

Exodus Ch. 3

V: 1 Between chapter's 2 & 3, approximately 40 years have passed.

- Moses has become a keeper of the flock, a shepherd.

Psalm 32:8 “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.”

- Moses has made the transition from the courts of Pharaoh, to tending sheep in the desert.
- He's moved from the business of city life if you will, to the tranquility of country life.

Zechariah 4:10 “For who hath despised the day of small things?...”

Psalm 78:70-72 ⁷⁰He chose David also His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: ⁷¹From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. ⁷²So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.”

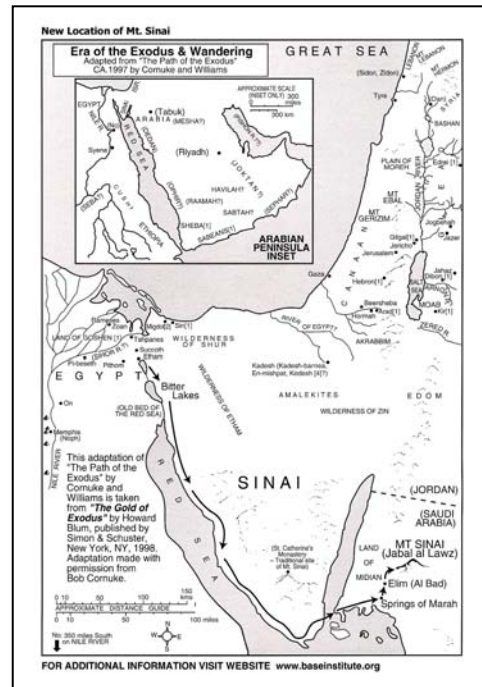
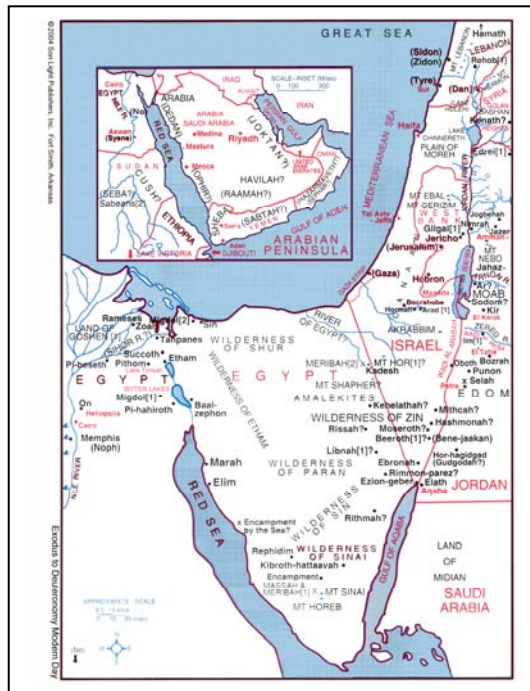
- Moses like David, and many after them would spend many years in the presence of the Lord, alone with the Lord receiving instruction, preparing him for his ministry.
- Elijah at Cherith, Ezekiel at Chebar, John the Baptist in the wilderness, Paul in Arabia, and John on Patmos – solitude, communion with the Lord. God's classroom.
- God has taught Moses what it is to be a shepherd, He has prepared him to be an under shepherd over the flock of Israel.

Jesus declared:

John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd...”

- Moses has been conformed a little more into the image of Jesus.
- Jethro: “His Abundance” Reu-el: “Friend of God”
- Moses “led” the sheep, in the eastern custom of shepherding they led the flocks. In the western culture / mind set sheep and cattle are driven from behind as in a cattle drive. (Fences vs: person / shepherd)
- When God beckoned Noah into the ark, it was to come in with Him, here we see Moses has learned the same lesson.

- When giving directions from the Semitic or eastern cultural point of view, it is always in relation to East. In the West our perspective is always from North, our maps are always oriented with an arrow that indicates “North”, but from the Semitic perspective it is from the east, so that what is “behind” is “West”.
- Moses came to the mountain of God: Mt. Sinai, Horeb is the area at the base of the mountain. Horeb means “waste” or “desert”.
- “The mountain of God” is a reference made after the fact when Moses later wrote the book of Exodus.



V: 2 The Angel of the Lord: God Himself, in the form of a flame of fire.

- This is a revelation of God Himself to Moses, quite possibly a pre-incarnate revelation of Jesus Christ, also known as a Christophony or Theophony.

Genesis 12:7 “And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, unto thy seed will I give this land: and there he builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared to him.

Genesis 16:7-11 “7 And the angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur. ⁸ And he said, Hagar, Sarai’s maid, when camest thou? And whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai. ⁹ And the angel of the Lord said unto her, return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands. ¹⁰ And the angel of the Lord said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. ¹¹ And the angel of the Lord said unto her, behold, thou are with child, and shalt bear a son,

and shalt call his name Ishmael; **because the Lord hath heard thy affliction.**”

Genesis 17:1 “And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me and be thou perfect.”

