

Exodus 3-4 - God's Self-Revelation

Monday, May 11, 2015 7:06 PM

I. Introduction

A. When we left Moses last week, he had run away from the promises and was living in Midian

1. And the people of God were still in Egypt, still groaning and wondering what happened to the promises
2. But the promise followed Moses, no matter where he ran reminders of the promise kept happening
3. And to make sure we understood, chapter two ended with a narration calling us to see that, though it was in obscurity, God was acting on His promises and would soon deliver His people

B. So, as we enter chapter three in Exodus, we should be prepared for God to act for the deliverance of His people

1. But the question is, how will God act to deliver His people? What new thing is God going to do?
2. What amazing thing is going to happen that will lead to Israel's redemption?
3. How is God going to use a man who has run away from the promises and been rejected?
4. The answer to these questions come in Exodus 3 and 4 as Moses meets God on the mountain - to deliver His people God is going to reveal Himself

C. God's meeting with Moses on the mountain seems to be the least likely way of delivering His people

1. God's meeting with Moses happens away from the people of God, away from the bondage of Egypt
2. God doesn't go and destroy Pharaoh, God doesn't appear to the Israelites
3. Instead God meets with Moses on a mountain and reveals seven things about Himself to Moses, seven things which reach their climax in the revelation of God's name - the revelation of God's identity
4. Exodus 3 and 4 show us that God's deliverance will be based on God's revelation of Himself - God's deliverance will not be anonymous is not ultimately for His people's good but it is for His fame and glory and thus His deliverance will ultimately happen through His revelation of Himself

D. Read Exodus 3:1 - 4:17

E. As we study this passage this morning, we are going to look at seven ways God reveals Himself to Moses, seven attributes of God that are central to redemption and deliverance

1. Proposition: God's deliverance of His people is ultimately so that they will know Him and thus His attributes, that is who He is, are central to the redemption of His people
2. Outline:
 - a. God reveals Himself to Moses
 - b. God ultimately reveals Himself in Christ
 - c. God's revelation in Christ

II. God reveals Himself to Moses

As we go through Exodus 3 and 4, the dialogue goes back and forth between God and Moses

- God opens the dialogue at the beginning of chapter three with two statements
- Then Moses asks a series of five questions or statements that God answers
- These two statements and five answers each reveal the character of God to Moses, and they create something similar to a chiasm, where the central revelation, the fourth revelation of God is His name
- So, let's start this morning by looking at these seven attributes of God revealed to Moses

A. God is holy (Exodus 3:1-5)

1. The introductory verses to this section record how Moses goes up a mountain and sees a burning bush that is not consumed by the fire - an interesting sight to be sure
 - a. And when Moses turns aside to see this 'great sight', God calls out to Moses and commands him to remove his sandals because He is standing on holy ground
 - b. Both God's command and the display of God's presence in the bush call Moses to see that God is a holy God, a God that is separate from His creation and worthy to be held in ultimate reverence
2. The burning bush is an excellent representation of God's holiness
 - a. In the Old Testament, God's presence was often represented by fire, in fact, by Deuteronomy 5, God is known as a consuming fire, a jealous God
 - b. Just as the intense radiance and heat of fire consumes and purifies everything in its path, so God, burning in holiness and righteousness, will consume and purify everything that comes before Him - if it is in opposition to Him, it will be utterly destroyed - in fact, this is a good representation of what God's holiness means
 - c. So, God reveals Himself to Moses as a fire and calls out to Moses that to be in His presence is to be in the presence of a consuming holiness, but there is a twist, something unexplained in God's holiness
 - d. The bush is consumed with the holiness of God, yet the bush is not consumed - God is holy, but that is not the whole revelation of God, God's holiness must be paired with something so that the bush and Moses are not utterly consumed
3. God's holiness, His otherness, His self-dedication and opposition to sin, is the first thing God reveals about Himself and is the first thing we must understand about God - if we don't understand God's holiness, we cannot understand God - but even in this revelation, we are called to see that there must be more; God's holiness must be answered and upheld by other attributes, so we continue on...

