

## Exodus Chapter 03 Commentary

**1 ¶ "Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb."**

*Adam Clarke's Commentary: [Mountain of God] Sometimes named Horeb, at other times Sinai. The mountain itself had two peaks; one was called Horeb, the other Sinai. Horeb was probably the primitive name of the mountain, which was afterwards called the mountain of God, because God appeared upon it to Moses, and Mount Sinai.*

**2 "And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt."**

*"the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire"* Moses is drawn to this bush that is burning but is not consumed. We are told that this is "**the angel of the Lord**," which we believe to be the image of the preincarnate Christ.

What wonders of God do you see, that turn you aside from the preoccupation with the world and living? We have the invitation from Christ Jesus himself "**come and see.**"

**4 "And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I."**

Have you heard God speak your name? If you are saved by his free grace, he has called your name. It does not matter that you have not heard an audible voice. You will know if God has caused you to be born-again. How will you know? Here is just one of many scriptures that tell us we know we have been born again: **1Jo 3:14 ¶ "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."**

There is another principle of God revealed here, as God in his providence calls Moses to turn from his natural affairs to be about God's business. This tells us; when we are born-again and turn to God; we are called to some duty. First, to join the church and be baptized, and then God will reveal our duty to us, if we are faithful to walk in his way. We are all called to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Some are called to be pastors and teachers, deacons, clerks, and other positions in the church. All are called to sow good seed in the world by living a faithful Christian life. If you diligently study God's word of truth, the bible, as we grow in knowledge of God and Christ, we will be directed to our rightful position and duty, as called by God. Some people do not find their gift of duty in service to God, because they are lazy and do not seek diligently to please the Lord.

**5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.**

*"put off thy shoes from off thy feet"* When this was written, 'putting off your shoes' was a sign of complete submission to the will of another. You cannot approach to God in your own strength of will. We must be brought to humble submission to the will of God. Understand, the place where God is is holy, and if you come in your own strength of will, you will be defying the greatness and the

mastership of God. You will be denying that God is creator, and you are created. In other words, you will have more confidence in yourself than God, and thus, you have made yourself into an idol, and you are puffed up in the flesh.

If you heard God call your name, you should lay aside self-works "***put off thy shoes from off thy feet***" and answer his call, recognizing that the ground upon which you stand, is that that has been made holy and pure by Christ our Lord and Saviour. Think about the ordinance of washing the saint's feet in the communion service. You put off your shoes and allow another to wash your feet. This is emblematic of yielding to Christ to wash your feet, as he washed his disciples' feet.

**6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.**

We have scriptural proof; God made a covenant promise with each, of the ancestors of Moses, which are mentioned.

We are not told if there is an actual visible presence other than the fire, yet Moses hid his face in fear. I do not believe the fear was that of terror, but reverential fear. Moses is doing what all of God's people do when confronted with the presence of the Lord. Scripture repeatedly tells us of those who are approached by God and fall upon their face before him.

**7 ¶ And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;**

Who saw the affliction of Israel? Who heard the cries of distress? Who knew their sorrows? God is the answer to all these questions. For us today, we can ask the same questions and get the same answer. God looks upon the whole of the church. God sees their afflictions and hears their prayers. God also sees the afflictions of his people, individually, and hears their prayers.

God in his divine compassion sent our Saviour, Christ Jesus, to bring about our eternal forgiveness of sins, eternal salvation, and eternal life. Why? God saw the affliction of the burden of sin in our lives and knew that we were so entrapped in this heavy burden we could never get out by ourselves.

**8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.**

In this verse, we see the prophetic picture of our salvation. Jesus came down from heaven, and took on mortal flesh, to deliver us from the bondage of sin in our fleshly natures. In so doing, Christ has also prepared us a promised land, the church of Salvation by Grace, which we can enter into, by the power of the Holy Spirit, once we are born-again.

**9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.**

We notice; God heard their cries, not the Egyptians. God knew how the Egyptians were oppressing them. Satan does not heed our cries, but God and Christ knows how we are tempted, here in time, because he was likewise tempted in incarnation. God answers our prayers of faith unto him, through Christ, and hears our testimonies against the devil and the temptations he is putting before us.

**10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.**

Have you noticed who did the calling and the sending? "*I will send thee*" It was the action of God. God, in heaven, set in motion the deliverance of all his chosen and called people by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to accomplish the work of that deliverance, which is to free God's people from the power of sin and give them eternal life.

**11 ¶ And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? 12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.**

"**Who am I**," I suppose that every born-again sinner will ask themselves the same question before joining the church, because after all, I am not worthy to be named among the family of God. Certainly, Satan will present that thought to you, not only before your join the church, but all your life thereafter.

