

Morning Sermon March 14, 2021

“Moses’ First Meeting with God” – Exodus 3:1-14

When Moses and his brother Aaron met with Pharaoh, Moses was eighty years old, Aaron was eighty-three – Exodus 7:7

Moses had killed an Egyptian – Exodus 2:12 / Fled Egypt – Exodus 2:15
Married and had a son – Exodus 2:21-22 / He lived in relative obscurity for many years, keeping his father-in-law’s sheep... until one day he saw a burning bush –

I. *The significance of the burning bush –*

² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” Exodus 3:2-3

The bush was burning but not consumed, this is God’s people, when God is with them –

1. *Israel was under the power of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, they were slaves, their boy babies were to be thrown into the river, they:*

A. *Were groaning under bondage –*

²³ Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. Exodus 2:23 (NKJV)

B. *Yet, they had also grown under Pharaoh’s bondage and persecution –*

²⁰ ... and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. Exodus 1:20 (NKJV)

2. *Persecution, pain and trials in Scripture are compared to FIRE, and God’s people thrive and even rejoice in such trials –*

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested

by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls. 1 Peter 1:6–9 (NKJV)

3. *The burning bush was symbolic of Israel, God’s people, if God be with you, who can be against you –*

A. *Christ was with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace –*

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵ “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” Daniel 3:24-25

B. *He was with Job in his trials, and though his trials were great, he knew their purpose was to improve him, like fire improves gold –*

¹⁰ But He knows the way that I take; *When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.* Job 23:10 (NKJV)

C. *The greatest good that comes out of any trial is that we would be made more like Christ -*

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:28-29

D. *If God be for us, who can be against us is wonderfully illustrated in God’s using and dealing with Pharaoh –*

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

4. *The burning bush is a place of COMMUNICATION, and introduction to God –*

⁴ So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵ Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground.”

⁶ Moreover 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 upon God. Exodus 3:4–6 (NKJV)

Our pains might be the same –

“God whispers in our pleasures but shouts in our pains!” C. S. Lewis

What does God communicate?

- A. *His holiness, which must be respected - :4-5*
- B. *His aim to deliver His people out of Egypt and to a Promised Land –*

⁷ And the LORD said: “I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. ⁸ So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large 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 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Exodus 3:7–9 (NKJV)

- C. *He lets Moses know; Moses will have a part in this deliverance*

¹⁰ Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” Exodus 3:10 (NKJV)

II. Moses’ concerns and questions -

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?” Exodus 3:11 (NKJV)

1. *Moses rightly sees his own inadequacy; we are all inadequate for the TASK of deliverance –*

Consider God tells him about difficulties ahead -

¹⁹ But I *am* sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. Exodus 3:19 (NKJV)

2. *Yet God promises to be with Moses –*

¹² So He said, “I will certainly be with you... Exodus 3:12 (NKJV)

More about Moses’ inadequacy next Sunday, LORD willing –

III. God’s Name – “I AM” –

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.’ ” Exodus 3:14 (NKJV)

1. *Moses had asked -* ¹³ Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, *when* 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?”

Israel, enslaved in Egypt had to deal with a myriad of false gods daily, hourly, this leads to confusion ... what is the True God’s Name?

2. *“I AM” communicates God’s eternity, His aseity, His self-sufficiency and ability to SAVE –*

¹⁷ ... I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt ... to a land flowing with milk and honey.” Exodus 3:17 (NKJV)

3. *This is what Jesus does for us, He is all we need –*

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. John 6:35 (NKJV)

¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12 (NKJV)

⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. John 10:9 (NKJV)

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. John 10:11 (NKJV)

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. John 11:25 (NKJV)

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 (NKJV)

⁵ “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (NKJV)

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” John 8:58

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