

Exodus Chapter 04 Commentary

1 ¶ "And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee."

We see Moses beginning to set his argument in order before God. He is beginning to present his doubts and fears to God, and his unbelief is going to get him in trouble. He sounds a lot like me; not always willing to go into something new and different. I have made many excuses in my life, and often followed my own will, which is not the right thing to do.

2 "And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. 3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. 4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: 5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee."

God, in answer to Moses's complaint in verse 1 **"But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice:"** starts to show His divine power to Moses. This serves several purposes actually:

- God is convincing Moses that God will be with him and has called him to this work.
- God is convincing Moses that he will be used to perform miracles.
- God will use the miracles to convince Israel that God has sent indeed sent Moses.
- And finally, to convince the world that he is God.

6 "And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. 7 And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. 8 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign."

We see that God knows his people and their stubbornness. They will not be convinced by the first sign, and He gives Moses a second sign. Moses now has two witness to attest to his calling.

Notice how the text is worded; **"if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign"** God says that the sign is not what they will believe in, but the voice of the sign. They will believe the message that God is conveying through Moses.

This is the same today in our lives, how? Our trust and faith are not in the messenger, but it is in the One who sent the message. The Word of God that you hear, and the message that it conveys to you, by the Holy Spirit inspiration. Only God can make his voice to be heard in spirit and truth.

9 "And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land."

God gives Moses a third witness. God knows that there are some very skeptical people among the children of Israel, and they will need more evidence to believe God than others.

We notice now that there is blood in the message. There is a prophetic picture in this scene. Moses was instructed to take water from the river, and pour it out on the dry land, and this water would become blood. Each time a child of God is born again, the Holy Spirit has taken the water of life and applied it to the soul that is dry and dead to the things of God. The water of life applied to the soul

turns to blood in the regenerated soul. It is prophetic of the blood of the eternal forgiveness of sins and of eternal life, which is made possible by the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Secondarily, it is applicable in our own lives as pertains to the Gospel of Christ, How? Today, God's ministers draw water from the river of life, Jesus Christ the Word, and demonstrate that it was the blood of Christ that has made us acceptable to God. If a sinner does not see the blood of Christ in their life, they have not yet been changed from nature to grace, but when the change comes, they will see the water turned into blood, and thus see Christ, their deliverer, and believe because of the Word, the message of the Gospel of Christ.

These signs are prophetic of today and they accomplish several things:

- They convince God's ministers of their call, by God, to preach and teach the Gospel.
- They convince God's people of the minister's call to preach and teach the Gospel.
- They convince God's people of their need of a Saviour.
- They convince God's chosen people, who have been born again, to believe God, to believe Christ, and to fully trust in the Word of God.

In each of these cases, God will persuade the recipient of the sufficiency of God, and his ultimate power over all things.

Do not forget; Israel will have to leave the place they are and go to another, a land of promise. So, it is today, when one is born again; they should choose to be obedient to the call upon their lives and leave their native place, make their public confession of faith, and be baptized. They should join the church, our land of promise, which Christ has established for the indwelling of his people.

10 ¶ "And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. 11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? 12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say."

God admonishes Moses to disregard the frailty of the flesh, and to place his confidence in God's power and ability. This is certainly part of the calling to God today, especially to ministers, with application to each and every child of God.

13 "And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send."

When we resort to our first nature and resist God's directives in our lives, we stir up the anger of God against us. It is true, we should have no confidence in our flesh, but we should have all confidence in God's power and ability to complete that which He has started, as seen in: ***Php 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"***

14 "And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart. 15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. 16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God."

We, today, as Christians are God's mouthpieces to our fellow Christians, and to the world around us. The Holy Spirit uses the mouth, the voice of man heard and seen by our walks and talks, to convince people of God's call upon their lives. Remember ***Ex 4:8 "if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign"*** When the Holy

Spirit makes the word of God and the message of God effectual in our lives, we are convinced and believe the voice of God. We have scriptural proof of this in: **Mt 10:20 "For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you."**

17 "And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs."

We call your attention to the fact; Moses's rod is hereafter called the "**rod of God**". This rod is the emblem through which God's power shall be manifested to his people and to the world.

Christ the "Word of God" is our "**rod of God**" today. We have the old and new testaments that are our testimony, which proclaim the gospel message. It is prophetic of the deliverance of Israel by God, and our deliverance, from bondage to Satan, by Christ Jesus, further prophesied in: **Isa 11:1; 1 ¶ "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; 3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked."**

18 ¶ "And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said unto him, Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace."

Why would Moses request of his family, permission to go on this journey? Moses is asking his father-in-law permission to leave for two reasons:

- He is in the employ of his father-in-law, and to make this trip he must be excused by his employer.
- Those going with Moses are the daughter and grandchildren of Jethro. This was simply good manners on the part of the family relationship.

God gives Moses favor in the eyes of Jethro and his request is granted. Surely God has prepared the way. This conveys the message to us; we should let our natural families know, and those in whose employ we are, that God has given us commandment to "**be about the Father's business.**"

19 "And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life."

God reassures Moses by telling him; the former leaders who would have him slain have died, and with them the knowledge of the reason they wanted to kill him.

20 "And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand."

We do not see or hear of Moses's wife and children again, until we get to chapter 18 of Exodus. Somewhere between here and there, they are sent back to Jethro in Midian.

21 "And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go."

God tells Moses, before it happens, what will happen when he approaches Pharaoh about freeing Israel. God has also told us; the world will not listen to the message of the gospel, because it hates the

message that brings them to remembrance of their condemnation. As Pharoah and the Egyptians hate the Israelites, so the world of unsaved people hate the church, seen in:

- **Joh 7:7 "The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil."**
- **Joh 15:18 "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."**
- **1Jo 3:13 "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."**

God is telling Moses that you will be met with stony faces. The same is true for God's ministers and disciples today.

22 "And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:"

We see a great picture here: All these that are to be set free are the nation of people that God has chosen to be called by his name. Thus, we see the prophetic picture of the church of grace being set free from the bondage of sin by one man, Jesus Christ.

23 "And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn."

God is sending a message that if you fail to hear my voice of commandment, I will destroy you from the face of the earth. But God only said the firstborn you say. In this time to destroy the firstborn was to destroy the line in its entirety, because the firstborn was he that carried forward the family name.

24 ¶ "And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him."

God had to kill the old nature of Moses that was refusing total obedience to God, in order to use him for the intended purpose as the lawgiver later on. Because Moses was called to be the lawgiver for God's people, it was necessary that he himself be a living example of fulfilling all God's commandments, which he had not done by reason of his sons not being circumcised.

The prophetic picture is for a man to be used of God, as his minister to his people, the Lord must first meet the man in the way, and kill his will to live by the old nature. God must instill in the man the will to do "**thus saith the Lord**." God's ministers are called to the high standard of being living examples of servitude to God.

25 "Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me. 26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision."

God had already demanded circumcision, as a demonstration of the covenant promise, and as recognition of being one of God's covenant people, seen in: **Ge 17:11-14; 11 "And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. 12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. 13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. 14 And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant."**

We get the impression; the reason that Moses had not circumcised the child was to placate his Midianite wife. Circumcision was an abomination to other people aside from the nation Israel. Just as today, Christianity, and professing Christ, is an abomination to all other people in the world.

27 "And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him. 28 And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had

sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him. 29 And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel: 30 And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. 31 And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped."

God sends Aaron to meet Moses. Notice, God makes effective the promise of his word to Moses, because, both Aaron and the Israelites believe.

We have set before us a prophetic picture; God's people will believe the "voice" of the Gospel message. Here is one place, of many, we can see that picture in scripture: ***Joh 5:21-24; 21 "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. 22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: 23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."*** Quickeneth simply means to give life to. Thus, the souls that are dead, to the voice of God, cannot hear the voice of God, or Christ. This is why; Christ quickeneth those chosen of the Father, so they can hear the voice of God and live. Praise and glory to God, for each one Christ has quickened, and will quicken before the end of time. Hallelujah! Amen!