

# EXODUS: The Person, Promise, and Power of God

## Exodus 3: The Great I AM

### Moses 2.0

In chapter two, we saw Moses' first and failed attempt at rescuing his people. Moses, while brave, was also impetuous and unprepared. In his irrational zeal, he lashed out in a very unwise way. As a result, he became a fugitive and an outcast.

Not only was Moses unprepared to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt, but they were also unwilling to leave Egypt and follow Moses' leadership. Both would need a season of \_\_\_\_\_.

What did Moses *already have*? (Acts 7:22-23)

The \_\_\_\_\_ of his pedigree

The \_\_\_\_\_ of his teachers

The \_\_\_\_\_ of his years

The \_\_\_\_\_ of his abilities

What was he *lacking*?

And now, in the wilderness for 40 years, he's a different man. He's not so eager at 80 as he was at 40. His people skills have been replaced with sheep skills. And he lives with the sting of loss and defeat. He is an unlikely 'savior'.

*3 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." 4 When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6 And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. (Exodus 3:1-6)*

The first – and most critical element of Moses' transformation – was a \_\_\_\_\_.

Who appeared to Moses?

How did He appear?

What did He say?

What can we learn about Him?

<sup>7</sup> Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. (Exodus 3:7-9)

Some thoughts from A.W. Tozer ...

"... The man who comes to a right belief about God is relieved of ten thousand temporal problems, for he sees at once that these have to do with matters which at the most cannot concern him for very long; but even if the multiple burdens of time may be lifted from him, the one mighty single burden of eternity begins to press down upon him with a weight more crushing than all the woes of the world piled one upon another. That mighty burden is his obligation to God. It includes an instant and lifelong duty to love God with every power of mind and soul, to obey Him perfectly, and to worship Him acceptably.

... Among the sins to which the human heart is prone, hardly any other is more hateful to God than idolatry, for idolatry is at bottom a libel on His character. The idolatrous heart assumes that God is other than He is – in itself a monstrous sin – and substitutes for the true God one made after its own likeness.

Always this God will conform to the image of the one who created it and will be base or pure, cruel or kind, according to the moral state of the mind from which it emerges. A god begotten in the shadows of a fallen heart will quite naturally be no true likeness of the true God. "Thou thoughtest," said the Lord to the wicked man in the psalm, "that I was altogether such as one as thyself."

The second part of his transformation was a correct understanding of \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>10</sup> Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt. (3:10)

Moses is no longer the young man he once was, nor the self-assured, self-reliant one. In fact, he has been \_\_\_\_\_ to the point of perceived \_\_\_\_\_ or even \_\_\_\_\_ to God. He has been \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, "**Who am I** that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" (3:11)

God was not dependent upon Moses' ability to deliver Israel. But Moses must learn dependence on God and His ability! God never promised Moses that He would make him adequate for the enormous task before him. God promised Moses that \_\_\_\_\_ was adequate for *any* task.

<sup>12</sup> He said, "**But I will be with you**, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup> Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "**I am who I am.**" And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: '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, and thus **I am to be remembered throughout all generations.** (3:12-16)

I will be \_\_\_\_\_.

I will \_\_\_\_\_.

I AM ...

The third part of Moses' transformation was an ever-deepening \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Before you know my name, God says, know my \_\_\_\_\_.

I am \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

I am utterly and completely \_\_\_\_\_. (This is God's \_\_\_\_\_.)

I am \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Tell the people \_\_\_\_\_.

I am \_\_\_\_\_ forever.

### God's Commission to Moses

*16 Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, 17 and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey." ' 18 And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.' 19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. 20 So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go. 21 And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, 22 but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.'" (3:16-22)*

We know *what* Moses did. It's fairly explicit in the text. But the Exodus account doesn't tell us all the reasons *why* he did it. Obviously, he was empathetic to the suffering of his people and even enraged at what he saw. One might rightly call this a "crime of passion". But there's more. That Moses was willing to act so decisively and in a manner that was so costly did not spring up out of nowhere.

Moses is reassured by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God ...

All is determined. There are no contingencies. There is no possibility of failure.

God promises to \_\_\_\_\_ Himself again to His people.

God assures Moses he \_\_\_\_\_ for His people.

God reiterates His \_\_\_\_\_ to His people.

God knows the \_\_\_\_\_ of His people.

God is \_\_\_\_\_ to deliver His people.

God guarantees \_\_\_\_\_ for His people.

Two key themes (again):

Sovereignty

Providence