

February 22

Scriptures: Read Exodus 3 & 4

Key Verse: “God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’” (Exodus 3:4)

Overview

A time of preparation under the training of God is important before one is ready to do the task that He has prepared. Moses went from being a prince to being a humble shepherd. This must have broken any self-pride he may have had. Spending 40 years as a shepherd (like his forefathers) in the wilderness must have enabled him to have many quiet times with the Lord. The best years of anyone’s life are spent with God. The first 40 years of Moses’ life were beneficial, but the second 40 years were necessary. All the wisdom of Egypt was not enough to make him a servant of God; he required the time for devotion every day, just as we require this to serve God in the way we should.

God had planned to send Moses on a great mission, but before that He had to appear to him and speak to him directly from the burning bush. This was the method the Lord used to attract Moses, then He called him, equipped him, sent him and used him. When God spoke, Moses was in His presence and so he was required, out of respect for the holiness of God, to take off his shoes, for wherever the Lord is, is holy ground. To hear from the Lord and be in His presence believers must remove from their lives that which is unholy, for God cannot be glorified where there is unholiness.

God not only revealed His holiness on Mt. Horeb, but showed His grace by revealing that He was a living God who saw the affliction of His people and who was preparing a land for them, just as He had promised Abraham. Mount Horeb, or Sinai, was the starting point of Moses’ ministry, and it was from this same mount that God later revealed Himself to him in a fuller way (34:5-7). Moses lacked confidence in himself and also lacked faith in God, as is evident in his questions and excuses. He asked “Who am I?” (3:11) to do this job. It seems it was not said out of humbleness, but rather from a feeling of inferiority. He had doubt in himself. God assured Moses that He would be with him and this should have been enough to give him confidence, but it was not. If God be with us, nothing will be impossible and who can be against us (Romans 8:31)? Moses, out of fear, continued to raise objections. God answered all his questions and gave solutions to his excuses.

Moses lacked knowledge about God and so God gave him the knowledge he needed. He told Moses His name, “I AM WHO I AM”. This expresses the richness and fullness there is in God. He is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). This is the same name Jesus used for Himself (John 8:52). The great “I Am” is our righteousness, holiness, redemption, provider; He is our everything.

Moses then expressed another difficulty in doing the task, and this was a fear that the people would not believe him. Therefore, God provided him with miraculous signs to prove he was sent by God. Again, this should have been sufficient to convince him and take away any fear or doubt,

but the human heart is often slow in belief. It is amazing to see how patient and gracious God was to him. God demands obedience from His children. He knows if we are capable to accomplish a certain task, or He would not have called us. And those He calls, He also enable and equips by His strength, power, and might. We read that the Lord is slow to anger (Psalm 103:8), but when Moses refused, saying God should send another, that was the “boiling point” (4:13, 14). Moses, though weak, could have accomplished the task with strength of the Lord. But because of his stubbornness and lack of trust, God gave him Aaron, his brother, to be a partner and a spokesman for him. Moses finally agreed.

The Lord will never make you do anything that is against your will, but He will provide what is needed for you to follow His will. Once Moses knew God’s will, he and his family set out for Egypt. On the way, the wrath of God was upon him because he had not circumcised his son. Those in the work of the Lord are to do His will and be obedient in every area. Concerning the matter of circumcision, those children of Abraham who did not obey it were to be “cut off from his people” (Gen. 17:1-22). How then could Moses be their spiritual leader and not obey God in this important sign which set them apart unto Him? After obeying, he and Aaron went with faith to their brethren in Egypt, who believed in his call from God upon seeing the signs from the Lord. Signs and miracles follow the believer today, just as they did with Moses and Aaron.

Prayer

O Great “I Am”, we humble ourselves before You. Grant us grace to trust and obey You always.