

Lesson 2 – Exodus 2:11-4

Text: Exodus 2:11-4

Main Characters: God, Moses, Aaron

Key Passages:

- Exodus 2:23-25 – God “remembered” Israel, their afflictions, and His promises to the patriarchs.
- Exodus 3:14-15 – God tells Moses that His name is “I am,” which describes His eternal nature.

Main Storyline:

Since Moses lived in Pharaoh’s house, as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, he enjoyed a life of riches and luxury among the Egyptians. However, when he was 40 years old (Acts 7:23), he decided to visit his brethren, the Israelites. He saw an Egyptian beating one of his Hebrew brethren, and he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand, doing his best to make sure no one knew what he had done. The next day, Moses went out and found a Hebrew hitting another Hebrew. Moses rebuked him, but the Hebrew chided Moses, asking Moses if he would kill him like he had killed the Egyptian the day earlier. Pharaoh eventually heard and wanted to kill Moses, but Moses ran away to the land of Midian. There, he lived with a man named Reuel (or Jethro), married his daughter, Zipporah, and had two sons there.

Over time, the Pharaoh died, and Israel began to cry out to God for deliverance from Egypt. God “remembered” His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and began to put in motion His plan to fulfill those promises (see especially Genesis 15). God had decided to use Moses to deliver Israel from Egypt.

Forty years later (Acts 7:30), while Moses (80 years old) was shepherding in Midian on Mount Horeb, an Angel of the Lord (God) appeared to him in a burning bush. Moses was told to take off his sandals, for the ground he was standing on was holy. God explained to Moses the predicament that the Israelites were in, and that He had chosen Moses to bring them out of Egypt.

Moses gave numerous excuses to God about why he could not do as God commanded him. He did not think that he should have been chosen deliver Israel (he essentially asked God, “Why me?”). He also believed that he was a good enough speaker (eloquent) to do the job. Moses also raised several hypothetical situations about what might happen, wanting to know how he was supposed to deal with them. In the end, God answered all of his objections, giving him three signs to perform (shepherd’s rod turning to a snake, leprous hand, and water turning to blood), His name (I am), and an assistant, his brother Aaron, who would speak on Moses’ behalf. God also warned Moses that Pharaoh would not listen to him immediately, but hinted that it would take the death of his firstborn to let the people go.

Moses went on his way back to Egypt to begin his task and meet with Aaron. It seems that he had not obeyed God’s commandment to circumcise his sons (see Genesis 17). Because of his disobedience, God was about to kill Moses, but Zipporah performed the circumcision, saving Moses’ life.

When Moses met Aaron, his brother, he told Aaron all of the things that God had told him, and showed him the signs that he would perform. Together, they went to the people of Israel, and Aaron spoke to them and performed all of the signs. Israel believed, and they bowed and worshipped God.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) We must choose to suffer as God’s children rather than to enjoy passing sin (Hebrews 11:24-26).
- 2.) God does not want us to make excuses; He wants us to trust Him and obey (Proverbs 3:5).
- 3.) God has been, is now, and forever will be; He is an eternal being (Revelation 1:8, Psalm 90:1-4).
- 4.) Prayer is effective. God hears the righteous when they cry out for help (Psalm 34).
- 5.) God wants leaders who rely on Him, not those who rely on themselves.
- 6.) God does not forget about His people or His promises (Genesis 8:1; 19:29; 21:1; 30:22).