

**The Call of a Servant (2)**  
**Exodus 3:7-22**

**1** Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Horeb. **2** And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed. **3** And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. **4** And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *am* I. **5** And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground. **6** Moreover he said, I *am* the God of thy 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. **7** 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; **8** 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. **9** 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. **10** Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

**11** And **Moses said unto God**, Who *am* I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? **12** And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this *shall be* a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. **13** And **Moses said unto God**, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them? **14** And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. **15** And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this *is* my name for ever, and this *is* my memorial unto all generations. **16** Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and *seen* that which is done to you in Egypt: **17** And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey. **18** And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God. **19** And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand. **20** 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. **21** And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty: **22** But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put *them* upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.

**OUTLINE**

- (1) Encounter with God (v1-6)
- (2) Endeavour for God (v7-10)
- (3) Enquiry for God (v11-22)

...the continuation...

*6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy 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.*

This is the continuing story from the Book of Genesis, the promises of God to Abraham is now being fulfilled. God will call Moses to be Israel's deliverer. Moses was so frightened, he tried to hide himself.

Like Isaiah in the throne room of God, Moses encountered the glorious holiness of God and is awe-struck. God said to him that he was standing on holy ground. The fear of God must have crippled him to silence. He tried to hide himself from the presence of God. God manifested Himself to Moses by the voice that came of the incombustible burning bush before him. We cannot imagine such an experience but this is Moses' record of his encounter. We cannot imagine what the voice of God sound like.

God identified Himself as the God of the children of Jacob traced to Isaac and to Abraham. God has before appeared to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and shared His redemption plan to the patriarchs of Israel. God also revealed to Joseph His will concerning the dreams of Pharaoh of Egypt.

But there was a period of silence when God did not speak during the time when Israelites were slaves in Egyptians. This was a period of 430 years when Israel became a mighty people whilst sojourning in Goshen in Egypt.

**Exodus 12:40-41** *Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.*

The people of Israel were not ignorant of God's will for them for the Exodus was revealed to Abraham, their forefather nearly 500-600 hundred-years ago.

**Genesis 15:12-16** *And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; **and they shall afflict them four hundred years;** And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But **in the fourth generation** they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.*

Even the period of their oppression is told by God to them - 400 years. And in the 4<sup>th</sup> generation they would come out. We mentioned there a generation at that time was a hundred years. Abraham gave birth to Isaac when he was a hundred years old and he lived to 175 years while Isaac lived to 180 years old (Isaac 60 years old when Jacob was born) and Jacob 147 years old (Jacob was 91 years old when Joseph was born, Joseph lived up to 110 years old). Hence from the time Abraham came to Canaan at 75 years old and a hundred years old when God said gave the covenant of circumcision.

Indeed, Israel was afflicted 400 years or to be exact 430 years in Egypt before they were delivered. Does God forget his people? No! Israel was in bondage. God did not forget them but heard their cry.

**Exodus 2:23-25** *And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.*

How you encountered problems that you cannot resolve? Never despair, men ought always to pray and not to faint, says our Lord Jesus.

What could they do? The children of Israel cried to their God in prayer. This word – “cry” or “קָרָא” is a call for help, to cry out with a loud voice, that of crying out in pain or by reason of affliction; it describes those afflicted or oppressed by an enemy, hard pressed, in great distress or strait, oppressed by hard servitude.

Indeed, God is our hope in times of affliction. When all things fail, He does not! We can still call to Him. Prayer is the best antidote in times of suffering because God hears our prayers and comforts the weary!

God is now activating His plan to deliver Israel. The man for the work is Moses. He has to be convinced that this is God’s will for His life. He has that crucial role as the leader of the Exodus.

## **(2) Endeavour for God (v7-10)**

**7** *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;***

The phrase “surely seen” literally means “to see, I have seen” with the emphatic knowledge that their affliction is well registered in the mind of God. He has surely seen what is happening to them. He certainly cares for them. “*I know their sorrows...*” is the verb of a completed action. God is fully aware of the predicament of His children and He is not going to keep quiet and not do anything to help them. The word “sorrow” literally means “pain, physical pain”.

In the fullness of time, Jesus entered human history, born of a virgin, lived a perfect life fulfilling all the law and the Christ was hung upon the cross, the pain of all our sins inflicted upon Him to bring about our redemption.

**8** ***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.*

The LORD impressed upon the mind of Moses the gravity of the situation confronting his people. Of course, Moses has tried 40 years ago, by his own strength, to try to help his people by killing an Egyptian. He failed miserably, his own people turned on him and he had to flee Egypt. And he was in exile for 40 years in the wilderness looking after his father-in-law’s sheep.

The plan of God was to bring Israel out of Egypt on route to the Promised Land. It is described as a good and a large land that is flowing with milk and honey. What a prospect for God's people. They are now slaves in Egypt. In time to come they will be land-owners in the land of Canaan.

*9 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.*

We observed here how God hears the cry of His children and is very much aware of their sufferings. The word "cry" is literally an "outcry" describing their deep distress. He has seen and He is come to release them from their bondage.

