

Exodus 2-4 | Moses and the Burning Bush

Exodus 2-4

Based on the NLT

Transition

As Moses grew up in the king's household, he saw the injustice against his own people, and he wanted to rescue them. He became angry and killed an Egyptian who had killed one of his people. Because of that, he was forced to flee Egypt.

Moses fled to a neighboring country. There, he made his home, got married, and had children. But he never forgot that he was one of Abraham's descendants, an Israelite. Meanwhile, in Egypt...

Exodus 2:23-25

...years passed, and the king of Egypt died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and he remembered his covenant promise to Abraham *and his family*. He looked down on the people of Israel and knew it was time to act.

Exodus 3:1-3

One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law...He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to...the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

Exodus 3:4-6

When *God* saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

"Here I am!" Moses replied.

"Do not come any closer," *God* warned. "Take off your sandals, *because* you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your *ancestor Abraham*." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Exodus 3:7-10

Then *God* told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt...I am aware of their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the...Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land *that I promised to your ancestor Abraham many years ago*...Now go, *because* I am sending you to *the king*. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

Exodus 3:11-14

But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before *the king*? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

God answered, "I will be with you... But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?"

God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you."...

Exodus 4:1-17

But Moses protested again, "What if they won't believe me or listen to me? What if they say, 'The LORD never appeared to you'?"

Then the LORD asked him, “What is that in your hand?”

“A shepherd’s staff,” Moses replied.

“Throw it down on the ground,” the LORD told him. So Moses threw down the staff, and it turned into a snake! Moses jumped back.

Then the LORD told him, “Reach out and grab its tail.” So Moses reached out and grabbed it, and it turned back into a shepherd’s staff in his hand.

“Perform this sign,” the LORD told him. “Then they will believe that the LORD, the God of their ancestors—the God of Abraham *and his family*—really has appeared to you.”...*and God gave Moses other signs...*

But Moses pleaded with the LORD, “O Lord, I’m not very good with words. I never have been, and I’m not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.”

Then the LORD asked Moses, “Who makes a person’s mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.”

But Moses again pleaded, “Lord, please! Send anyone else.”

Then the LORD became angry with Moses. “All right,” he said. “What about your brother, Aaron...? I know he speaks well. And look! He is on his way to meet you now. He will be delighted to see you...Aaron will be your spokesman to the people. He will be your mouthpiece, and you will stand in the place of God for him, telling him what to say. And take your shepherd’s staff with you, and use it to perform the miraculous signs I have shown you.”

- What did you like about this story?
- What bothered you?
- How did God equip Moses? (*both in promises and practical equipment*)
- What specific character traits did God reveal to Moses that helped him on his journey?
- How did Moses respond to God’s promise?
- How did God respond to Moses’ hesitation?
- What do you still need to work on? Ask him!
- As God has given you a mandate, how has he equipped you? *Background, knowing intimately who God is, staff, helper, etc.*
- How have you responded? How have you used this equipment?

Spend some time reflecting on God’s character traits that have helped you on your journey. Praise God for them. (Maybe draw a picture of them while listening to praise music?)

Now spend some time reflecting on how God has equipped you to do your mandate from him. Thank God for these specific things that He has done for you.

What’s the next step for you?

Moses’ method of being rescued was part of his equipping/preparation for his mandate from God.