

God's Calling of Moses

God's standard for His calling of all His servants

Exodus 3:

- 1 Now Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the back of the wilderness and came to the mountain of God, to Horeb.
- 2 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a thornbush. And when he looked, there was the thornbush, burning with fire; but the thornbush was not consumed.
- 3 And Moses said, I must turn aside now and see this great sight, why the thornbush does not burn up.
- 4 And when Jehovah saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him out of the midst of the thornbush and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here I am.
- 5 And He said, Do not come near here. Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.
- 6 And He said, I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
- 7 And Jehovah said, I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.
- 8 And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.
- 9 And now the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.
- 10 So come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.
- 11 But Moses said to God, Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?
- 12 And He said, Surely I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God upon this mountain.
- 13 Then Moses said to God, If I come to the children of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they say to me, What is His name? what shall I say to them?
- 14 And God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And He said, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you
- 15 And God also said to Moses, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial from generation to generation.
- 16 Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, I have surely visited you and seen what is being done to you in Egypt.
- 17 And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.
- 18 And they will listen to your voice, and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt, and you shall say to him, Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to Jehovah our God.
- 19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go, not even when compelled by a mighty hand.
- 20 So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will perform in the midst of it, and after that he will let you go.
- 21 And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that when you go, you will not go empty-handed.
- 22 But every woman will ask of her neighbor and of any woman living in her house for articles of silver and articles of gold and clothing, and you will put them on your sons and on your daughters, and thus plunder the Egyptians.

- I. Moses is the standard model of God's servant, and God's calling of him is the standard for His calling of all His servants; in principle, we all need to be called the way Moses was - 3:1-22
 - A. The place of God's calling of Moses was the back side of the wilderness indicating that we can be called only when we are at the back side of our situation, never the front side - vv. 1-2.

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1. To be at the back side means we are not content with our present situation.
- B. The place of God's calling was holy ground indicating that God's calling comes to us in a place where there is no human interference - v. 5.
- C. God's calling comes from within a thornbush that is burning and not being consumed; the thornbush represents Moses himself and the fact that God called from the midst of a thornbush indicates that the place of God's calling is from within us - Luke 12:49; Matt. 3:11; Acts 2:3; Rom. 12:11; 2 Tim. 1:6-7.
1. Although God desires to burn within us and upon us, He will not burn us; that is He will not use us as fuel. He will burn only with Himself as fuel - Phil. 2:13; Col. 1:29.
 2. The fact that the thornbush burned without being consumed indicates that the glory of God's holiness should burn within us, but that we should not be exhausted.
 - a) If a servant of God is exhausted, it may mean that he is using his own energy to do something for God.
 3. God impressed Moses that he was a vessel, a channel, through which God was to be manifested.
- II. When God called Moses, he wanted to know the name of God; it is of vital importance that the one who is called know the name of the One who is calling him - Exo. 3:2,4,6,14-15,18:
- A. "The God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" - the God of resurrection, the resurrecting God - Matt. 22:32
1. The phrase "the God of your father" indicates a history with God; when God comes to call you, He should not be a stranger to you.
 2. This title also means that God is the God of every kind of person; whatever we are, God is our God. Somewhat Good (Abraham), Neutral (Isaac), or a Supplanter (Jacob).
- B. "I am that I am" - God is the unique self-existing One
1. Everything else comes and goes, but God remains. Are you discouraged by your weakness? One day your weakness will cease to exist, but God will still be. Weakness, strength, riches, and poverty all pass away, but God is.
 2. If we know God as the One who is, we shall be greatly encouraged, especially during difficult times. Even when God does apparently nothing for us, we should believe in Him.
 3. Whatever we need, "He is." Food, rest, life, peace, all positive things, He can be to us.