



Exodus 3-4 (NIV)- cont.

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE:

Burning:

Waking up to God in the Wilderness

Exodus 3-4 (NIV)

³ One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. ² 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. ³ "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

⁴ When the LORD 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.

⁵ "Do not come any closer," the LORD warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. ⁶ I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

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⁷ Then the LORD told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. ⁹ Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. ¹⁰ Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

¹¹ But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

¹² God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."

¹³ 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?"

¹⁴ God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you." ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.

This is my eternal name, my name to remember for all generations.

¹⁶ "Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, 'Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, 'I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you. ¹⁷ I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.'"

¹⁸ "The elders of Israel will accept your message. Then you and the elders must go to the king of Egypt and tell him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So please let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD, our God.'

¹⁹ "But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand forces him. ²⁰ So I will raise my hand and strike the Egyptians, performing all kinds of miracles among them. Then at last he will let you go.

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Exodus 3-4 (NIV)- cont.

²¹ And I will cause the Egyptians to look favorably on you. They will give you gifts when you go so you will not leave empty-handed. ²² Every Israelite woman will ask for articles of silver and gold and fine clothing from her Egyptian neighbors and from the foreign women in their houses. You will dress your sons and daughters with these, stripping the Egyptians of their wealth."

Signs of the LORD's Power

4 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?'"

² Then the LORD asked him, "What is that in your hand?"

"A shepherd's staff," Moses replied.

³ "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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ "Perform this sign," the LORD told him. "Then they will believe that the LORD, the God of their ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—really has appeared to you."

⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out again, his hand was white as snow with a severe skin disease. ⁷ "Now put your hand back into your cloak," the LORD said. So Moses put his hand back in, and when he took it out again, it was as healthy as the rest of his body.

⁸ The LORD said to Moses, "If they do not believe you and are not convinced by the first miraculous sign, they will be convinced by the second sign. ⁹ And if they don't believe you or listen to you even after these two signs, then take some water from the Nile River and pour it out on the dry ground. When you do, the water from the Nile will turn to blood on the ground."

¹⁰ 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."

¹¹ 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? ¹² Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.

Prayers for August 23 - 29, 2020

West Sider :: Carrie Ward

West Side Ministry :: West Side Preschool

Mali Children :: Bourama and Nene

Local Church :: Calvary Assembly of God Church - West Richland

Additional Concerns :: Lil Leggett, Margaret Storms, Grace Jackson, Gerry Wyatt, Dan & Sue Batchelder, Tom Abrams, Hideki Long, Debbie Mellinger, Christy Gillum, Devin Rodgers, John & Martha Zimmerman, Beverley Raffety, David Bondurant

In Military Service :: Japan-Noah Ellis; North Carolina-Mike Parkman; South Carolina-Adam Hardy; Nevada-Jared Hoey; California-Charina Erhart, Devin Glade; Washington/Oregon-Jacob Ellis

This week we are praying for Todd and Karla Poulter working with Wycliffe Global Alliance in Hawaii. They recently wrote: *"Has anyone else noticed how challenging it is to write a weekly update during the pandemic? Somehow our weeks don't contain the usual variety, especially without travel. We have plenty to pray about these days, but you can read those same items in your own news outlets! We ourselves are healthy, content and well occupied. You might be reading about the soaring COVID-19 rate in Hawaii and wonder whether it's affecting us. Well, that is mostly because of Oahu (where Honolulu is), not the Big Island where we are. But an inter-island travel ban will be imposed tomorrow to try to prevent the rate of infection from spreading to the other islands. Todd had a very fruitful time of writing last week, so your prayers must be effective! Thank you for continuing to support him in this process."*

For private prayers, contact the Prayer Chain:

- Online at westsidechurchrichland.org and click on Prayer,
- Email at ws1prayerchain@gmail.com, or
- Call Roz Rodgers at 509.946.4299.