B. God is merciful (Exodus 3:6-10)

1. Immediately after identifying Himself as the Holy God, God follows up by revealing Himself as the merciful God
 - a. God's holiness and God's mercy are always paired in revelation because neither makes sense without the other - without God's holiness, God's mercy is worthless because God is not great and we have not offended Him, without God's mercy, God's holiness is merely terror because God is great and we have offended Him
2. So, God makes five simple statements to Moses
 - a. In verse 6, God reveals that He is the God of the covenant - He is the one who made unilateral promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, He is the one who condescended to call a people to Himself and He remembers those promises
 - b. In verse 7 and 9, God reveals that He knows His people's trouble - God repeats this twice around His declaration of salvation in verse 8, because this is the emphasis of the statement - God knows the depth of His people's bondage and their need for mercy and He hears and has compassion and mercy for them
 - c. In verse 8a, God reveals that He will act to save His people - God will deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, He will release them from the bondage that they endure, He will act in mercy for His people
 - d. In verse 8b, God reveals that He will act to fulfill His covenant for His people's good - not only will He deliver His people from the Egyptians, He will bring them to a good land, a land flowing with milk and honey, the land promised to Abraham; God's mercy is more than mere deliverance, it brings great good to His people
 - e. In verse 10, God reveals that He will act by sending a deliverer - God has heard and God will act, but He acts by commissioning and sending Moses, God's actions will be to reveal Himself through a human deliverer
3. In the midst of His holiness, God acts in mercy to keep His covenant
 - a. This is really the surprising statement in Exodus 3 and 4 - God's holiness could be revealed in many other ways, but God's mercy is revealed in deliverance and redemption
 - b. God will act in mercy for His people's good - He will deliver them from bondage

C. God is present (Exodus 3:11-12)

1. In verse 11, Moses asks his first question - God said he would be the deliverer, and Moses asks how in the world this is possible - how could he be the deliverer?
 - a. In fact, Moses ask who he is that he should be the deliverer, how does God identify Moses?
 - b. The interesting thing in verse 12 is that God doesn't answer the question, the lack of answer implies that Moses is a nobody, deliverance is not a human task, a human effort, so Moses cannot do it
 - c. Instead, God answers that He will be with Moses, deliverance is from God alone, so, Moses is no one on his own, but he is the representative of God, God's chosen tool, and, as such, He will be the deliverer
2. So, God makes two promises to Moses
 - a. God promises Moses that He will be with Moses - Moses will be able to stand before Pharaoh, Moses will be able to deliver God's people, Moses will be able to bring God's people to a new land because God will be acting through Moses at each turn - God's presence not Moses power will win the battle
 - b. And God promises Moses that His presence will bring its desired effect - God's presence will deliver His people and bring them to a place where they can worship Him
3. God will be present to keep his covenant, to empower His deliverer and to enable His people to worship Him

D. God is the Lord (Exodus 3:13-22)

1. In verse 13, Moses asks a second question - If God is sending Him to be the deliverer, what is God's name?
 - a. Ultimately this question is about how Moses should reveal the God that He represents - as opposed to the multiple God's in the pantheon of Egypt, which God is delivering the Israelites
 - b. But, in Scripture, names are more than simple identification, they describe and reveal the character and purpose of the bearer - so God's name will reveal not only which God He is, but who He is - God's name will be His ultimate self-revelation
2. And God answers with the well-known phrase, I AM WHO I AM
 - a. This phrase is so simple it is enigmatic - it is hard to understand, yet it reveals the depths of who God is
 - b. First, it reveals God as the self-identifying one - I am who I reveal myself to be - God's character will be revealed by God Himself, no one else is capable or worthy of describing and revealing God, God must reveal Himself if He is to be known, God must reveal Himself if His people are to be delivered
 - c. Next, it reveals God as the self-existent one - I am the one who is - God is not dependent on any other thing or person, He is uncreated, without beginning or end, He is the source of being and receives it from no one
 - d. Thus, it reveals God as the sovereign one - I am who I decide to be, who I am is who I am - since God is not dependent on any other and gives being to all others, God's will is preeminent, He alone rules Himself and all other things, so all things happen in accordance with His will
 - e. And it reveals God as the unchanging one - I am who I was and will be - the ambiguous tense indicates that God is without change, He has identified Himself and He will always be how He has identified Himself - He is unchanging so His self-revelation will always be true and His promise will always be trustworthy
 - f. And it probably reveals more which I don't have time to delve into this morning, and which I have not yet seen myself - but this phrase shows us that God is ultimate and sovereign being dependent on none
3. So, in verse 15, God's name changes slightly, God tells Moses to reveal Him as the Lord
 - a. In the original Hebrew this was the name Yahweh, a name closely related to the word 'I am', a name that invokes all the truth of God's revelation of Himself as I am who I am
 - b. But, the ancient Hebrews, in light of God's holiness, felt that His name was too sacred to pronounce, so they overwrote the word Yahweh with the vowels for Adonai, Lord, which is how we get the name Jehovah
 - c. And, when they spoke the name of God, they called Him, the LORD, which is actually a good representation of what His name means - He is the sovereign, unchanging, independent Lord of all things and He is the Lord of His covenant - God is the LORD is the most true statement you can make about God
4. So God commands Moses to reveal Him as the Lord to both His people and His enemies
 - a. In verse 15, God says that He will be known as The LORD to all generations forever
 - b. In verse 15, God commands Moses to say to the people of Israel, 'The LORD... has sent me to you'
 - c. In verse 16, God commands Moses to say to the elders of Israel, 'The LORD... has appeared to me'
 - d. In verse 18, God commands Moses and the elders to say to Pharaoh, 'The LORD... has met with us'
 - e. And, in verses 19-22, God promises that He will be true to His name and demonstrate His Lordship in judgment, redemption, deliverance and provision for His people
5. God is The LORD, has revealed Himself to be The LORD and will prove Himself to be The LORD

