

Exodus 3

Read Exodus 3:1-10: Like Paul and Joseph and David, Moses had to become a nobody before he could be used. He was extremely talented, but this job took a God-sized talent and force. We need to bring God into our daily issues to become successful.

The same man who was groomed for national leadership in Egypt, now had become a fugitive, living amongst a nomadic people. To add to that, he was working as a shepherd for his father-in-law. Shepherds were the most despised people in Egypt. They were considered menial laborers. God was secretly training Moses to become the shepherd of Israel.

There are comparisons between ministry and shepherding. Sheep are some of the most ignorant, self-defeating, vulnerable animals. Likewise, we all create our own dilemmas. Being a shepherd (same word for pastor) is a full-time job. You cannot go back to your home at night; because the predators will eat them. In addition. Being a pastor is not something that comes without many personal boundaries. People go to the hospital, and we are just very needy. You will stink like sheep. The bible describes believers as the lost and the least. That's your team. The Ministry is a dirty business that often offends our sensibilities. How do you help people with self-defeating behavior?

Moses is shocked as he sees a burning bush that is not consumed by Mt Sinai as he's herding his sheep. Then God talks to him from there. We are like that burning bush. God is a consuming fire, and his angels are fiery too. The fires in heaven will not hurt our spirit, but it would destroy the body. That bush mentioned is a thorny, useless bothersome weed. It was on fire without being damaged. When the Holy Spirit lights us up from the inside, it is the healthiest state of body, mind and spirit possible for us. Our faith and walk with God need us to be on fire too. God wants our hearts and minds fully engaged. When all of that happens, we become a light to the world.

God informs Moses that the slavery and brutality of the Egyptians upon the Hebrews has brought forth prayers and crying out to God. It is unfortunate but a blessing that God knows how to reach us through our threshold of pain. You cannot ignore certain realities. God will not let us just walk by to a life that ends poorly. We all are like Thanksgiving turkeys who need a certain amount of heat and pressure to become useful.

Moses has low self-esteem and speech impediment. God's plan does not seem practical to him, so he tries to pass on it. The phrase "No Lord" is an oxymoron. When God tells us to do something he adds the wherewithal to get it done too. It

must have seemed crazy that Moses would return to the place where he was rejected, to a kingdom who had been hunting him down.

Read Exodus 3:11-22: God identifies as “I am that I am”. (Haya asher Haya)

Hayah-‘asher-Hayah

The name Hayah (Hebrew: **היה**) denotes God's potency in the immediate future, to be, exist, be present; happen, occur, take place: become, turn into, and is part of YHVH. The phrase "Hayah-'asher-Hayah" (Hebrew: **אהיה אשר אהיה**) comes from the word Hayah and is used a total of 43 places in the Old Testament, where it is usually translated as "I will be" -- as is the case for its first occurrence, in Exodus 3:14:

¹⁴ 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.'"

or "I shall be," as is the case for its final occurrence in Zechariah 8:8. This stems from the Hebrew conception of monotheism—that God exists within each and everyone and by himself, the uncreated Creator who does not depend on anything or anyone; therefore "I AM WHO I AM." Some scholars state the Tetragrammaton itself derives from the same verbal root, but others counter that it may simply sound similar as intended by God, such as Proverbs 8:34 and the Hebrew words "shaqad" (Hebrew: **שקד**, to bow, bend) and "shaqed" (Hebrew **שקד**, almond branch) found in Jeremiah 1:11-12.

God also identifies himself as the LORD God, and the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God says he is *Jehovah ab Elohim* (the uni-plural God of his fathers). He will deliver his people; and bring them to Israel. God predicts that Pharoah will resist the idea of letting 2,000,000 slaves go free, so God will perform signs to intimidate and force their release. God will also have the Egyptians load up the Hebrews with provisions as they leave Egypt..