**The Gospel According to Moses**

**Who is this God?**

**Exodus 3:13-22**

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We are in a series called the Gospel According to Moses, looking at the book of Exodus. The series is called the Gospel according to Moses because, because as we will see, the Exodus is a paradigm or picture of the gospel and Salvation. My Big Idea is God is the only all sufficient and powerful Deliverer

**Review**

Israel is oppressed, enslaved by Egypt and Moses is living in exile from Egypt for treason, killing an Egyptian attempting to deliver them. He is 80 years old and living in the desert. One day he sees a burning bush that does not burn up. Speaking from the bush, God makes himself known to Moses, I am the God of your Father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And here we are reminded that the Exodus story is part of God’s larger story of redemption starting in the beginning of the bible, Genesis, and ending at the end of the bible, Revelation. God calls Moses to deliver Israel (3:7-10) but Moses objects as an unlikely candidate. To reassure him, God makes a promise, I will be with you and when you have brought Israel out of Egypt you will worship on this mountain (3:11-12). God is calling Moses to faith, to believe, to trust God’s promises. Let’s look more closely at who is this God who reveals himself to Moses.

**God’s Name (3:13-15)**

Moses is not confident that Israel will accept his leadership[[1]](#footnote-1) so he asks God, who shall I say sent me? God answers by identifying himself, I Am Who I Am and then instructs Moses to say to the people of Israel, I Am has sent me to you. I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name and thus and am to be remembered throughout all generations (14-15). The God who spoke to Moses from the burning bush is none other than the God of creation, the God of the Patriarchs, the God of the promises made to the Patriarchs. Israel is to accept Moses because he comes in the name of their true, historic, only God. We don’t just figure God out or make him up, God has revealed himself to humanity.

God is revealed in the Torah as *Elohim*,the first name of God we encounter in the Bible as Creator (Gen 1:1); *El Shaddai* asGod Almighty (Gen 17:1); *El Roy* as the One who sees me (Gen 16:13). But here we have,*Yahweh*, God’s personal and proper name. As God’s personal proper name, *Yahweh* was viewed as so special that Jews would not pronounce it verbally but simply wrote the four Hebrew consonants YHWH. Whenever the rabbis came across this sacred name in the text, they substituted another word, *Adonai*. As a verb, I am, can mean He is and He was and He is to be. He is the Eternal One who created and sustains everything; He is the all sufficient one who is sovereign over all things. The name looks back to the covenant with Abraham and forward to delivering Israel in the Exodus.

The name I am reminds of the human dilemma, so much potential and so many problems. God created humanity to enjoy him; humanity betrayed him by refusing to trust him; and sin contaminated the world. All the problems in our world today have their source in human sin. It is the reason for conflict, disease and sickness, food shortage, corrupt leaders and natural disasters. The God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob he is saying that this story is part of larger story of redemption. God is the answer to the human dilemma. Humanity lives in exile from Garden, from Gods presence, and reconciliation returns us to God, to enjoy his presence, and ultimately returning home.

God makes this peculiar statement; I am to be remembered throughout all generations. That may sound self-centered but if God is as significant as the bible describes him, it is offensive to take him for granted or igno2 him.

**God’s Instructions (3:16-18)**

God instructs Moses to go to the elders of Israel first and tell them that God has called him to deliver the people from slavery and take them to the promised land. Remember Israel is a picture of humanity in exile, separated from God, oppressed by sin and need in need of a Deliver. And Moses is a picture of better coming deliverer, Jesus Christ, who saves us from our sin and makes us new.

The promised land points us to the original creation before sin contaminated this world and it points us forward to the new creation, God’s renewed earth, where he will remove every taint of sin and evil, restoring creation to its original intent and design but better because there will never be a chance of sin ever entering this new creation. It will be a beautiful and satisfying land filled with peace and joy, happiness beyond your wildest imaginations because God dwells there. Being united to Jesus is what will make the new creation so satisfying. Apart from Jesus it would be eternally disappointing because neither we nor his creation could fulfill its eternal purpose.

**God’s Promise (3:19-22)**

God promises that the elders will listen to Moses. They are to go to the Pharaoh and tell him that the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God (3:18).’ Notices he said the God of the Hebrews and the Lord. They accepted Moses’ testimony as their own. Secondly, the I am is the true God who confronts Pharoah, who saw himself as a god. God knows that Pharaoh will not let Israel go unless compelled by a mighty hand. So he warns Moses that God must stretch out his hand and strike Egypt with signs and wonders until lets Israel go. Not only that but Israel will find favor in the sight of the Egyptians who will give them silver and gold, and clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.” God applies pressure upon a tyrant until he relents.

Life Group Questions:

1. What is Exodus chapter 3:13-22 about? Can you describe it in a sentence?
2. Why does God have so many names in the bible?
3. What is your favorite name?
4. Why do you think Moses felt inadequate to the task God called him to?
5. What is God’s answer to Moses’ inadequacy?
6. Have you ever felt in adequate for tsk God called you to?
7. How did God meet that need?
8. What does this teach us about following Jesus?
9. How is God asking me to respond to this passage?

1. All of Gods leaders are questioned for their ability to lead. It will happen to Moses again when Aaron and Miriam call his leadership into question. It happened to Paul in the Corinthian church and it happened to Jesus Christ. When his people rejected him as their own Messiah and deliverer. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)