E. God is powerful (Exodus 4:1-9)

1. The next three questions Moses asks all start to sound like excuses, but God continues to answer
 - a. Moses third question is more of a statement - the Israelites will not believe me if I reveal you as the LORD
 - b. God answers Moses' objection by revealing His power in mighty signs - signs that demonstrate His Lordship over the entire cosmos and signs that anticipate the coming plagues where God will display His power over all the gods of Egypt, and so Moses' staff is introduced here as a conduit of God's power
 - c. The people will believe Moses description of God's Lordship because God will display His Lordship powerfully through Moses to judge Egypt and redeem His people
2. The first sign reveals God's Lordship and power over living beings
 - a. In the first sign, God takes an inanimate object, Moses' staff, and turns it into a live snake, demonstrating His power over life and death - God is the one who gives life and God will reveal Himself as the judge of life
 - b. The sign may also demonstrate God's power over kingdoms and nations since the snake was the symbol of Egypt and Pharaoh's authority, God's power can create and destroy all the authority of Pharaoh
 - c. And, we shouldn't miss the reality, and even the slight humor of the scene, Moses throws his staff down and it turns into a snake, and it records that Moses, not anticipating this, runs - and Moses ran from it - that's a cobra, I'm outta here!
3. The second sign reveals God's Lordship over human beings
 - a. Bringing the signs even closer to home and asserting His power more directly over humanity, the next sign is making Moses' hand leprous and well again
 - b. God's power is not merely over creatures but over His special creatures, God has complete power over human beings and God will exercise His Lordship over all people
4. The third sign reveals God's Lordship over the natural elements
 - a. To extend His power to all things, God demonstrates His power over the very elements of the earth by turning water to blood - a sign that apparently does not happen on the mountain, but is promised and happens later in chapter 7
5. Nothing is outside of God's power so there is no reason for Moses to fear God's message

F. God is sovereign (Exodus 4:10-12)

1. Moses fourth statement continues his excuses - Moses is not eloquent, how can he proclaim God's message?
2. This excuse is likely directly related to Pharaoh's court - the magicians who stood before Pharaoh were trained in rhetoric and acted as the voice of Pharaoh, how could Moses hope to counter them?
3. Once more, Moses does not realize the extent of God's Lordship or His power, so God answers by affirming His sovereignty over all things - God is sovereign over Moses' mouth and He is sovereign over the magicians' mouth, Moses must take his eyes off Himself and put them on the God who created all things
4. So, God call's Moses to recognize His sovereignty revealed in creation and to obey and go

