

Exodus 2:16 – 3:22

Day 1

Moses Settles in Midian. Read Exodus 2:15–25

1. What family did Moses meet in Midian? 2:16

- Who were the Midianites descended from? Gen 25:1-2 (What does this heritage indicate about Reuel's (2:18) understanding of God?)
- Where did they settle? Genesis 25:5-6

Food for Thought: "Moses, fleeing for his life, probably felt that God's plan for his life was completely defeated. He probably believed that every chance he ever had to deliver his people was now over and there was nothing *he* could do. At this point, Moses was right where God wanted him." - David Guzik

2. How did Moses help the daughters of the priest of Midian? 2:17

- What impressed them about Moses' behavior? 2:19

3. What did God bring into Moses life at this time 2:21,22? What changes and challenges would Moses have faced in this new life in Midian?

- From Acts 7:29,30a what else do you learn about this period of Moses life?

FYI: "In the seventh chapter of the Book of Acts, we find Moses' life divided into three forty-year segments. His first forty years were spent in Egypt, where the Hebrews were experiencing their darkest days...He spent the next forty years as a shepherd in a foreign land (vv. 29-30a). Then during the final forty years of his life, Moses served God by leading His people out of Egypt, into the wilderness, and up to the border of Canaan (vv. 30b-44) The three periods of his life have also been described this way: Moses spent his first forty years thinking that he was a somebody, his middle years learning that he was a nobody, and his later years discovering what might deeds God could perform through a nobody." - Charles Swindoll (GMC) (8)

4. What was happening back in Egypt during this time? 2:23 (Mark the words "bondage, slaves(slavery)" in Exodus.)

5. List the verbs in 2:24,25 that reveal God’s response to Israel’s cry for help.

- Why was “remembering His covenant” important? Genesis 17:7

6. Why can God’s covenants and promises can be trusted? Deuteronomy 7:9

Applying the Word: *What was one of the biggest moves/changes you have had to face in life? What did you find challenging/difficult about it? What unexpected blessings came out of it?*

Day 2

God Calls Moses. Read Exodus 3:1–6



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7. What was Moses doing when God appeared to him? 3:1

8. What was unusual about the bush? 3:2

- How did Moses respond to God’s call? 3:3b

Food for Thought: "You have a thorn-bush (the original Hebrew word comes from the word "to stick or to prick," meaning a thorn-bush or bramble), a figure of the curse (Adam was cursed to bring forth thorns and thistles from the earth, Genesis 3:18), which is being burned (a picture of judgment) without being consumed (a picture of God's mercy and grace)." (See Malachi 3:6) - David Guzik

"Moses, Moses. When God calls a name twice, it is clear that the occasion is of great importance...Note also the double calls: 'Abraham, Abraham' (Genesis 22:11); 'Samuel, Samuel' (I Samuel 3:10); 'Simon, Simon' (Luke 22:31,32); 'Saul, Saul' (Acts 9:4); and 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem' (Matthew 23:37,38)." - Henry Morris

9. List the titles used to identify who this was.

- 3:2
- 3:4
- 3:6

10. Why did the LORD ask Moses to remove his sandals? 3:5

11. What would the titles God used in 3:6 to identify Himself say to Moses? (What else has Moses learned about God from this revelation: 3:2-6?)

- How did Moses respond to this revelation? 3:6b (Cf. Acts 7:32)

12. What did the LORD Jesus say these titles revealed? Mark 12:26,27

Read about other appearances of "the angel of the LORD" in: Genesis 18:1-22; Judges 6:11-22, 13:2-22

13. Underline how people felt when they received a revelation of God.

- Isaiah 6:5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." NAS
- Job 42:1,5,6 Then Job replied to the LORD:...5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. 6 Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." NIV
- Luke 5:8-9 But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me LORD, for I am a sinful man, O LORD!" 9 For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; NAS

Applying the Word: What things has God used to get your attention and turn you aside to listen to Him? How did you respond?

Day 3

God Reveals Himself to Moses. Read Exodus 3:7-12

14. List the words that describe the people's distress in 3:7,9

15. List the verbs in 3:7,8 that show God's response to His people's cry. (Mark the words "deliver(ed), rescue(d)" in Exodus.)

→ God's Presence/
Involvement

16. Compare the assurances and promises God gave to Moses to those given to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (3:6).

<p><i>"I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians" 3:8</i></p>	<p>Abraham: Gen. 15:13,14</p> <p>Jacob: Genesis 46:3,4</p>
<p><i>"to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey" 3:8</i></p>	<p>Abraham: Gen. 17:8</p> <p>Isaac: Gen. 26:3</p> <p>Jacob: Gen. 28:13-15</p>
<p><i>"to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite." 3:8</i></p>	<p>Abraham: Gen. 15:18-21</p>

17. Amazingly, what was God's plan for deliverance? 3:10 How did Moses feel about that? 3:11 (Contrast 3:4b)

- In what ways do you think Moses was right and in what ways was he wrong in doubting himself? (Put a question mark by Moses' questions in Exodus 3-5.)

18. What was the answer to Moses' doubts about himself and his ability? 3:12a

Food for Thought: "God told [Moses] that he would be an instrument in the deliverance, but *God Himself* would be the deliverer. Huge difference. In God's calling He has a plan; but He never expects you to carry out that plan. He's going to pull it off. He simply wants you to be the instrument of action. After all, it is His reputation that's at stake, not yours. All He asks is that you give yourself to Him as a tool He can pick up and use. That's all.

When Moses gave God that first miserable excuse and said, 'I won't have all the answers,' God had an immediate reply: 'Perhaps not, but you will have all of Me.'" - Charles Swindoll (113,114,117)

"God never deals with the question '**Who am I?**' Instead, He reminds Moses '**I will certainly be with you.**'... God is far more important than who Moses was. When we know the God who is with us, we can step forth confidently to do His will." - David Guzik

19. What do the following say about God's ability versus our own? (Underline any phrases that help you in addressing problems you are facing.)
- 2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, NASU
 - 2 Corinthians 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. NASU
 - Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. NIV
 - Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the LORD and in the strength of His might. NASU
 - John 15:4-5 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. NASU
20. How did God assure Moses about his assignment? 3:12b (Cf. Exodus 19:1-2)
- Why do you think the LORD told him this ahead of time? (How might it have helped him then and later?)

Applying the Word: What kind of tasks in life make you want to say "Who am I?" What are some things you could focus on about the Lord that will help you?

Day 4

God's Instructions and Promises. Read Exodus 3:13-22

21. What problem did Moses anticipate? 3:13 Why might the people might question his authority? (Compare 2:14)
22. List the titles that God used to identify himself in 3:14.

"I AM"

FYI: *Yahweh*, or *Jehovah*, from the verb "to be," [means] simply but profoundly, "I am who I am," and "I will be who I will be."... ***I am*** expresses the fact that He is the infinite and original personal God who is behind everything and to whom everything must finally be traced." - Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

"The name *YHWH* is a declaration of God's eternal and immutable self-existence...He has always existed and will always exist because His is existence. There is no other attribute of God that better stands as the summation of His nature than this one. Moses apparently realized that, for he did not pursue his first excuse any further. He understood that the living God was offering Himself in all of His fullness to him, an eighty-year-old shepherd."

- Charles Swindoll (GMC 33,34)

"I will be with you' [or 'I AM with you,' vs. 12] ties the promise of His effective presence to His very being... a pattern prominent in the book of associating what God does with His name." The Woman's Study Bible (102)

"Whenever you see **LORD** in all capitals, you can know (unless otherwise noted) that it is the translation of YHWH...It was a name not pronounced by the Jews because of its sacredness." - Kay Arthur (56)

23. Read through the following verses:

Psalm 90:2 Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. NASU

Isaiah 43:10 "You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me. NASU

Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the LORD God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."NASU

- What does that add to your understanding of the title "I AM"?

24. What claim did Jesus make and how did people react? John 8:58,59

25. How did the LORD connect the meaning of His name with the past and future? 3:15

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: *Memorial zekher* OT:2143, "remembrance; memorial...The name would recall His acts of covenant fulfillment." - Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words [See Psalm 102:12]

26. Who were the first people Moses was sent to? How did God want to comfort them? 3:16

27. What God promises and assurances did the LORD give Moses?

- 3:17
- 3:18a? Why would that be a precious promise to Moses?
Contrast Exodus 2:14

Digging Deeper

What would be difficult about settling in the land of Canaan (3:17)?
Numbers 13:27-33;
Deuteronomy 9:1-2

28. Underline what is said about God's concern for His people.

- Isaiah 63:9 In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the angel of His presence saved them; In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, And He lifted them and carried them all the days of old. NASU
- Zechariah 2:8 For thus says the LORD of hosts, "After glory He has sent me against the nations which plunder you, for he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye. NASU
- Deuteronomy 1:31 and in the desert. There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place." NIV
- Deuteronomy 32:10,11 "He found him in a desert land, And in the howling waste of a wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye. 11 "Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, That hovers over its young, He spread His wings and caught them, He carried them on His pinions. NASU
- Isaiah 40:11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. NIV
- Hosea 11:3-4 Yet it is I who taught Ephraim [the Northern Kingdom of Israel] to walk, I took them in My arms; But they did not know that I healed them. 4 I led them with cords of a man, with bonds of love, And I became to them as one who lifts the yoke from their jaws; And I bent down and fed them. NASU

29. What request were Moses and the elders to make? 3:18b (*Why do you think God wanted the Israelites to sacrifice outside or away from the land of Egypt? See 8:26*)

30. What did God know about Pharaoh? 3:19 (*Why do you think God told Moses this ahead of time?*)

31. What did God say would happen because of this refusal?

- 3:20 (Cf. 6:6, 15:6,12)
- 3:21,22 (Compare God's law in Deuteronomy 15:12,13)

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: **Miracles/wonders/to be marvelous** (3:20) *pala'* OT:6381, "This verb is not easy to define...it expresses the idea of doing or making a wondrous thing. The verb is found for the first time in Gen 18:14: 'Is any thing too hard for the Lord?' *Pala'* is used primarily with God as its subject, expressing actions that are beyond the bounds of human powers or expectations." - Vine's Expository Dictionary

You will plunder/spoil 3:22 "This was the Lord's just way of requiring the Egyptians to pay for all the slave labor they had long been forcing upon the children of Israel." - Henry Morris

Applying the Word:

“The Lord wants us to be attentive to His voice and available for His work. This holds true even after we have disappointed Him. He neither gives up on us nor forsakes us. Indeed, when we are going through our darkest days, we can be confident that He is totally aware, thoroughly involved, and completely in control of our situation.” Charles Swindoll (29)

What hard callings has God placed in your life? What influenced your decisions in facing these? What has helped you to trust Him?

Questions and Discoveries: