

February 27, 2021

Read Exodus 3

Key verse: Exodus 3:12

*(God) said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'*

### **Our Partnership with God**

Exodus 3 is one of my favorite chapters in the entire Bible. It describes, to use a fancy word, a *theophany*, a revelation of God in substantial way. In this story, Moses not only sees God in the form of a bush that is burning but not consumed by the flame; Moses has a running dialogue with God. Moses and God confer on a number of occasions as the Israelites are led out of Egypt and through the Wilderness of Sinai.

Two things strike me about this story: First, God seems so *obscure*. Moses has ventured *beyond the Wilderness* when he comes upon this burning bush. It's not a pillar of fire. It's not even a burning *tree*. Just a little bush way out in no-man's land.

The second thing that strikes me is that God always seems to get people to do great things. Many folks pray that God would just come down from heaven and set everything straight in this world. He's God after all; he could do it with both hands tied behind his back. Fixing all the troubles in this world feels beyond our abilities. Why doesn't God just fix things for us?

But this is the amazing God that we worship: A God who claims an enslaved race as his Chosen People; a God appears to us in deserted places; a God who speaks to us and prompts us to act on his behalf; a God who *dignifies* us, his most amazing creation, by partnering with us in his grand plan for the renewal of all creation.

There are many times that I have said 'no' to God. Sometimes I face a challenge that is...well...too challenging. I feel that the task is impossible to achieve. Moses must have felt this way – and he tried to weasel out of the task with which God had saddled him. But he ended up obeying God, and against all odds he succeeded in bringing a nation out of bondage, through a desert, and into a fertile land that they would one day call their own – a real happy ending.

I wonder how many happy endings are waiting to happen. I wonder what great things we can accomplish if we partner with God in the endeavor. I wonder what great celebrations are awaiting us when we fulfill God's will for our lives, as Jesus did.

**Prayer:** Creator God, you have created us for great things, and by challenging us you prompt us to achieve great things in your name. Help us to hear your prompting, and give us the faith to know that you are with us every step of the way, and because you are with us we cannot fail. Amen.