G. God is patient (Exodus 4:13-17)

1. Moses final statement is a plea of unbelief - Oh, my Lord, please send someone else - and Moses' continued lack of faith in God's revelation causes God to be angry, it says God's anger was kindled against Moses
2. But, amazingly, God's anger does not consume Moses, just as the burning bush at the beginning was not consumed in the presence of God's holiness, so also Moses is not consumed even when the anger of the Lord is kindled against Him - God's mercy is revealed specifically to Moses
3. Instead, God demonstrates His infinite patience to Moses, God condescends and provides what Moses' lacks, and gives Moses a helper in his brother Aaron, Aaron will be Moses' mouth and Moses will be as God to Aaron
4. God is holy, yet He is also longsuffering, enduring the sin of His people until He can demonstrate His mercy and redeem them from their sin - Moses fails to believe the God who appeared before Him, yet God provides
5. And, in doing so, God reveals a deeper truth - now Moses has a mouthpiece just as Pharaoh has a mouthpiece in the magicians who speak Pharaoh's words
6. Moses is elevated to the level of Pharaoh with God saying, you will be as God to Aaron - Pharaoh was considered to be the son of the gods, specifically the son of Ra, and he represented the gods to the magician who spoke his will to the people of Egypt - so Moses now takes a position similar to the Son of God, representing God to the people through Aaron, his prophet
7. In fact, this last, surprising act of God on the mountain points us forward to a better Son of God, one who does not need to be elevated to this status to match Pharaoh, but one who condescends to take the position of the Son of Man - Moses is revealed clearly to be a type here pointing forward to Christ, which leads us to our next point

III. God's ultimate revelation is in Christ

Exodus 3-4 is a powerful revelation of who God is, a revelation of His character, but once again, we must ask how we fit into this story, what does God's self-revelation have to do with us?

- And, as always, God's revelation to Moses on the mountain applies to us because it points forward to Christ
- God's revelation to Moses was a revelation ultimately of who Christ is and would be for His people
- So, each attribute of God revealed on the mountain is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ

A. God's holiness is displayed in Christ

1. On the mountain, God starts by calling Moses to see and to recognize His holiness
 - a. And this calls us to look forward to the ultimate display of God's holiness, a display of God's holiness that fulfills the picture of the burning bush, a display of holiness that exhibits God's holiness but also exhibits mercy in the midst of holiness
2. So, first, Christ embodies God's holiness
 - a. From His birth, Christ was the Holy One of God, Luke 1:35 - *And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God."* - Christ was born to be the representation of God's holiness
 - b. And the disciples testified to Christ's displayed holiness, 1 Peter 2:22 - *He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.*
 - c. In life, Christ perfectly displayed the holiness of God, He perfectly represented the character of His Father
3. But second, Christ defends God's holiness
 - a. Just as the burning bush was not consumed, Christ did not appear in holiness to destroy, but to save, as He says in John 3:17 - *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*
 - b. So, Hebrews affirms that Christ's holiness does not exclude but invites us into God's presence through His sacrifice - Hebrews 10:19-22 - *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*
 - c. In the sacrifice of Christ, God's holiness is displayed and satisfied so that we can approach God

B. God's mercy is provided in Christ

1. God revealed His mercy by making five statements to Moses: He will fulfill His covenant, He knows His people's weakness, He will act to deliver His people, He will act for His people's good and He will appoint a deliverer
2. Ultimately, Christ is the fulfillment of each of these revelations of mercy
 - a. Christ is God's final answer to His covenant with Abraham, Galatians 3:15-16 - *To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.*
 - b. Christ intimately knows our weakness and our trouble, Hebrews 4:15 - *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*
 - c. In Christ, God acts to deliver us from our bondage, Ephesians 2:4-5 - *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*
 - d. In Christ, God acts for His people's good, Ephesians 2:6-7 - *And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*
 - e. Christ is God's appointed deliverer, Galatians 4:4-5 - *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*
3. All of the mercy God promised to Moses on the mountain is ultimately pointing us forward to Christ: the mercy of God is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ!

C. God's presence is fulfilled in Christ

1. When Moses asks how he could be the messenger of God, God answers that His presence will go with Moses
 - a. God's presence is what qualifies and empowers Moses to be the deliverer
 - b. But God's presence with Moses was only a small foretaste of One who would be filled with the presence of God to deliver God's people - God's presence with Moses ultimately points us to Christ
 - c. And God promised that His presence would lead God's people to worship God
2. God is infinitely and perfectly present with Christ
 - a. Colossians 1:19 - *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,*
 - b. Colossians 2:9 - *For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,*
3. And so, Christ is God's presence with us
 - a. Matthew 1:23 - *"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).*
4. Therefore, Christ can promise His continuing presence with us, just as God promised Moses on the mountain
 - a. Matthew 18:20 - *And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*
5. And as Christ is God's with us, He leads us according to God's promise to the place where we can worship God
 - a. Hebrews 9:14 - *how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*
6. God was with Moses because God would be infinitely with Christ and would be, through Christ, God with us

