

THE CALL OF MOSES: A STUDY OF GOD'S CALL TO SERVICE EXODUS 03:01–10

Introduction

God calls people to serve Him. Just think who it is that calls us to serve Him: the LORD Himself, the great God and Saviour who created the universe and sustains everything throughout the universe. It is the sovereign LORD and Majesty of all — God Himself — who actually stoops down and offers us the wonderful privilege of serving Him. This should excite us. It should stir us to seek God's call, to seek God's hand upon our lives.

To all who are seeking God, to all who want to serve God, to all who want God's call upon their lives, this Scripture shows us how we can receive God's call: *The Call of Moses: A Study of God's Call to Service*, Exodus 3:1-10.

- I. The kind of man God called (vv. 1-3).
- II. The call of God itself (vv. 4-6).
- III. The reasons why God called Moses (vv. 7-8).
- IV. The expected response to God's call (vv. 9-10).

I. *Exodus 03:01–03 The Kind of Person God Calls*

First, what kind of person does God call? Moses shows us. Remember, Moses had been the prince of Egypt. Consequently, a disappointed Pharaoh was seeking Moses' life and Moses was forced to flee down into Midian. In that distant but safe land, Moses met and agreed to work for Jethro, the priest of Midian. But note: all this had happened before the present Scripture. God's call to Moses took place after Moses' flight from Egypt and settlement in Midian. In recording the significant events of his life, Moses says nothing about this second forty year period of his life. They are silent, unknown years.

But now, forty years later, a significant event occurs: God calls Moses, calls him to a heroic task. Note the kind of man Moses was, the kind of person God called.

1. Moses was a shepherd, which suggests that he had a heart that could shepherd people. When the call of God came to Moses, he was tending the flocks of Jethro, his father-in-law. The Hebrew has the idea of continuous action; that is, tending the flocks was his job. Moses was a shepherd by occupation. The work of a shepherd was...
 - to feed and water the sheep
 - to protect the sheep
 - to keep the sheep separate from the goats (see outline and notes, Jn. 10:2-3)
 - to guide the sheep
 - to seek and save the sheep who got lost

It took a person with a very special heart to be a shepherd. His heart had to be both tough and tender, hard and compassionate, disciplined and soft. In addition to this, the shepherd had to spend a great deal of time alone out in the countryside. While

alone, he could, of course, just allow his mind to waste time and wander about from thought to thought or else he could utilize the time to develop his thought processes and to draw near God. The shepherd always had the opportunity to use his time to become a man of great devotion and prayer.

Obviously, Moses had spent forty years doing just this: developing the heart of a true shepherd and utilizing the hours alone to draw closer and closer to God. Now God was ready to call him to be the shepherd of God's people.

Thought 1. God's call does not come to a particular profession. It comes to a particular heart — to a heroic heart, to a heart that is willing to tackle a heroic task. God's call comes to a heart that is willing to shepherd people, a heart that is both...

- tough and tender
- hard and compassionate
- disciplined and soft

(1) God's call comes to a person who does not waste time, but who uses his time wisely; to a person who utilizes his time to develop his thought processes and to draw near God; to a person who becomes an individual of devotion and prayer.

(2) God's call comes to a person who is willing to feed and guide people, to seek and save people, and to protect and keep people for God.

Jer 3:15 Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.

Jer 23:4 "I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD.

Ezek 34:23 I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd.

John 21:17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

1 Pet 5:2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve.

2. Moses was a hard-working, industrious man (v. 1). Note where he was when God's call came to him: he was tending the flock at the far side of the desert. He was a common labourer, working for his father-in-law Jethro. As pointed out, the job Jethro had given him was hard, that of being a shepherd. A shepherd's job demanded long

hours, seven days a week. His work sometimes demanded that he be far away from home, away from his family and, no doubt, away for weeks at a time. The work was also lonely and dangerous.

The point to see is that Moses was a hard, industrious worker. He was not lazy nor slothful. He worked at a job and in a place that few people would, and he worked longer hours and more days than most people would. Thus when God looked at Moses, He saw a hard-working, industrious man.

Thought 1. God does not call lazy, slothful people. A lazy person will not work, not long, hard hours. Neither will a lazy person finish a task, not often. God needs people who will work long and hard at any task, people who will finish the task no matter how difficult it may be.

