

## MOSES (II): MAKING EXCUSES

### Introduction

- 1) At age 40, Moses killed an Egyptian to defend and avenge his brethren (Ex. 2:11-12; Acts 7:23-24)
  - a) With this action, he had made the choice to renounce his Egyptian upbringing and to suffer affliction with the people of God (Heb. 11:24-26)
  - b) He suddenly found himself misunderstood by his brethren and hunted by Pharaoh (Ex. 2:14-15a; Acts 7:25-28)
- 2) ***Moses flees to the land of Midian*** (Ex. 2:15; Acts 7:29)
  - a) Moses fearfully leaves Egypt knowing he is in danger – Pharaoh sought to kill him
  - b) Moses leaves his Egyptian heritage and his Hebrew brethren, fleeing to a faraway land to sojourn, where God would raise him up as a man and leader of great faith who would learn not fear the wrath of man but to put his trust in the invisible God
- I) **Dwelling in Midian and Encountering God in the Burning Bush** (Exodus 2:15-3:10)
  - A) Moses meets Jerthro [priest of Midian], dwells with him, and marries his daughter, Zipporah (Ex. 2:15b-22; Acts 7:29); tending flocks – learned patience needed as a shepherd (Ex. 3:1)
  - B) God “looked” – acknowledged the burdens and groanings of His people in Egypt (Ex. 2:23-25)
  - C) After forty years (Acts 7:30), the Angel [messenger, word] of the Lord (divine person of Godhead) appears to Moses in a bush that burned but was not consumed (Ex. 3:2-4)
    - 1) Moses in the presence of God – stands on “holy ground” as God reveals Himself (3:5-6)
    - 2) God knows the oppression of His people and has *come down* to deliver them (3:7-9; cf. Gen. 15:13-14; 46:3-4; 50:24)
    - 3) God tells Moses that he will be sent to bring the people of God out of Egypt (3:10)

### II) **The Excuses of Moses** (Exodus 3:11–4:17)

- A) ***“Who am I?”*** (Ex. 3:11-12)
  - 1) Humble attitude, but also an attitude of uselessness, insignificance, weakness
  - 2) God’s answer: “I will certainly be with you” – makes Moses’ work significant
    - a) Not worry about self, but emphasize the Lord and His will – makes anyone successful
- B) ***“When they ask, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?”*** (Ex. 3:13-22)
  - 1) God’s answer: “I AM WHO I AM...I AM has sent me to you”
    - a) Applied by Jesus to Himself (Jn. 8:58, 24)
  - 2) Tells Moses what to make known to the people, and what will take place in Egypt
- C) ***“But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice?”*** (Ex. 4:1-9)
  - 1) God had already informed Moses that the people would heed his voice (3:18)
  - 2) God’s answer – equips Moses with three signs: a) rod turns into serpent and back again, b) hand put in bosom turns leprous and back again, c) river water will turn into blood
  - 3) Signs are to be done “that they may believe that the Lord God...has appeared to you” (Ex. 4:5) – demonstrates basic purpose of miracles (cf. Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:4)
- D) ***“I am not eloquent...but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue”*** (Ex. 4:10-12)
  - 1) Literally, “heavy in mouth and heavy in tongue” – not fluent in speech (cf. 6:12)
  - 2) God’s answer: “I will be with you mouth and teach you what you shall say” (cf. Matt. 10:19-20; 1 Cor. 2:1); God gives the message for man to speak (1 Pet. 4:11)
- E) Moses’ final plea: ***“Please send someone else!”*** (Ex. 4:13-17)
  - 1) Lord is now angry, but determined – Moses disobedient and stubborn; Aaron, Moses’ brother, will meet him and go with him to be a “mouth” for Moses (cf. 7:1-2)

### Conclusion

When God needs us, He does not accept excuses or “no”. Moses now prepared to go to Egypt (Ex. 4:18-20; Heb. 11:27); so also we must prepare to do the work the Lord needs done today.