D. God's Lordship is consummated in Christ

1. The climax of Moses meeting with God on the mountain is the revelation of God's name, He is Yahweh, the LORD
 - a. He is the self-revealing, self-existent, sovereign, unchanging commander of the universe
 - b. And God's name, the LORD becomes His covenant name, His special name that His people know Him by, the name under which He delivered them from bondage and brought them into His land
 - c. God reveals and acts under His name, the LORD, because a deliverer would come who would consummate His Lordship in an ultimate act of deliverance
2. From His birth, Jesus was Christ the LORD, Luke 2:11 - *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*
3. In His work on the cross He claimed His Lordship over all things, Romans 14:9 - *For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.*
4. In His resurrection He has assumed Lordship over all things, Ephesians 1:22-23 - *And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*
5. So the disciples preach that Jesus is both LORD and Christ, Acts 2:36 - *Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."*
6. In fact, it became the disciples most common title for Christ, for example Romans 1:4 - *and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,*
7. God revealed Himself to Moses as the LORD because He would ultimately reveal Himself in Christ as the LORD

E. God's power is revealed in Christ

1. In the face of Moses' unbelief, God declared His power over all things through mighty signs
 - a. But now, the power of God is revealed in one thing, the message about Jesus Christ - God's power to save and deliver His people has been displayed in the work of Christ
2. Paul continually testifies that God's power is now displayed in the message of the cross, the message of Christ
 - a. Romans 1:16 - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*
 - b. I Corinthians 1:18 - *For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*
3. God declared His power to save His people and bring them to faith because He would ultimately execute His power in Christ and bring His people to faith in Him

F. God's sovereignty is exalted in Christ

1. When Moses continued to struggle with His ability to fulfill God's plan, God claimed His sovereignty over all creation, and claimed His ability to work through His creation according to His sovereign plan
 - a. God claimed His sovereignty over His plan of salvation to Moses, because He would ultimately display His sovereignty over His plan of salvation in Christ
2. The disciples were particularly struck by this fact in the weeks after the resurrection and ascension, Acts 2:22-24 - *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know--- this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.*
3. And again the disciples affirm God's sovereign plan enacted in Christ in Acts 4:27-28 - *for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.*
4. And the disciples continued to testify to God's sovereign plan fulfilled in Christ through their letters, Ephesians 1:9-10 - *And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.*
5. God promises sovereignty in salvation because He will be sovereign in Christ

G. God's patience is perfected in Christ

1. After Moses continued to resist, God's anger burned at Moses, but ultimately He displayed His patience and His forbearance with Moses by condescending and providing what Moses needed
2. But now, God has revealed His perfect patience in Christ
3. God's plan to bring Christ was the ultimate display of patience with sinners, Romans 3:23-25 - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.*
4. And God's drawing those who hate Him to faith in Christ continues to display His patience, I Timothy 1:16 - *But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.*
5. And God continues to forbear with His creation as He seeks all who would turn and come to Christ, II Peter 3:9 - *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

IV. God reveals Himself in Christ to Us

As we close this morning, once again I want to turn and apply this text to us

As we see God's self-revelation to Moses and turn and see God's self-revelation in Christ, what do these attributes of God in Christ call us to? How should we react to these truths?

A. God's holiness calls us to approach reverently in Christ

1. Moses was called before the burning holiness of God and was called to approach reverently, even to take off his sandals as a reminder of the God that He was appearing before
2. And, as we see God's holiness displayed in Christ, we are called to approach God in the same attitude in Christ
3. So, Hebrews points back to the time that God revealed Himself in blazing fire, recounting the burning flame of God displayed on the mountain of God, and then the author turns and tells us that we have something better, in Christ, we can approach God in a new and better way; He concludes in Hebrews 12:28-29 - *Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.*
4. Our God is still a consuming fire, and if God has displayed His holiness in Christ then we should approach God in Christ with reverence and awe, with humility and sober-mindedness, like Moses, we should take care with how we approach such a holy God and assuredly only approach Him in Christ
5. This doesn't get rid of joy, boldness or even familiarity before God - things Christ has earned for us as children of God - but we still must approach reverently, not glibly or light-heartedly, we are approaching the holy God