We know from the scriptures; God did indeed bring Moses back to this mountain. When he comes back, God will deliver to Israel, through Moses, the law commandments. In this we see, a prophetic picture of Jesus Christ bringing us out of a land of bondage, into the blessed assurance of salvation and into a place and position where we can worship God and be about our Father's business. Some will ask, where is our mountain? Our mountain is the church of Jesus Christ, which he established in incarnation. There, we will have the commandments of God preached to us from God's recorded word of truth, the King James bible.

**13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? 14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.**

"**I AM THAT I AM**" I AM means *to exist*. God is reminding Moses, and Israel, that he exists and was the creator of all things. He is reminding them; though you have known of me, you have not been faithful to serve me. Yet God is telling them; He still has a love for them. This was to be Moses' confirmation to the people of God that God sent him.

We see this same picture of Christ's coming in incarnation. Just as these people doubted that Moses was sent to deliver them; so, did the religious rulers of Israel reject, and not acknowledge Christ's deity. Often, we do the same thing, not necessarily by intent, but through neglect to keep God first in our lives.

**15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto**

you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations. 16 ¶ Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt:

God is giving Moses instruction, of what he is to do when he goes to Egypt. Likewise, Jesus has given us instruction, of what to tell born-again children of God, to help them turn loose of their old life, and move forward to a new life of discipleship in Christ. We can witness to those of how we understand the weight of sin they are laboring under, but there is forgiveness of sin, and freedom, in Jesus's finished work on the cross. We can encourage them leave the land of Egypt, the world, and enter the land of promise, the church.

When does God visit us first? When we are in our sins and dead and alienated from Him, as seen in scripture in: ***Eze 16:6 "And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live."*** This is when we are born again; when God says to you, "***Live.***"

**17 And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.**

Being chosen of God for deliverance from the bondage of sin, we have the promise of God that Jesus has already accomplished this eternal work on our behalf. We have the promise of an eternal land of promise, which Christ has gone to prepare for us; along with the promise that he will return and carry us there. We will go there, by the command of the voice of Christ at the time of the end, the resurrection. We did not choose to be born naturally. We did not choose to be born spiritually. We will not choose to be resurrected from the dead, or changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.

Who chose who? This is a principle that is taught by the bible and is sound doctrine, seen in:

- ***Joh 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."***
- ***Joh 15:19 "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."***

We find in many different scriptures this doctrine of truth. It is true in the new birth, and in the eternal aspect.

The only choosing you do, that pertains to salvation, is you can choose to obey God. First, you are born again by the Holy Spirit power. Now that you are born again, you can choose to join the visible church on earth. You can choose to walk in discipleship to Christ Jesus. Do not get these two things, and the order in which they happen, confused.

**18 And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God. 19 And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand.**

**20 And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.**

In these verses, we have the prophetic picture of the church of grace being made manifest upon the earth, how? Satan is the prince and the power of the air here on earth, and we were his bondmen before we were born again. He will not turn lose easily and will continue to persecute us while there is life in the flesh. Remember, being born-again does not relieve you of the sinful flesh of our bodies, but it does empower us, through the Holy Spirit residing in our souls, to resist sin and temptation.

When we pass from this life, in the resurrection we shall finally see the eternal riches, which have been granted unto us through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

**21 And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty: 22 But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.**

What are the riches, which we shall carry forth from our state of bondage in sin, into the new life in Christ, into the church of grace? All the natural blessings, God has blessed us with before our new birth, are still ours after we are born again. However, you are in possession of some new things, which you did not possess before the new birth. What are they? The first is that you have been given remission of all your sins, and that your sin debt is completely canceled. Next, you have been given eternal life in Christ. Now, you are given eyes that see, ears that hear, and hearts that understand, of the things that pertain to God and godliness.

Unlike the Israelites, the possessions we shall carry are not carnal gifts. Although, God may bless us with natural blessings, the gifts carry us to the land of promise are spiritual. They are some of the gifts that Christ has bestowed upon us, seen in scripture:

- **Pr 1:7-9: 7 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. 8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: 9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck."**
- **Pr 4:7-9 7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. 8 Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. 9 She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee."**
- **Ga 5:22-23; 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."**
- **Eph 5:8-10; 8 "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth; 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."**
- **1Pe 3:4 "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."**

Having been robed in the righteousness of Christ, we shall be adorned with the abundant blessings of God in; the forgiveness of our sins; in the abundant mercy and grace of God; in the abundant love of God, and the love of God's people. We are given access to the abundant power in Christ, abundant in the carrying forth of the Word of God in our hearts, minds, and souls, etc. Praise God! For the finished work of eternal life in Christ! Hallelujah! Amen!