

# 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.**

An 80 year-old Moses met with God at the burning bush and the Lord revealed to him His plans for the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt. Moses knew much about Egypt, but did not know about the current status of the children of Israel. Some things Moses needed to know, and other things he did not need to know. The most important facts to know were the ones that God allowed him to know. All of the other things, including the timing to learn more, must be left with God – Prov. 3:5-6. By God's grace, Moses needed to be a good steward of what God wanted him to know about His will and service. Tonight, we will see a vivid example of God calling His servant to engage in His mission for His glory, and the response of His servant.

# I. GOD'S PERSPECTIVE OF NEED, 3:7-8, Acts 7:34-35

Ex. 3:7 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;**

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.

Acts 7:34 **I have seen, I have seen** the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, **I will send thee into Egypt.**

35 This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send *to be* a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.”

- ❖ The situation in Egypt was bondage and suffering, needing redemption.
- ❖ The situation for mankind is bondage of sin, its consequences, and needing redemption.

Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, **The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few**: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

## II. GOD'S PURPOSE AND NECESSITY, Ex. 3:9-10

Ex. 3: 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.

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.

- ❖ The “therefore” in Ex. 3:10, indicates consequential action – there is a problem that needs a solution.
- ❖ God says, “Moses, I am sending you to bring my people out of Egypt.” Just 2 things = “Go” and “deliver.”

### III. GOD’S PERSUASION AND NEGOTIATION, Ex. 3:11-22

- ❖ The Lord explains the need and reason for Moses’ calling and then must persuade and negotiate with him before anything happens regarding the Exodus.

- ❖ Moses had reason to doubt his ability to serve God, but God graciously encouraged him.
- ❖ Moses had learned to be humble regarding his ability to serve God and expressed his lack of self-assurance:

Ex. 3:11 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?

- ❖ His statement of humility exposed that he understood the two objectives: “that I should go, “ and “that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt.”



- ❖ The Lord reminded Moses of a profound promise – “...Certainly I will be with thee...” and certified that “I have sent thee:”

Ex. 3:12 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.

Heb. 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said,* **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**

- ❖ Moses stated another concern: “after giving them your message, if they ask your name, what shall I say.” (Ex. 3:13)
- ❖ The Lord responds to Moses with one of the greatest revelations of truth found in the Word of God – Ex. 3:14 = The Tetragrammaton

Ex. 3:14 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.

- ❖ The Lord identifies Himself as the self-sustaining One, always “I AM.”

Ex. 3:15 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.

- ❖ The God of the patriarchs will use you as a testimony of His greatness to “all generations.”

## IV. GOD'S PLANS FOR NECESSITIES, Ex. 3:16-22

- ❖ Share the message with the leaders and obtain their influential support – 3:16.
- ❖ God will provide the deliverance over Egypt and other enemies – 3:17.
- ❖ Israel will follow your leadership, and together, you will face Pharaoh, and give him the message from God. He will not comply, and God will show Himself strong on your behalf – 3:18-20.

2 Chron. 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, **to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart is perfect toward him**. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

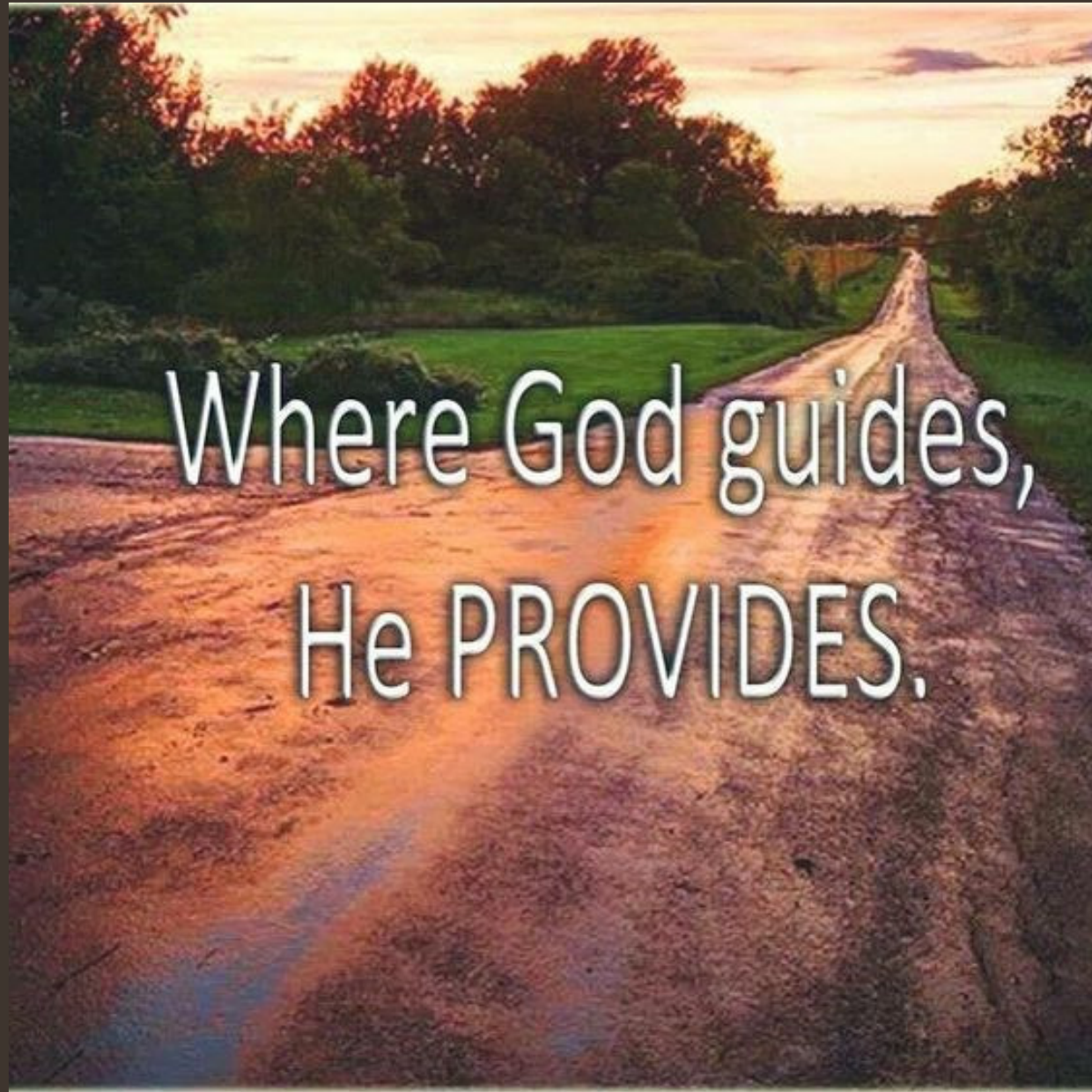
❖ After the Exodus, Israel will have needs and God will use the Egyptians to provide them.

Phil. 4:19 But **my God shall supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

## Summary

- ❖ God sees a need and calls someone to remedy that need.
- ❖ God will engage His servant with information regarding the need, His will, and His promises.
- ❖ God will graciously allow questions from His servant.
- ❖ God will reiterate His will and His promises.
- ❖ God's servant must believe and obey, or miss the privilege of being used by God for His glory.
- ❖ God will provide whatever is needed for His servant and His people.

## Conclusion



Isa. 58:11 And **the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul** in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.