- Interchangeability between “the Lord” and the “the Angel of the Lord.”

Genesis 18:1 “And the Lord appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day.”

- Abraham bowed himself to the ground:

Genesis 18:3 “And said, my Lord, if now I have found favor in thy sight...”

Genesis 22:11 “And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said Abraham, Abraham: and he said, here am I.”

Genesis 22:15 “And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time.”

Genesis 22:16 “And said, **by myself have I sworn, saith the Lord**, for because thou hast done this thing...” (speaking of the sacrifice of Isaac.)

Isaiah 63:7-9 “⁷I will mention the loving kindnesses of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which He hath bestowed on them according to His mercies, and according to the multitude of His loving kindnesses. ⁸For he said, surely they are My people, children that will not lie: so **He was their Saviour**. ⁹In all their affliction He was afflicted, and **the Angel of His presence saved them**: in His love and in His pity **He redeemed them**; and He bare them, and carried them all the days of old.”

Malachi 3:1-2 “¹Behold, I will send My messenger, and He shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. ²But who may abide in the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner’s fire, and like fuller’s soap.”

- Messenger: (H 4397) mal'ak, mal-awk'; “**angel**”.
- Same exact word that is used in all the previous references.

V: 6&7 God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – “And the Lord said.” – context.

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- God, the Angel of the Lord, appears unto Moses; the first of many times.

Exodus 33:11 “And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend....”

Hebrews 12:29 “Our God is a consuming fire.”

- Yet He is not consumed...
- Some people see the bush as a type of the nation of Israel, through all the fires of persecution, yet never consumed.

V: 3 Moses responded to this amazing sight.

- Not knowing what this must have looked like, Moses must have had really good eyesight.
- Moses was just looking for pasture, being diligent and faithful in the small things, being obedient.

V: 4 First God revealed Himself to Moses appearing to him, then God spoke to Moses, calling him by name.

- Moses responds; the beginning of a personal relationship between God and Moses.

Jesus said:

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

V: 5 God instructs Moses:

1. Don't come any closer.
2. Take off your shoes, you are on holy ground.
 - By taking off his shoes, Moses removed the only barrier between his naked feet and the holy ground upon which he stood.
 - In essence removing the barrier between himself and God.
 - **Joshua would later have a similar experience to that of Moses:**

Joshua 5:13-15 “¹³And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, art thou for us, or for our adversaries? ¹⁴And he said, nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, what saith my lord unto his servant? ¹⁵And the captain of the Lord's host said unto

Joshua, loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.”

Joshua 6:2 “And the Lord said unto Joshua, see, I have given into thine hand Jericho,…”

We read about Jesus:

Matthew 4:17 “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

- Wherever Jesus is, that is the Kingdom of Heaven, wherever God is, that is holy ground.

V: 6 Just in case Moses wasn't quite getting it, God identifies Himself – the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Jesus later quotes this portion of Exodus in the Gospel of Mark: being questioned about the resurrection of the dead.

Mark 12:26-27 ²⁶“And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? ²⁷He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living:…”

I like the way the prophet Jeremiah puts it:

Jeremiah 10:10 “But the Lord is the true God, He is the Living God, and an everlasting King: at His wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide His indignation.”

- There was Moses, in the presence of God – he had to hide his face, he couldn't look upon God directly.

God would later explain to Moses:

Exodus 33:20 “And He said, thou canst not see My face: for there shall no man see Me, and live.”

- Like Moses, both the prophet Isaiah and the apostle Peter experienced the same thing; once in the presence of God we see our own sin all too clearly.

Isaiah declared:

Isaiah 6:5 “Then said I, woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”

Luke 5:8 “When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”

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- **First God reveals Himself, and now He begins to reveal His plan.**

V: 7 I have seen, I have heard, and I know...

- **Genesis 16:13** Hagar; “El-Roi” - “The God who sees”.
- God is omniscient – all knowing.

Psalm 34:15 “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.”

- I’m grateful that the True and the Living God has revealed Himself to me and that I can worship Him, knowing that He hears, and sees, and moves and has power to affect my life.
- This is such a contrast to the gods of this world that are powerless to do anything.

Psalm 115:4-8 “⁴Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands.
⁵They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not:
⁶They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not:
⁷They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not:
neither speak they through their throat. ⁸They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.”

- “My people” – God claims the children of Israel as His own.
- He is a personal God; “I know their sorrows.”

God’s promise to Jacob:

Genesis 28:15 “And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.”

V: 8 God, the Angel of the Lord describes the mission:

- He is come to deliver the children of Israel from the hand of the Egyptians.

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”
– God with us!

John 1:14 “And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- He is come to deposit them, take them into the land of Canaan – the promise land.

V: 9 Not only has the Lord heard the cry of the children of Israel – whom He loves.

