

Lessons From The Burning Bush

No. 280

Introduction.

I. One of the great hymns we occasionally sing is called, "Holy Ground"

**This is holy ground ---- We're standing on holy ground,
For the Lord is present and where He is is holy,
This is holy ground ---- We're standing on holy ground,
For the Lord is present and where He is is holy,**

**We are standing ----- On holy ground,
And I know that there are angels all around,
Let us praise Jesus now,
We are standing in his presence, on holy ground.**

II. This hymn always reminds me of one of most awesome stories in the Old Testament.

A. Moses penned these words in Exodus 3:1-15.

1 Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the 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 blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. 3 So Moses said, "I must turn aside now, and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up." 4 When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush, and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6 He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. 7 And the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. 8 "So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. 9 "And now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them.

10 "Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" 12 And He said, "Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain." 13 Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" 14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" 15 And God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons 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 this is My memorial-name to all generations.

B. This awesome event occurred in about 1446 B.C. after Moses had fled Egypt and had been in the land of Midian for 40 years.

II. There are some powerful lessons we can learn from this account of the burning bush near Mount Horeb, that was also known as Mount Sinai.

I. **Angel Of Jehovah Appearing In The Burning Bush** - The first lesson is in regard to the angel of Jehovah appearing in the burning bush.

A. Moses was attracted to a bush that was burning, but did not burn up. (Exod. 3:2).

B. We learn that the “angel of the Lord” or better translated “the angel of Jehovah” appears in this bush that is not consumed with fire.

1. The bush that does not burn up was designed to get the attention of Moses.

2. It was designed to show Someone special was Presence.

3. God’s special angel was present and was speaking as God’s personal representative.

4. **We learn more about this Special angel in Exodus 23.** (Exod. 23:20-23).

20 "Behold, I am going to send an angel before you to guard you along the way, and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. 21 "Be on your guard before him and obey his voice; do not be rebellious toward him, for he will not pardon your transgression, since My name is in him.22 "But if you will truly obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. 23 "For My angel will go before you and bring you in to the land of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will completely destroy them.

5. We see “the angel of Jehovah” called here “My angel” as God’s personal representative had God’s name in Him and the Israelites were to obey Him. The Israelites were expected to obey Him and those who did not would not have their transgressions pardoned.

II. **Reverence Required In Approaching God And His Special Angel** - A second lesson we learn from this account is the reverence required in a approaching God and His special Angel.

- A. **God insists that Moses remove his scandals** as a sign of reverence. Moses was a mere man, a mere shepherd, and he or any other human must approach God with reverence.
- B. **Today we should never take lightly the presence of God.** When we worship God, it must be with deep reverence.
 - 1. We must never approach God boasting and with arrogance in our hearts. God hates a haughty spirit. (Jas. 4:6).
 - 2. We must always remember that God is the Creator and the Sovereign of the universe and He is absolutely Holy There is no darkness, no sin, no corruption in Him.
 - a. We are sinners who have no right to stand in God's presence of the Holy God except through Jesus and His blood.
 - b. Through the blood of Jesus we can stand before God with boldness and confidence. We know our sins have been washed away and because of that we stand approved of God.

III. **God's Remembrance Of His People** - A third lesson we learn from this account is God's remembrance of His people.

- A. **Israel had been in bondage for hundreds of years.** They were mere slaves of the Egyptians, and had suffered great hardships and humiliations.
- B. Many thought God had forgotten the promises he had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Most thought that God would never fulfill His promise to bring Israel into land of Canaan - the land flowing with milk and honey.
 - 1. **God is now ready to fulfill His promises.** For 40 years Moses has become familiar with the area around Mount Sinai. Soon he will lead the Hebrew nation to this great mount to receive the 10 commandments and then lead the Israelites on to the land of Canaan.
 - 2. God says to Moses. (Exod. 3:9, 10).

9 "And now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 "Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt."

C. **God remembers His people today.**

- 1. His eyes are always on the righteous and He is ready and eager to bless us.
- 2. He provides for our physical and spiritual needs.
- 3. The Bible says. (Psa. 84:11; Jas. 1:17).

IV. **The Call Of Moses** - A fourth lesson we learn from this account is the call of Moses.

- A. **Moses had spent 40 years in Egypt.** He had to flee Egypt after he had killed an Egyptian taskmaster who was mistreating his people. He had spent 40 years in Midian herding sheep. He most likely believed that this would be all he would do for the balance of his life.
- B. But now at the age of 80 God calls him to go before the mighty Pharaoh and demand the release of his people. He will then become the leader of Israel and deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage.

C. God says. (Exod. 3:10).

10 "Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt."

D. **Moses objects by declaring he is unworthy to fulfill this great task**, but God assures Moses that He will be with him and enable him to accomplish his great mission.

1. Moses proceeded to Egypt and delivered his enslaved people by the Mighty hand of God.
2. Those who accept the call of God, though humble, can accomplish great things. (Rom. 8:31; 1 Jn. 5:4).

V. **The Meaning Of God's Name** - A fifth lesson we learn from this account is the meaning of God's name - "Yahweh"

A. Moses declared to God. (Exod. 3:13). Israelites had been influenced by polytheism of Egypt.

B. God responses by saying. (Exod. 3:14).

C. **God's answer to Moses is a little hard to completely understand**, but He is defining the meaning of His Personal name.

1. The words "I Am" are a form of the Hebrew verb "hayah" meaning "to be."
2. God's personal name, "Yahweh" may have the meaning of "the existing One."
3. The words "I Am that I Am" seems to have the idea "I exist because I exist."
4. Moses is being sent by the Self-existent, Eternal God of heaven.
5. Others believe the Hebrew verb "hayah" as used here means more than just to exist. They believe it has an active meaning and means "to cause to exist." They believe the name "Yahweh", that is, the 3rd person singular of the Hebrew "hayah" means, "He who causes to be" or "Creator."
6. Whether God's name means "the existing One" or it means "He who causes to be", it is obvious that neither Pharaoh nor all the gods of Egypt would be able to match the power of the Eternal, Almighty God of heaven. Yahweh will be victorious and Israel will be freed from Egyptian bondage and enjoy God's great blessings.

Conclusion.

I. **Yes, the account of the burning bush is more than a story.** It is an event that teaches us that we serve an Eternal, Almighty, loving God who fulfills His promises and give His people victory.

II. Israel was led to the promise land by Moses, the servant of God.

III. Today the same God will **deliver us to the promise land of heaven** by His Son and Servant Jesus Christ.

A. It is vital that we come to Jesus and serve Him from now until the end of our lives.

B. We invite you to confess Christ, turn from your sins, be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins, and then faithfully serve Jesus all your days. Come as we stand and sing.

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