

# The Great I AM

## Exodus 3

Acts 7:17-37; John 8:48-59

### TOGETHER in 2023

- Review of the six “D’s” of BEING a disciple.
- Catechism and Meditation
  - Memory John 8:31



26 March 2023

## God’s Eternal Purpose

### The Glorious Gospel So Far

- GOD - Creator/LORD over all (Genesis 1; Acts 17:24-25)
- Promised Messiah (Genesis 3:15)
- Abraham and God’s covenant. (Genesis 12:1-5; 15:13-16)
- Isaac (Genesis 17:19)
- Joseph and His Faith in God’s Covenant (Genesis 50:24)
- Harvest and Famine to fulfill His purpose (Genesis 41:28-32)
- Exodus from Canaan to Egypt (Genesis 46)
- Jacob and God’s covenant.(Genesis 46:3-4)
- The Great Gospel Doctrines of God
- The Book of Genesis: Doctrine of Election
- The Book of Exodus: Doctrine of Redemption

### Affliction of God’s People (Exodus 1)

- God’s Purpose: Unchanged by what man does or does not do.
- God working in men to will and do for His good pleasure.
- 400 years: God’s timing; not ours. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

### Moses, the Man

- Handout: Moses, a Picture of Christ.
- First forty years (Exodus 2) - “when the time of promise **drew near**” (Acts 7:17)
  - ★ His birth (Psalm 139:16; Jeremiah 1:5; Isaiah 44:28)
  - ★ The Nile - DEATH. (Exodus 1:22; Genesis 50:20)
  - ★ The providence of God: (Highlight the word “**when**” in Exodus 2:6)
    - Preserving Moses
    - Pharaoh’s daughter and the cry.

- The mother is paid to raise her son!
- ★ (Acts 7:22) Moses was “learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds” - **BUT . . .**
- ★ His first time coming to His people. “Who made you a prince and judge over us?” (Exodus 2:14) Moses flees. (See Luke 19:14)
- Between verses 10 and 11 there are 40 years!!!!!!
- (Exodus 2:23) “Now it happened in the process of time . . .” All time belongs to God. He has planned all time. (Hebrews 1:2)
- His second forty years - ??????????
  - From Prince to Shepherd. (See Genesis 46:34)
  - The backside of the mountain: God’s training ground.
    - All of Moses’ world wisdom was not sufficient for God’s call and work. (1 Corinthians 1:20-21; 2:6-16; 3:19-20)

## The Burning Bush (Exodus 3)

- The Angel of the LORD:
  - ★ The God who sees. (To Hagar. Genesis 16:7-13).
  - ★ The God who hears. (To Isamael and Hagar. Genesis 21:14-20).
  - ★ The God who knows. (Exodus 3:17).
- Preincarnation of Christ
- The Burning Bush - God condenses; God takes the initiative; God chooses; God reveals Himself.
- (v. 3) An AWESOME sight. (Jacob’s vision: Genesis 28:17)
- “Take off your shoes - this is HOLY GROUND.”
  - First time in the Bible that “holy” is used in connect with God. See Exodus 15:11.
- The Shekinah glory (holiness) of God - Deuteronomy 33:16 - “dwelt” - “shaw-kan” - “Him who dwelt in the bush”
- God is transcendent. There is a large divide between the divine and man.
- God says, “Do not approach me just as you are but take off your sandals because this is holy ground.” I AM HOLY!

## The Call of Moses

- A personal call to a man who is now 80 years old.
- There is no evidence that Moses was seeking God!
- This day was written down and planned by God. (Psalm 139:16; James 4:13-16; Acts 15:18)
- God’s Message: What HE IS GOING TO DO through another man.
- God’s Call can be termed God’s Proclamation.
  - See the calls of Abraham, Jacob, Jeremiah, Paul

- The Call/The Proclamation:
  - ① “I have surely **seen** the affliction of My people.”
    - ★ First time God say, “My people. . .”
  - ② “I have **heard** their cry . . .”
  - ③ “I **know** their sorrows.”
  - ④ “**I am come down to deliver them.**”
  - ⑤ “Out of the hand of the Egyptians.”
  - ⑥ “And bring them up out of the land unto a good land.”
  - ⑦ “Unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.”
- NO “Ifs” - **UNCONDITIONAL PROMISES!!**
- “Come **NOW**” - “the time of promise”. (Acts 7:17) - after 400 years of affliction/bondage. God’s timing is not our timing. Generations came and went! God’s counsel shall stand! (Proverbs 19:21)
- (Isaiah 46:10-11) “What I have purposed I WILL DO.” (Isaiah 14:24-27)

