

EXODUS 3:11-22 THE DELIVERER'S OBJECTIONS

As Moses had been in the desert for 40 years, he probably was thinking he was a lost cause. Then appeared the burning bush with the actual voice of God speaking directly to him. That got Moses' attention. God told him that He was sending him to Pharaoh and that he would be delivering the sons of Israel out of Egypt. That was God's call and not suggestions. This was God's plan that would absolutely come true and Moses would be the tool that God would use, no matter what Moses thought. Moses was to be the instrument, the deliverer, but not really the Deliverer, since it was actually God who was going to deliver. God wants His people to be the instruments while He does the action. As we examine the rest of chapter 3 and go into chapter 4, we see that Moses did not hear God right as Moses kept using excuses. God kept telling him that it was God who would do the work. Moses needed to know that it is God who has the strength and power to do all things. He simply uses men as tools. Moses thought he was the one who was to do the work. It takes him awhile to understand that God was telling him what would happen. All Moses had to do was be obedient and

be at the right place at the right time and watch God work.

How was Moses going to react after the Lord made the announcement? Will he be a willing participant in God's mighty act?

1.HIS OWN INADEQUACIES

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A.NO STATUS

You would have thought Moses would've been chomping at the bits with the good news God gave him. The promise of redemption from Egypt goes back to the time of Abraham. Gen 15:13-14 Moses is the one God was going to use. He questioned God's wisdom not once, but five times. Moses was learned, with wisdom and experience but yet thinks this is impossible as he would have to go to the Pharaoh . He probably wondered how he would even get an audience with the King. How would he be able to do these things since he didn't have the access as he once did. Israel might not accept him ? He didn't think he could do this.

There was probably some true humility by Moses, but he also knew of the difficulties and maybe he is stubborn also. We can identify with this.

Reluctance is a perfectly normal reaction, if we look at other occasions in the Bible of God calling His men. We see

repeated denial, questioning and pleading throughout scripture.

Who am I? It sounds humble doesn't it ? This was actually an inappropriate question to ask the Lord. Moses should have said, "Whatever you want, Lord, I'll do. I am available. I am flammable like the bush, just strike the match. I'm ready to go."

2 Cor 12:9

Moses was correct that he could not do this. But the point is, that he is not the one who saves, it is God.

God is greater than our inadequacies. God will work His might Through whomever He choose.

B.NO POWER

Bring forth the children of Israel?

Would Moses be left to do all this with his own abilities?

The answer, of course, is no. God would go with Moses and that would make all the difference Without God's presence, it would be dust and ashes. God is giving Moses a chance for him to truly learn that he was not strong enough. It is out of weaknesses that God makes us strong.

God has the answer to all objections.

A.THE PRESENCE OF GOD

This is what we need to realize all the time. No matter the circumstances, God is always with us.

I will be with you. (I AM v 14)

This is all the assurance God's servants need.

Joshua 1:5, Isa 41:10, 43:5 Mt 28:20

B.PROMISE OF SUCCESS

The sign ----- Theophany at Mt Horeb or the bush

The NIV interprets it as the Israelites will worship God on Mt. Horeb after they come out of Egypt. The problem with this is that it won't be validated until after the exodus, which doesn't help Moses at this time. The sign might be the bush itself. It didn't consume itself. God was giving a confirmation, either way, that it was His work, unmistakably.

3.HIS DOUBTS ABOUT BEING RECEIVED 13

His first objection was "I don't think I can do this.

His second objection is :No one else will think I can do this either".

Moses is concerned about his lack of qualifications will be perceived by the very Israelites he was to deliver. What credentials does he carry ? He was a murderer on the run, a

fugitive.

A.WHAT IS GOD'S NAME ?

Moses anticipates a question the Israelites would ask.

Did they not know God's name? Had they forgotten His name?

Would they have forgotten the name? Or, maybe Moses is asking for his own benefit?

Gen 4:26, 14:22, 15:1, 25:21-22, 28:13, 49:18

B.WHAT DO I SAY TO THEM ?

The first

Moses wanted to say something great to them. He wanted full instructions.

4.GOD ANSWERS ABOUT HIS NAME 14-15

A.WHAT HE IS IN HIMSELF

The purpose of vv 14-15 is not to introduce a new name, but to underscore the precise identity of the God who is now addressing Moses. God is leaving no doubt in the mind of Moses who this is.

I AM THAT I AM Yahweh Jn 6:35.8:12,15:1

I Am Who I Am are the very characters in Hebrew that spell out the name Yahweh. God is saying "The only self-existent, infinite Being in all of the universe has dispatched you, Moses. I AM has

sent you. You tell them that.”

Yahweh is the most intimate term for God in the Hebrew language.

Both Yahweh and I Am are derived from the same root.

Self-existent to be Rev 1:8

Eternal and unchangeable

Faithful and true

B.WHAT HE IS TO HIS PEOPLE

The God of the fathers

Yahweh is not a new name. I am Yahweh, the God of the patriarchs.

The one you have heard about is who you are talking to now. This was God of the patriarchs.

5.THE INSTRUCTIONS & FUTURE SUCCESS 16-22

A.DEALING WITH THE ELDERS

God told Moses that the leaders of the Israelites will pay heed to what he says. They would accept Moses and believe God would deliver them.

B.DEALING WITH THE PHARAOH

Mighty hand and an outstretched arm Deut 4:34, 5:15
Pharaoh of course would not listen, so only a mighty hand would compel him. God would stretch out His hand by a series of wonders.

What an assurance had been given by God to Moses. Not only the Israelites would listen to him but Pharaoh will fall in line also.

He will let Israel go. He would be forced by God to .

These were great promises.

The three day journey seems to contradict the promises of deliverance completely. Also, they were to worship at Horeb.

They were to enter into Canaan.

It seems that there is a tension here. Verses 8,10,17 don't give the idea that a three day journey is what God has in mind. But it does seem to imply that they would return to Egypt. It could be that though the intention is to leave and not return on the part of the Israelites, this will prove who Pharaoh really is by not letting them go and fulfill their responsibilities to their God.

Another solution to this is that the 3 day journey is a lengthy journey which would be enough time to get where they need to go for their worship without necessarily implying a return trip.

The intention was to break gently Israel's plan to Pharaoh Rather than being blunt and saying " We are leaving for Canaan and we will never come back. It was a reasonable request.

We have to think that Moses went to Pharaoh and asked God's full demand, release of the Jews.

The Israelites would not go away empty handed. They were to get gold, silver, and clothing. This could be that this was like a payment for the years they were in captivity and what Egypt owed them. Nevertheless, they would use these as they were in the wilderness. God was caring for His people. They got their back wages.

God told Abraham in Gen 15:14 that Israel would come out with great possessions.