

Exodus Chapters Three and Four God Calls Moses to a Great Service

Read 3:1-13

v. 1 – As a prince, Moses had everything done for him; he was the famous son of an Egyptian princess. As a shepherd, he worked at the very job most despised by Egyptians, the job of his ancestor Jacob (Genesis 46:34). Living the humble life of a desert nomad and shepherd Moses learned the ways of a people he would soon be leading.

v. 2 and 4 – “angel of the Lord” is used here, as in Genesis, interchangeably with “God” and “the LORD”

v. 5-6 – Moses removed his sandals to convey his reverent unworthiness before God. God is our sovereign Lord. To come into His presence frivolously shows a lack of respect and understanding of His majesty. When coming to worship it is necessary to adjust our attitude and recognize that we are invited guests before a King. Look up: Matthew 2:11

God had not neglected His covenant for the 400 years of Israel's slavery in Egypt. God was at work during that time, preserving and multiplying the nation.

v.8-9 – Notice, God says “He has come down to rescue them.” Then He says to Moses, “Go, I am sending you.” God was going to accomplish His plan, but wanted to use Moses as His instrument. It is God's plan to work through people. Look up: 2 Corinthians 6:1, Isaiah 6:8

v. 11-12 – Moses’ question “Who am I, that I should go?” was not humility, but resistance to God’s call. Notice that God never answered Moses’ question. Instead, He reminded Moses: “I will certainly be with you.” God’s reply took the focus off Moses and placed it on the important part of the equation.

“This mountain” was Mount Horeb (v.1) and is another name for Mount Sinai, where God would give His people his revealed law (Exodus 31:18). After leaving Egypt and crossing the Red Sea, the Israelites arrived to the ground below the holy mountain and gathered there in anticipation of the words of God

Read 3:14-22

v.14-15 – God reminded Moses of His covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Gen chapters 12, 15, 17, 26, 28) What God promised to the patriarchs hundreds of years earlier, He would fulfill through Moses. *Yahweh* is the Hebrew word for “He is,” a reference to the name by which God called Himself, “I Am Who I Am.” Look up: John 8:58-59

v.16-17 - God told Moses to tell the people about this encounter. One of the most convincing ways to tell others about the Lord is to describe what He has done for you and for people whose stories are told in the Bible. Look up: Mark 5:18-19

v.22 – The Egyptians were so glad to see the Israelites go that they sent them out with whatever they asked. These items were later used to build the Tabernacle (Exodus 35:5, 22). Look up: Deuteronomy 15:12-15

Read 4:1-9

v.1 - In Exodus 3:18, God promised that the leaders of Israel *would* listen to Moses. When Moses makes this protest, it’s as though he’s saying, “But what if you are wrong, God?” Look up: 2 Timothy 1:7

v.2 - God used what Moses had in his hand. God didn’t use the scepter that was in Moses’ royal hand when he lived in Egypt, He used the simple shepherd’s staff, to such an extent that it would one day be called the “staff of God” (Exodus 4:20). Look up: 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

Read 4:10-17

v. 10-12 – This is the fourth expression of reluctance by Moses. Again, this was not an expression of humility, but an attempt to avoid God’s calling. As an educated Egyptian prince, Moses had regularly conveyed instructions to others and was powerful in speech and action (Acts 7:22).

Even if Moses was sincerely uncomfortable speaking, it didn’t matter. The Almighty God had said, “I will help you speak and teach you what you shall say.” God is sufficient for us, and will give us the strength we need to accomplish the tasks He sets us to. Look up: 2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 4:13

v. 13-14 - Finally, Moses declares the real state of his heart. “Send the message by whomever You will” meant “send someone else.” God does not let Moses off the hook, but by grace, God provides him a coworker in this endeavor.

Notice how one of the greatest servants of God is a flawed human being just like you and me. Just as God was not deterred from accomplishing His plan for Moses life, God will not be prevented from accomplishing His will in our lives.