### **God’s Name/Character - The GREAT I AM (Exodus 3)**

- (3:14a) Who God IS - I AM Who I AM. God did not give His name but only WHO He IS!
- (3:15) The Name of God - I AM.
- 6,832 times in the Old Testament
- What is God saying to Moses, and His people.
  - ① God is eternal. He had no beginning and He will have no end. He is the First and the Last. He is the Alpha and the Omega.
  - ② God is ABSOLUTE REALITY. There is no REALITY outside of God.
  - ③ As ABSOLUTE, God is completely independent! (Acts 17:24-25)
  - ④ EVERYTHING is depended on God. NOTHING exists apart for God. (Acts 17:24-25; Job 12:10; Daniel 5:23; Psalm 139:14; James 4:13-16; Revelation 4:11)
  - ⑤ EVERYTHING is NOTHING (less than nothing) compared to God. (Isaiah 40:12, 15, 17; Daniel 4:35)
  - ⑥ As ABSOLUTE, God does not and cannot change. (Malachi 3:6; Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 13:8)
  - ⑦ God is SOVEREIGN. He does whatever He pleases, whenever He pleases, however He pleases, with whatever He pleases, always as He pleases. (Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 14:24-27; 46:8-11; James 4:13-16)
  - ⑧ As ABSOLUTE God’s greatness, wisdom and understanding are unsearchable/infinite. (Psalm 147:3, 5; Isaiah 40:28)
  - ⑨ As ABSOLUTE, God is ALMIGHTY. (Revelation 1:8; Psalm 62:11)
- ★ GOD IS NOT LIKE US! **GOD is UNIQUE.** (Psalm 50:21; Isaiah 40:18; Job 23:13) **GOD IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS - NOT WHO WE THINK HE IS!**
- ★ **God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,** He is the God of the living not the dead.

## The Success of Moses' Mission

- (Exodus 3:12) Absolute success despite the opposition of Pharaoh.
  - ★ "I WILL CERTAINLY be with you."
  - ☆ Two "you's" - first is singular; second is plural.
  - ★ NOTE: You shall **serve** Me!
- EVERYTHING is determined, planned and executed by God *through* the man, Moses.
- Though the end was promised there would be many tribulations!
- (Exodus 3:20-22) More "I WILL's":
  - I WILL stretch out My hand and strike Egypt.
  - I WILL do all My wonders in your midst.
  - I WILL give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians.
  - You shall plunder the Egyptians - as I purposed. (Gen 15:13-16)

## The Glorious Gospel in the Burning Bush

- The holiness of God. (See 1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:7)
- Election: God comes and speaks personally to Moses. God takes the initiative to come to Moses! (Eph 1:3-4; Luke 15:4-5; 19:10; Matt 1:21)
- "Thorny" bush. (Genesis 3:18 - the curse - Galatians 3:13)
- The bush: burning but not being burned - God's preservation of all that is His.
- Our God is a consuming fire. (Exodus 24:17; Deut 4:24; 9:3; Heb 12:28-29)
- Fire: Judgment of God (2 Thess 1:6-9; Psalm 50:3)
- ★ How can a God who is a consuming fire reveal Himself and not consume all that is contrary to Himself? How does one stand before a holy, holy, holy God without be consumed? See Malachi 3:2; 4:1; Matthew 3:10-12.
- **GRACE**: Romans 5:20-21 Grace REIGNS . . . through Jesus Christ. (Eph 2:4-5)
- Handout: Christ's I AM's in the Gospel of John:
- The end is promised but there will be many tribulations. (Philipp1:6; Acts 14:22)

## Do We Know the Great I AM?

- (John 8:58) Jesus Christ is the GREAT I AM! (Zechariah 12:1, 10)
  - I AM in the Garden of Gethsemane. (John 18:5-8)
- (Exodus 5:2) "Who is this LORD that I should obey Him? I will do what I wish!"
- (2 Corinthians 4:6) "... the light of the knowledge of the glory of God . . ."
- (2 Thess 1:6-9) Woe to those who do not **know!** Matt25:41; Rev 20:14-15; 21:8

## Chosen/Called/Saved to Serve

- David Livingstone (1813-1873) - Missionary to Africa
- John Paton (1824-1907) - Missionary to the South Pacific
- (1 Thessalonians 1:9) Turned from idols to serve the living God. (Eph 2:8-10)