregarded such an important matter that connects with the Abrahamic covenant. Perhaps it had some connection to his Midianite wife's desires. Anyhow, we are told that Zipporah takes the action of circumcising the boy. Some have speculated that Moses was physically ill and unable to do the circumcising at the time. Zipporah's statement, "A bloody husband thou art," seems best explained by the fact that she ALMOST lost her husband and was only now married to him because of the bloody operation. This must have been the point at which Zipporah and the boys return to her father as is indicated by Exodus 18:1-3.

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

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

[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]

Exo 4:2-9 And the LORD said unto him, What *is* that in thine hand? And he said, A **rod**. (3) And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a **serpent**; and **Moses** fled from before it. (4) And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the **tail**. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: (5) That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath **appeared** unto thee. (6) And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine **hand** into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand *was* **leprous** as snow. (7) And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and **plucked** it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was **turned again** as his *other* flesh. (8) And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither **hearken** to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the **voice** of the latter sign. (9) And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the **water** of the **river**, and **pour** it upon the dry *land*: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become **blood** upon the **dry land**.

## Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart...

### 20 Times in Exodus 4-14 Statements about HARDENING

<i>Kabed</i>	To be heavy	Used 6 times
<i>Chazaq</i>	To be strong, hard, "bullheaded"	Used 12 times
<i>Qashah</i>	To be hard, difficult, severe	Used 2 times

10 Times God is the SUBJECT of the Verb

4 Times Pharaoh HARDENS HIS OWN HEART

6 Times there is no accreditation of WHO

God Predicted twice He would Harden  
Pharaoh's Heart (4:21; 7:3)

At least 7 times before the 6<sup>th</sup> Plague the  
text indicates either that Pharaoh hardened  
his own heart or that his heart "was  
hardened"

Evidently God **allowed** Pharaoh's heart to be  
hardened for His own purposes

Paul argues it was to demonstrate **His** divine  
power (Rom 9:17)

## THE PLAGUES AGAINST EGYPT

River Plagues	Nuisance Plagues	Disease Plagues	Destruction Plagues	Darkness Plagues
1. Blood 2. Frogs  <span style="color: blue;">Aug</span>	3. Lice 4. Flies  <span style="color: blue;">Nov</span>	5. Murrain 6. Boils  <span style="color: blue;">Jan</span>	7. Hail 8. Locusts  <span style="color: blue;">March</span>	9. Darkness 10. Death  <span style="color: blue;">April</span>
All of Egypt Affected	GOSHEN EXEMPT			

Data for the two charts came from, *The Pentateuch*, by James E. Smith.