B. God's mercy calls us to seek salvation in Christ

1. God proclaimed His mercy to Moses saying that He heard the cries of His people and was going to answer with a great deliverer, and, if God has displayed a greater mercy in Christ, then it calls His people to renew their cries for mercy, to renew their cries for deliverance and to seek salvation in Jesus Christ
2. Romans 10:10-13 - *For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*
3. If God displays His mercy in Christ then we should be known as those who call on the name of the Lord, those who earnestly seek deliverance from bondage through Christ, those whose cry continually calls out for salvation

C. God's presence calls us to act boldly in Christ

1. Moses, doubting his ability to represent God to the people of Israel, was promised that God's presence would go with Him, in effect calling Him to go and to act on the promise of God's presence
2. And now God has displayed His presence in Christ and has promised His presence in Christ, and in the promise God has commissioned us in much the same way as Moses, to display His character to the nations
3. Matthew 28:18-20 - *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*
4. As we hear God's promise of presence we should go boldly resting in the promise of Christ's presence, we should act to make disciples of all nations without fear because Christ will be with us to the end of the age

D. God's Lordship calls us to display His authority in Christ

1. God revealed His name to Moses and commanded Moses to reveal His name to the people of Israel, the elders of Israel and to Pharaoh himself, Moses was to say that the LORD has sent him
2. And now God has revealed His Lordship in Christ, so like Moses we should display the Lordship of Christ
3. First, we should openly confess the Lordship of Christ - Romans 10:9 - *because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved*
4. Second, we should be proclaiming the Lordship of Christ, proclaiming that Christ's life and death has demonstrated Him to be over all things and requires others to come in repentance and faith - II Corinthians 4:5 - *For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.*
5. But, most importantly, we should live out the Lordship of Christ, live our lives as though Christ were really our Lord and that His will was our command - Romans 13:14 - *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*, or Colossians 2:6 - *Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, our lives should be the ultimate display of the Lordship of Christ because we obey Jesus Christ our Lord*

E. God's power calls us to believe in Christ

1. At the beginning of Exodus 4, Moses demonstrated his failure in faith and his doubt that others would believe that the LORD God had sent him and would deliver through him, but God responds with a display of His power calling Moses to believe and calling His people to believe in God's deliverance
2. And, as God has now displayed His power through the work of Christ, God calls us to believe, to have faith in the work of Christ that will provide deliverance from bondage
3. The power of God calls us to live by faith in the gospel, Romans 1:16-17 - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*
4. I Corinthians 1:21-24 - *For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*
5. We should live by faith in Christ - the power of Christ revealed in the gospel calls us to initial trust in Christ for salvation, but also continuing trust in Christ for salvation, we live by faith that Christ will deliver us from the bondage of sin and we rest and run in our faith - we keep our eyes on the cross as our power to run in Christ

F. God's sovereignty calls us to rest in His plan in Christ

1. Moses continued to resist God's revelation and his qualifications, so God declared His sovereignty over all things including salvation - God told Moses to go because He could rest in God's sovereign hand
2. And, in Christ, God has displayed his sovereignty, and the disciples recognized that they could rest in the fact that God had all things under control, in fact, their prayer in Acts 4 was a prayer of trust in God's continuing plan
3. Acts 4:27-31 - *for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*
4. Even in the face of persecution, the disciples prayed for boldness and rested in the promise of God's sovereignty in Christ and acted on the promise of God's sovereignty in Christ
5. As we see God's sovereignty in Christ, we should rest in His perfect plan that has been and will be fulfilled in Christ and find the boldness to act in Christ's name

G. God's patience calls us to repent and follow Christ

1. As Moses made his last excuse, God's anger burned but His patience was displayed and ultimately Moses obeyed and went, He left off his excuses and followed God's plan
2. And, Christ has displayed God's anger and God's patience, and when we see God's patience, we too are called to turn away from our unbelief and our sin and to follow God's plan in Christ
3. Romans 2:4 - *Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*
4. II Peter 3:15 - *Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,*
5. If Christ has displayed the infinite forbearance of Christ for sinful creatures, then we should not fail to recognize the great call to repentance that Christ's patience is and we should live our lives in repentance seeking to follow after Christ