*10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.*

God's plan to deliver Israel was to send Moses to meet Pharaoh! A frightening prospect for Moses. This is the most powerful man in the known world with the most modern armoury. Anyone messing around with Pharaoh is like playing with fire, will certainly get hurt. Perhaps Moses' knowledge of the God is still weak. He was not forthcoming to answer God's call to deliver His people.

### **(3) Enquiries for God (v11-22)**

*11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? 12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.*

Moses seemed not willing to give his whole-hearted assent to the mission before him. Perhaps from the knowledge of his earlier failure in Egypt when he killed the Egyptian taskmaster and had to flee for his life. There is nothing wrong with his motive, he wanted to deliver God's people but he went in his own strength and his own time. After he failed, he retreated because of insecurity, the thought of failure can really haunt us. He decided to call it quits. And he now seemed to be resist to do the work when it finally time to act. He knew he is a nobody. What can he say to pharaoh? What will he say to the Israelites? He has lost touch with the new generation and he has no idea who the elders are. Who is he to go?

This first enquiry of Moses was self-focused, a wrong question. As one pastor remarked, "Moses' question should not be "Who am I?" but "Whose am I?" If you think, "Who am I", you will think of your own failure and shortcoming and rejection and ridicule! But if you think "Whose am I?" You will think yourself as the son or daughter of the living God, the King of kings and Lord of lords, that makes you special. We are children, heirs with God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ.

If God is the One that sends Him would be not succeed. There is a lot of focus on Moses. He made a self-evaluation and gave himself a fail grade! How can he make it? Do you know who we are talking about confronting? THE PHAROAH! In the mind of Moses, God and His power seemed so diminishingly small and the power of pharaoh so exceeding great.

Moses need to realize that he is who God says he is! It is God who gave Moses the mission. It was to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt and to meet with God at the mountain of God in Horeb! God promised that He will be with Moses and the rod of

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Moses will be an instrument of proof that God is with him. God was very patient with Moses, He tells him, “*certainly, I will be with thee.*”

Dear friends, often we do not realise how important we are in the sight of God. He sent His Son to die for us. We need to know our infinite worth in the sight of God! Jesus forsake all to bring salvation to us, we are that precious in His sight for Him to make such sacrifice of His own life to procure our eternal life. We are deeply loved by God and completely forgiven in Christ when He said on the cross, “It is finished.” We are fully pleasing in God sight, totally accepted, absolutely complete in Him, one of a kind, no body just like you, an original!

Moses need to know that God is the One who is going to do the work. God is the One that has seen the affliction of his brethren and is doing something about it! God says to Moses, “I will come down and deliver and I will protect My people. I will protect My reputation.”

This church is not your church or the pastor’s church but Jesus’ church and He will protect His ministry. We need to realize that the life that we have is not ours but purchased by Christ with a price and we need to commit our lives to Christ and let Him take over. And when God is in control, nothing is out of control. Whatever we commit to God, God will undertake on our behalf. But if try to do it, then you have to take care of it! We need to give everything back to God!

**Galatians 2:20** *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

**13** *And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? 14* *And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

God is that “I am”, the Self-Existing One, the Uncaused First Cause, the Eternal One, the Self-Sufficient Who has revealed Himself to you intimately. He says to Moses, “I am the Lord God Almighty! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the A and the Z and everything in between, I am whatever you need!”

You ask?

“Where is the truth?”  
Jesus says, “I am the truth”.

“Where is the way?”  
Jesus says, “I am the Way.”

“Where is the life?”  
Jesus says, “I am the life.”

“Where is the strength?”  
Jesus says, “I am your strength. I am your refuge. I am the water of life. I am the living Bread. I am whatever you need. Put in the blank, fill in the blank!” And God says “I am what you need!”

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Students ask, “How do I get wisdom?”  
God say, “I am your wisdom.” You ask of me!

So, the Name is a wonderful Name! We may not have all the answer, but God says, “You have all of Me!” When you have all of Me, that’s all you’re going to need.

This matter of our identity and intimacy, we need to see. God is our sustenance, He is our security, He is our satisfaction and our sufficiency. And Moses still did not learn this though he had spent 40 years in the wilderness with God.

We need to refresh again and again the truth of Who God is to us. We are people prone to wander away, prone to live our own life, own self, own desire and we forget that God is the only One Who will satisfy us!

We are sent by Jesus, we are under His authority and we are under God’s Holy Spirit’s power. That’s how we exist and live and thrive in life.

*15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations. 16 Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt: 17 And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey. 18 **And they shall hearken to thy voice:** and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.*

God said to Moses, “*they shall hearken to thy voice...*”

*19 And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand. 20 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.*

The Egyptians will be stubborn but I will warn them with ten plagues! And Pharaoh will let the people go. God already told Moses that he will have the victory! God says, “I am going to work a work that the world has never seen in the hearts of the Israelites and in the hearts of the Egyptians.” God says to Moses, “You represent “I am”, you represent My unfulfilling Promise.”

*21 And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty: 22 But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.*

God’s promise to Moses was to the detail of how Israel will spoil the Egyptians when they left Egypt. The promise that was given to their forefathers Abraham many hundreds of years before, will be fulfilled - **Genesis 15:13-14** *And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall*

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*serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.*

***To be continued...***