
GROWTH GROUP WINTER 2020
GOSPEL GLIMPSES: JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
WEEK 5 – FEBRUARY 9, 2020 - EXODUS 3:1-17

GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

- 1) Share a time when something really unexpected happened to you. How did you react? Was it a positive or negative experience?

SETTING THE CONTEXT

The story of Moses begins with him being adopted into Pharaoh's family as a baby, and him growing up as a royal prince. Moses kills an Egyptian, who had been beating a fellow Hebrew, and when Pharaoh heard about what had happened, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses had already fled to Midian. During his years in Midian Moses' identification with the Jewish people had grown strong, as is witnessed by him working as a shepherd, a task that no Egyptian would ever have done. It is also interesting to note that he did not even have his own flock, so his fleeing from Egypt had not been economically advantageous.

The term used for shrub / bush in verses 2-4 is "seneh" which is a small (two feet or less), thorny, shrub. This bush was unique in that it was burning, but not being consumed. God was using this bush to bring Moses closer to Himself.

The word "Angel of the Lord" appears over sixty times on the Old Testament. As we have talked about, this "angel" is to be understood as the Lord, not just any ordinary angel. Another word that is sometimes used for an appearance such as this, is the word "theophany". These theophanies are times when God shows up and is visible in some form or fashion, and can be seen, but never fully seen.

Verse 7 summarizes the struggle of the Israelites with the words... "misery ... crying out ... slave drivers ... suffering." God then pronounces his care for them with the phrases... "I have indeed seen ... I have heard them ... I am concerned." God cared about his people, had not forgotten them, and was planning on delivering them from Egypt to Canaan.



The phrase “who am I” occurs two other times in the Old Testament. Both times it refers to a polite acceptance of an honor rather than as an attempt to decline it. Moses was not trying to get out of something, as much as he was trying to be polite.

It is interesting, that God makes it clear, that the fulfillment of what He is talking about will not happen until the Israelites get to Sinai. God’s promise will not be fully seen until some “time” had elapsed, and the people had traveled to the place where God wanted them to go. They would not only arrive in Sinai, but they would worship God there. Then the promise of God would be fulfilled.

EXPLORING THE TEXT

Read Exodus 3:1-17

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.” ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” ⁵ “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” ¹² And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.” ¹³ Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ “This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation. ¹⁶ “Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. ¹⁷ And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.’”

- 2) God gets Moses’ attention by breaking down the wall between Heaven and Earth. Moses is curious - not afraid. Have you ever had a “burning bush” like experience? How open do you think you are to experiencing something unusual, that catches your attention?

- 3) God speaks to Moses in the middle of his work day. While tending sheep is not like most modern occupations, Moses responds to the call of God. Are you open to being interrupted? Are you listening for God to speak? Even when you're busy?
- 4) The initial message to Moses is that God is aware of what's going on - God doesn't need to ask questions. Do you act and pray as though God already knows what you're going through? Do you think it is possible for God to not know everything about you?
- 5) Moses responds, "Who am I." Have you ever asked God, why me? Are you ready for a ministry calling that is well beyond your view of who you are?
- 6) In response to Moses's question, in verse 11, God simply says, "I will be with you." Is that enough? He then says, the people will worship God once they are out of Egypt, and this will signify that God has indeed sent Moses. What does verse 12 tell us about the promises of God? Why do you think worship is part of the sign that God promises to give to Moses?
- 7) Moses asks, "Who do I say sent me?" God says, "Tell them I AM has sent you." Do you think God's words were helpful for Moses? How do you respond to others when they ask you about why you follow Jesus?

BRINGING IT HOME

- 8) As God wraps up this initial conversation with Moses, in verse 15, God speaks of his eternal nature. God looks back and looks to the future in order to help Moses with some of his doubts. Are there places in your faith where you are having doubts? What helps bring you reassurance when you do doubt?