

PCF-LA Sermon Slides - Sunday April 28, 2024

PART
3

VISIONS OF THE PROPHETS

A SERMON SERIES FOR
*2024: THE YEAR OF
VISION & PROVISION*

Pastor Courtney Hall



PART 3

THE
BURNING BUSH

EXODUS 3:1-22

THE
VISION OF
MOSES

The Burning Bush: The Vision of MOSES

EXODUS 3:1-22

Moses' encounter with the Angel of the LORD in the burning bush of Exodus chapter three stands as **one of the most famous & consequential visions of the Divine ever recorded by humanity**. Perhaps the most fundamentally astonishing element of this vision also summarizes the essential sensibility conveyed by the entire experience: "Behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet *the bush was not consumed*" (*Exodus 3:2*).

The Burning Bush: The Vision of MOSES

EXODUS 3:1-22

In this we see a miraculous mixture of God's awesome power with His amazing grace. That which would otherwise consume and destroy here serves to preserve and protect, much as God's Presence in the form of a pillar of smoke & fire shall do over all Israel later in the Exodus out of Egyptian slavery and onward throughout all their years wandering in the wilderness while anticipating their return to the Promised Land.

The Burning Bush: The Vision of MOSES

EXODUS 3:1-22

1. The FIRE That Does Not Destroy (v.1-3)

Facing a death sentence after killing an Egyptian for beating a Hebrew slave, Moses fled into the wilderness of Midian, where he met & married a Kenite, becoming a shepherd for his father-in-law, a tribal priest.

2. The CALL That Gives a Name (v.4, 6-22)

In an extraordinary encounter there, Moses receives an astonishing assignment to confront the evils of Pharaoh & all Egypt in the authority and power of God's eternal covenant Name, the I AM WHO WILL BE.

3. The GOD Who Consecrates (v.5)

God reveals to Moses that the place of their encounter is "holy ground," a reality that calls for a response from Moses: he is to strip off his sandals in a kind of return to the holy state of humanity in God's glorious garden.

1. The FIRE That Does Not Destroy

GENESIS 2:7-9, 25

⁷ ...the **LORD God [YHWH ELOHIM]** formed **the human [HA' ADAM]** from the dust of **the ground [HA' ADAMAH]** & breathed into his nostrils **the spirit [OR "breath," NISMAT]** of life, & **the human became a living being.** ⁸ Now the LORD God [YE] had planted a Garden in the east, in **Eden [I.E. "pleasure," "delights;" THE SENSE IS "paradise"]**; & there He put the human He had formed. ⁹ **The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground**—trees that were pleasing to the eye & good for food. In the middle of the Garden were **the Tree of Life** & the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil....
²⁵ Adam & his wife were both **naked, & they felt no shame.**

1. The FIRE That Does Not Destroy

GENESIS 3:21-24

²¹ The LORD God [YE] made garments of skin for Adam & his wife & clothed them. ²² And the LORD God [YE] said, "The human...must not be allowed to reach out his hand & take also from the Tree of Life & eat, & live forever [in this condition]." ²³ So the LORD God [YE] banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After He drove the man out, He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim & a flaming sword turning back & forth to guard the way to the Tree of Life.

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1. The FIRE That Does Not Destroy

EXODUS 3:1-3

¹ Now Moses was herding the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, priest of Midian, & he drove the flock into the wilderness & came to the mountain of God, to Horeb. ² And **the Angel of the LORD** [*i.e.* the Messenger of the LORD] **appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush**, & he saw, & **LOOK: the bush was burning with fire & [yet] the bush was not consumed**. ³ And Moses thought, "**Let me, then, turn aside to go see this great sight**, why the bush does not burn up."

2. The CALL That Gives a Name

EXODUS 3:4,6-22

⁴ And the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, & **God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!"** And he said, "Here I am."

3. The GOD Who Consecrates

EXODUS 3:5

⁵ And He said, "Come no closer here. Take off your sandals from your feet, *for the place you are standing on is holy ground.*"

2. The CALL That Gives a Name

EXODUS 3:4,6-22

⁶ Then He said, "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac & the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of My people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians & to bring them up out of that land into a good & spacious land, a land flowing with milk & honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites & Jebusites.

⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached Me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now,

2. The CALL That Gives a Name

EXODUS 3:4,6-22

go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh & bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." ¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' Then what shall I tell them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM** [OR **I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE**]. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: '**I-AM** [OR **I-WILL-BE**] has sent me to you....' ¹⁵ The LORD, the God of

2. The CALL That Gives a Name

EXODUS 3:4,6-22

your fathers—the God of Abraham...Isaac [&] Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is My Name forever, the Name you shall call Me from generation to generation. ¹⁶ Go, assemble the elders of Israel & say to them, 'The LORD... appeared to me & said: "I have watched over you & have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. ¹⁷ And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites...a land flowing with milk & honey.'" ¹⁸ The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you & the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.' ¹⁹ But I know that the king of

2. The CALL That Gives a Name

EXODUS 3:4,6-22

Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him.

²⁰ So I will stretch out My hand & strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go. ²¹ And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. ²² Every woman is to ask her neighbor & any woman living in her house for articles of silver & gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons & daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians."

TORAH (LAW): THE BOOKS OF MOSES

THE PENTATEUCH

The *first five books of the Bible* provide the history & foundation for *EVERYTHING* that follows them in the totality of the Bible & indeed in all the ongoing story of human history & God's redemptive plan for humanity & all creation. In the Hebrew tradition, the books are named/called according to *the opening lines of each text*:

- **GENESIS** – "In the BEGINNING..." – **BERESHIT**
- **EXODUS** – "And these are the NAMES..." – **SHEMOT**
- **LEVITICUS** – "And He CALLED..." – **VAYIKRA**
- **NUMBERS** – "In the WILDERNESS..." – **BEMIDBAR**
- **DEUTERONOMY** – "And these are the WORDS..." – **DEVARIM**

This list of titles also *effectively summarizes Moses' call scene* at the *Burning Bush encounter* here in Exodus chapter three.

The Burning Bush: The Vision of MOSES

EXODUS 3:1-22

1. The FIRE That Does Not Destroy (v.1-3)

GOD'S PRESENCE IS AWESOME AND POWERFUL, BUT HIS PURPOSE IS NOT TO DESTROY BUT RATHER TO PERFECT HIS CREATION, AND TO DELIGHT HIS PERFECT WILL IN US.

2. The CALL That Gives a Name (v.4, 6-22)

HUMAN REBELLION IN SIN HAS ALWAYS RESULTED IN ALIENATION FROM OUR CREATOR, EACH OTHER, & ALL CREATION. YET GOD STILL MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN TO US.

3. The GOD Who Consecrates (v.5)

IN COMING TO KNOW WHO GOD IS—AND IN TURNING TO TRULY ATTEND TO HIS PRESENCE DESPITE THE FEAR HIS HOLY NATURE MAY SPARK IN US—WE CAN BE MADE HOLY IN HIM BY HIS SPIRIT.