- He has also seen the oppression of the Egyptians – nothing escapes His notice.

Revelation 22:12 “And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

Romans 12:19 “... vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

V: 10 Moses will be sent unto Pharaoh to deliver the message.

- God's commandments are His empowerments.
- God has already said what He would do.
- Moses' job? Show up...

V: 11 “Who am I?” Answer: God's chosen vessel, His instrument, nothing more! (God does the work.)

- We can't say that we're a “no-body” when God has chosen us to be a “some body”!
- Often times the most qualified person is the one who doesn't think they are qualified because they are aware of their own frailty and unworthiness.
- The real question here isn't “who am I?” – the real question is “who is God?”
- Who is mighty like our God? Who is able to save like our God? Who is like unto our God?

Psalms 103:14 “For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.”

Zechariah 4:6 “... not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.”

V: 12 Don't worry, I'll be with you!

Romans 8:31 “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

- This will be the sign, the proof that I am the One who sent you: when you actually get back to Mt. Sinai / Horeb with all the people, that will be the sign – because there is no way you can do it without me.

Two book end verses:

John 15:5 “Jesus said, I am the vine ye are the branches: he that abideth in Me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.”

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

V: 13-14 Who do I say has sent me? What is your name?

- Apparently just saying that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is not the option that Moses is thinking of.
 - Interestingly enough, the children of Israel never do actually ask Moses what God’s name is. God knew that they wouldn’t, but He blesses Moses’ desire to know Him better and God tells Moses His name.
 - God responds: “I AM” – “I AM THAT I AM” – hath sent you.
 - This is the Tetragrammaton, the unspeakable name of God. The eternal “I AM”, the self-existent One, from everlasting to everlasting – I AM. (LORD)
 - **YHWH** – Yahweh / Jehovah - is the becoming one, His name as opposed to His many titles:
 1. Elohim uni-plural noun, the God of creation.
 2. El Shaddai God Almighty God
 3. El-Elyon “The Most High God”
 4. El-Olam “God of Eternity” or “God the Everlasting One”
 5. El-Berith “God of the covenant”
 6. El-Roi “The God who sees”
 7. El-Nasa (nasaw) “The God who forgives”
 8. Jehovah-Jireh “The Lord will provide”
 9. Jehovah-Nissi “The Lord my banner”
 10. Jehovah-Mekaddesh “The Lord sanctifies”
 11. Jehovah-Shalom “The Lord is peace”
 12. Jehovah-Sabaoth “The Lord of hosts”
 13. Jehovah Rohi “The Lord is my Shepherd”
 14. Jehovah-Rapha “The Lord who heals”
 15. Jehovah-Tsidkenu The Lord is our Righteousness”
 16. Jehovah-Shammah “The Lord is there, the Lord hears”
 17. **Jehovah Debar** “He who speaks”
 - “Ancient of Days” “From Everlasting To Everlasting”
 - Rock - Refuge – Fortress – Shield – King – Judge - Shepherd,
 - God the Father; Father of mercies, Father of lights; Father of glory.
 - He is our Abba Father.
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- Jesus was in a debate with the Pharisees, it had gotten nasty – they were saying He was a Samaritan and that He had a devil.
- Who’s your daddy?
- Then the discussion turned to Abraham, whom the Pharisees were trying to hide behind then Jesus told them:

John 8:56-58 ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad. ⁵⁷Then said the Jews unto Him, thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? ⁵⁸Jesus said unto them, verily, verily, I say unto you, **before Abraham was, I AM.** ⁵⁹Then they took up stones to cast at Him...” (Bread of life, light, good shepherd, way, truth, life, - resurrection & life.)

V: 15-17 Moses was given a charge, he is commissioned: to proclaim the name of God to the children of Israel.

- The same thing that Jesus commissioned us to do, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, deliverance to the captives.

Matthew 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

- A 2nd thing occurs when God identifies Himself twice at the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – He invokes history, he points to His track record.
- I saved them, I provided for their needs, I kept them, and I keep My promises!
- Further: tell them that God has seen their afflictions.
- The bottom line: *“I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt”*.

V: 18 The elders and the people of Israel will listen to you, and you shall approach Pharaoh.

V: 19 Pharaoh will not listen nor will he let you go.

- This scripture reveals the hardness of the human heart.

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

Matthew 19:26 “But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”

V: 20-22 I will show Myself strong on your behalf – God demonstrates His power.

- I will smite the Egyptians, and you shall spoil them!
- The children of Israel had been working without wages for 400 years, back wages and interest have been accumulating and they are about to collect.
- As we see all of this play out, the Apostle reminds us that there is one who is greater than Moses, our redeemer, our deliverer, our Lord Jesus:
- All of this is a model or a type of what Jesus has done for us:

Ephesians 4:8 “Wherefore He saith, when He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”

- He delivered us from the power of sin and death, and has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit.