

The Deliverer Is Called Message for May 31

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Friday, May 22, 2009 at 11:03pm

#### EXODUS 3:1-10 THE DELIVERER IS CALLED

What is most important to mankind is that God has revealed Himself. The great Creator could have created us and never manifest Himself to us. But the great news is that He didn't keep His character concealed. He chose to reveal some of His awesome glory. The whole Bible is about God continuing to let His people know who He is. The book of Exodus is where God presents His attributes like He had never before. He revealed Himself to Moses, who in turn, then represents God to the people. In this 3rd chapter, Moses experiences the very presence of God. Moses had been humbled in the desert for 40 years and in a moments time, God broke His silence, and Moses' life changed forever. God wanted to deliver His people and the time was now and His man to do that was Moses. He would first have to show His holiness and transcendent otherness to Moses. God, then revealed the plan of deliverance to Moses and related that it was he who would do that. God actually spoke to him as we will see, all the way through this book of Exodus. Moses was called by God to bring forth His plan. God had equipped him for 40 years in the desert of Midian. Sometimes it can be a long time before God calls out His servants to do the work He has designed and prepared them for. It is not until he was 80 years old that it is made known to him that he is the deliverer. He is to make known to the people that God is the faithful Deliverer.

#### 1.THE EMPLOYMENT 3:1

##### A.HUMBLE EMPLOYMENT

Moses kept a flock for his father-in-law. Of all things the prince was a shepherd for decades. This would seem to be a poor employment for a man of his education and background, but he seems to be content. Shepherding seems to be fitting because he will later shepherd the people.

Acts 7:23 / Ex 7:7, Luke 2:8

##### B.BUSY

When God has called people, they were busy doing their livelihoods. They were going about their regular business. Judges 6 Gideon was threshing grain. 1 Sam 3, Samuel was serving in the tabernacle. David was caring for sheep.

17:20 Elisha was plowing. 1 Kings 19:19-21

Disciples were fishermen Mk 1:16-20, Matthew collected taxes Mt 9:9

##### C.OBSCURITY

All the time Moses did his job, he lived in obscurity and was driven even further into the desert when God finally spoke to him. He had taken his sheep to the far western side of the land where the Midianites lived. It was somewhere in

the middle of the Sinai Peninsula. This was the area where the 10 Commandments would be given by God.

## 2. THE BUSH 3:2-3

### A. ANGEL OF THE LORD

The Angel of the Lord is debated much, but I am convinced that this is the pre-incarnate Christ. Angel means messenger but this is no ordinary messenger. God relates to human beings through the 2nd person of the Trinity. Hebrews 1 says God spoke in many different ways but in these last days has spoken to us in the ultimate way, through His Son, who became incarnate. There are other passages involving the Angel of the Lord.

Gen 16:7-14, 22:11-19, Judges 2:1-4, 6:11-23

### B. FIRE

The fire burning and yet not consuming should have gotten the attention of anyone. This is an amazing thing happening in the desert before Moses' eyes. We will see more miracles involving frogs, flies, blood, locusts, and more. This is the first of many supernatural events that will happen during the ministry of Moses. Sign of God's presence 13:21, 19:18, 24:17 By the sight of fire, the people would know that God was with them as He led them in the wilderness.

### C. BUSH BURNED BUT NOT CONSUMED

It was a regular old bush in the desert. It kept blazing and it didn't die.

### D. MOSES' CURIOSITY

Moses stood there watching it as it kept burning and burning. This was not just a coincidence. He kept studying it, not believing what he saw. He stepped closer to it. He had a reasonable question. God wanted Moses to question this, as it gave God the opportunity to reveal Himself more fully. God can take an insignificant bush, ignite it, and turn it into a miracle; and that's what He was going to do with Moses. Moses was the weak bush but God was the empowering fire.

## 3. THE CALL 3:4

### A. GOD INITIATES THE CALL

Gen 22:11, 46:2, 1 Sam 3:10

God is always the one who starts the relationship. It is God who irresistibly calls. Man never goes after God first, for he cannot. Not only does he not have the ability to do so but he also does not desire to do so. God seeks after us so we can seek after Him. God knows how to get our attention so we will listen to Him.

### B. MOSES' RESPONSE

It is almost in a flippant way that Moses answers back. It was almost abrupt. Does he know who he is speaking to? How much did he know about God at this time ?

## 4. THE CAUTION 3:5-6

### A. ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S HOLINESS

God set the tone immediately.

God had to correct Moses' manners. Moses had been brought up in the royal court but he didn't know enough to take off his shoes in the presence of God.

People today also get lackadaisical with God. They get too familiar with Him. We need to learn this message too.

Another occasion like this is found in Josh 5:15

Moses must know right away that he is in the presence of a holy God. It is so holy that Moses has no right to be there. He was told to stop immediately. Don't come any further.

This concept of the holiness of God appears more than 100 times in the rest of Exodus. It is a recurring theme. He is so different from His creatures. If He is to have fellowship with man, that fact has to be taken into account. God's absolute otherness from us can never be overlooked. Even more, it is God who determines how we are to live in His holy presence, not us.

This place was not an intrinsically holy place. It was not a sanctuary. It was an ordinary place and it was an ordinary bush. Its holiness was due to one reason only; the holy God was there. Wherever He is makes that place holy. We must live accordingly in all those places. That means everywhere, for God is everywhere we go. We should be reverent in our approach to God, avoiding anything that would offend the holiness of God. We need to be greatly affected by His presence.

#### B.ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S NAME

This is God who speaks to him.

This is not some new god or local deity. He is a God who had entered into a relationship with generations of that same family. God remembers His covenant promises that He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The fact that the family was in distress was not an indication that God had forgotten about them.

God is not ashamed to be called our God.

#### C.THE IMPRESSION UPON MOSES

What began as a curiosity turned into a source of fear and reverence. Moses got a crash course on holy etiquette.

He had a true sense of the fear of God. This was *Coram Deo*, before the face of God. Moses did not look upon God for if he would have, he would have seen the revelation of God. He couldn't handle that.

#### 5.THE MESSAGE 3:7-10

##### A.AWARE OF ISRAEL'S SUFFERING

This section is a repeat of 2:24-25. God is not deaf to the cries of His people.

He is a God who might make us wait on Him, and at the time, it may not seem like He is even there, but He never forgets, because he cannot. Neither can He lie. The character of God is at stake.

##### B.SPEEDY DELIVERANCE

This is redemption. We were taken out of our bondage and redeemed like Israel.

God was soon going to do something about it. God intervenes in Human affairs.

Isa 64:1-2 God comes down to do it.

When they would get to Canaan, they would exchange bondage for liberty, poverty for plenty, and labor for rest. It was a picture of bondage to heaven.

##### C.COMMISSION OF MOSES

God's plan is revealed. The outcast is chosen to bring God's people out of Egypt.

God's plan was to use a human mediator. Moses was to be a picture of the great Mediator to come, Christ. Moses was to be the means.

Moses, 40 years before this, tried to deliver Israel by himself. He learned he could not do that. They needed deliverance but it was going to have to be by the strength of the Lord.

The same hand that now fetched a shepherd out of a desert, to be the Deliverer of them, later fetched fishermen from their ships, to be planters of the church.

God knew their distress and would deliver them—so He was sending them Moses. But why didn't God just go ahead and do it Himself ? Why put this heavy weight on an old man ? God had prepared him 40 years in Egypt and 40 years in the desert. God had a plan for Moses to do this. A second reason is related to the fact that He created humans to have fellowship with. He wants us to participate with Him in the world. In a fallen world we get to the work of God in redeeming the world.

God's people are sent because they are prepared by God.  
God invites His people to share with Him in redeeming people.