

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

When Moses left Egypt, he was a very confident and successful young man whose world was turned upside down. The children of Israel did not understand that God would use Moses as their deliverer and consequently rejected him. He was a type of Jesus in this regard:

Jn. 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

❖ Moses went into the Midian desert, “dwelt in the land of Midian” and got acquainted with a priest and his daughters, marrying one of them by the name of Zipporah.

As we begin tonight's message, Moses has spent forty years keeping his father-in-law, Jethro's, flock. For 14,600 days it appears that Moses has not heard from God, however, that is about to change.

I. GOD'S TIMING FOR HIS IMPLEMENTATION OF DELIVERANCE, Acts 7:30a

Acts 7:30 "And when forty years were expired..."

Moses starts out the day like most days, taking care of Jethro's flock. Everything appears to be the normal, daily routine. Moses is now 80 years old which is not a hindrance when God is involved about using someone for His will. God implemented His plan according to His timing.

### A. The Gravity of the Plan

- ❖ The gravity of the plan is exhibited in the time God used to implement it.
- ❖ The Exodus would affect the histories of both the nations of Israel and Egypt.

## B. The Grace for Patience

- ❖ Moses did not need to know what was happening in Egypt for the past 40 years. God does not get in a hurry, but was working in both places, i.e. Egypt and Midian.
- ❖ God used the 40 years to prepare Moses for the great plan He was about to execute.
- ❖ God's timing must be trusted by God's servants.  
(Prov. 3:5-6)

Mt. 24:37 But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

38 For as in the days that were before the flood **they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,**

39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; **so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

Lu. 12:40 **Be ye therefore ready** also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour **when ye think not.**

## II. GOD'S TACTICS OF HIS INTERRUPTION FOR DELIBERATION,

### A. Moses Was Interrupted from His Routine Engagement – Ex. 3:1-2a, Acts 7:30

Ex. 3:1 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.

2 And **the angel of the LORD** appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush:

Acts 7:30 And when forty years were expired, **there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.**

- ❖ Moses learned to be a nobody – “Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law...”



<http://mrmemitchell-badcatholic.blogspot.com/2011/08/birth-of-nation-exodus-13-16.html>



- ❖ When God leads to the “desert” in life, there are three responses:
  1. Why me? I don't deserve this. (pride)
  2. I'm tired of this. (impatience and unbelief)
  3. I accept this. (submission and faithfulness)
- ❖ While God was preparing Moses for the Exodus, He was also preparing the children of Israel.
- ❖ While the children of Israel were crying out to God in Egypt, He was getting Moses' attention.

- ❖ “The angel of the LORD” is identified as God and is a Theophany.
- ❖ God connects Himself with fire and its consuming characteristics.

Deut. 4:24 **For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire,** even a jealous God.

Deut. 9:3 Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God *is* he which goeth over before thee; **as a consuming fire** he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee.

Heb. 12:29 For **our God is a consuming fire.**

B. Moses Was Interested in the Remarkable Event,  
Ex. 3:3

Ex. 3:2b "...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.

Acts. 7:31 When Moses saw *it*, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold *it*, the voice of the Lord came unto him,



<http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-7rZlkJMMIQY/UfqPrdtcWII/AAAAAAAAOe8/N-ActIhnVU0/s1600/Burning-Bush.jpg>

- ❖ The Lord got Moses' attention with a personal distraction that piqued Moses curiosity.
- ❖ The distraction was before He revealed Himself to him.
- ❖ Before commencing any mission for God, His servant must know Whom he is serving.

### III. GOD'S TELLING OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS FOR DELIVERANCE

## A. God's Revelation of the Purpose of the Interruption to Moses, Ex. 3:4-5

Ex. 3:4 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.

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.**

- ❖ The Lord used something out of the ordinary, a bush, to become something extraordinary, burning but not consumed, to get someone's attention that would create a life-changing encounter – with God.
- ❖ The message from God began “when the LORD saw that he turned to see.” This implies that God was working “at the same time” Moses “turned aside to see.”
- ❖ The Lord initiates situations for mankind's attention, and then waits for a proper response to how God is implementing His plan.

- ❖ Before announcing Himself, the Lord directs Moses to respect his location – “holy ground.”
- ❖ The first time the word “holy” is found in the Word of God is in Ex. 3:5.
- ❖ Moses was oblivious to God’s designation of the soil’s holiness.
- ❖ The sanctification of the soil indicates a “separation” for Moses from his past and his present “domain.”
- ❖ The beauty of “sanctification” is God enabling us to be used for His glory.

2 Tim. 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, **sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**

Jn. 17:13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

17 **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**

18 **As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.**

- ❖ When Joshua encountered a theophany, he was being prepared to enter the warfare of the Promised Land, beginning with the great fortress of Jericho. (See Josh. 5:13-15.)

Josh. 5:15 And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy. And Joshua did so.

- ❖ God is gracious to allow mankind into His presence, then become forever humbled to serve Him for His glory.

## Summary

Deut. 32:10 He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

11 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:

12 So the LORD alone did lead him, and *there was* no strange god with him.

Deut. 32:10 He found him in a desert land, and in the  
waste howling wilderness; = **Grace's largesse.**

he led him about, = **Grace to be led.**

he instructed him, = **Grace to learn.**

he kept him as the apple of his eye. = **Grace to be loved.**

## Conclusion

Isa. 63:7 I will mention **the lovingkindnesses of the LORD**, *and* the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which **he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.**

...

11 Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, *and* his people, *saying*, Where *is* he that brought them up out of the sea **with the shepherd of his flock**? where *is* he that put his holy Spirit within him?

12 That **led them by the right hand of Moses** with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?

13 That led them through the deep, as an horse in the wilderness, *that* they should not stumble?

14 As a beast goeth down into the valley, **the Spirit of the LORD caused him to rest: so didst thou lead thy people**, to make thyself a glorious name.