Again, the person God calls is a hard-working, industrious person. God does not call the lazy, slothful person.

Prov 13:4 *A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.*

Prov 15:19 *The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.*

Rom 12:11 *Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.*

2 Th 3:11-12 *We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat.*

Heb 6:12 *We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.*

3. Moses was a man of faith, a man who believed the miracles of God, the impossible acts of God (v. 2). The person God uses must be a person of faith, a person who believes God. Note what now happened.

The angel of the LORD appeared to Moses (v. 2). He appeared as a blazing fire within a bush, a flame of fire that did not burn out nor consume the bush. Who was this? God Himself or some angelic messenger (angel means messenger) that God sent? Note these facts:

- ⇒ God's voice called out to Moses from within the burning bush (v. 4).
- ⇒ God identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (v. 6).
- ⇒ The LORD continued to speak to Moses from within the burning bush. In fact, the LORD alone spoke from verse four to the end of this passage, verse ten.

In light of these facts, the messenger seems to be the LORD God Himself, more particularly, the second person of the Godhead, the Lord Jesus Christ. (See note, Gen 16:7.) Note that the LORD appeared as a blazing fire from within the bush, a flame of

fire that just kept on burning and did not consume the bush (v. 2). God has often used fire to symbolize and represent His presence (Exo 13:21; 19:18; 24:17; Jdg 13:20; 1 Kng 18:24, 38; 2 Chr 7:1-3; Eze 1:4-28; Dan 7:9-10; Heb 12:29).

Arthur W. Pink points out that the Hebrew word here for bush (sen-eh) is used only one other time, in Deu 33:16.

Deu 33:16 *With the best gifts of the earth and its fullness and the favour of him who dwelt in the burning bush. Let all these rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the prince among his brothers.*

In this verse, the Hebrew word for “dwelt” is *shaw-kan* or *shakan*. This was, then, the Shekinah glory, the very presence of God Himself shining and blazing forth in the bush. (See *Shekinah Glory*, Exo 16:10. Also see notes, Rom 9:4; Mt. 17:5-8.)

The point to see is this: God Himself was meeting Moses. He was manifesting and revealing Himself, meeting Moses in a very special way. Moses needed a deep, intense, unforgettable experience with God. He needed an experience with God that he would never forget as he launched out for God. Moses needed to see the glory of God...

- before he could undertake the mission of God
- before he could minister and serve in the power of God

Thought 1. Every believer should seek deeper experiences with God, to know God more and more, to draw closer to Him.

(1) We should seek to experience more and more of the glory of God, God's glory manifested in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

2 Cor 3:18 *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

2 Cor 4:6 *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*

Heb 1:1-3 *In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways. But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*

(2) Once we have truly seen the glory of God, we will then minister and bear witness in the power of God. The shepherds who saw the glory of God when Jesus Christ was born into the world are a dynamic example of this truth.

Luke 2:8-17 *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.*

2 Cor 5:19-20 *That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

Thought 2. Two other examples of men who saw the glory of God are:

=> Isaiah (Isa 6:1f)

=> Paul the apostle (Acts 9:3f)

4. Moses was a man who would stop and seek the meaning of things (v. 3). Note that he stopped, turned aside, and went over to see the unusual sight, just why the blazing fire did not burn out nor consume the bush. Just think what would have happened if Moses had not stopped and gone over to see the unusual sight: he would have...
- missed the blessing of God
 - missed this deep experience with God
 - missed the call of God upon his life

Thought 1. Many people are not interested in the meaning of things, not enough to stop and study the real meaning lying behind things, especially the meaning of God and of spiritual things. Many people ignore God and the things of God. They are...

- just too busy and too wrapped up in the affairs of life
- just interested in the pleasures and possessions of this world

Most people are not like Moses: they just are not willing to stop and to seek the meaning of spiritual things. The LORD was appearing to Moses and Moses stopped and sought the meaning of the LORD's appearance. The LORD has appeared to us; He has come to earth. We must stop and seek the meaning of His coming. The person who truly seeks the LORD will find Him.

Deu 4:29 *But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all our heart and with all our soul.*

Isa 55:6 *Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.*

Jer 29:13 *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*

Luke 11:9-10 *“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*

Acts 17:27 *God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.*

EXODUS 03:01 MT. HOREB, MT. SINAI

Horeb means *desert* or *desolation*. Mt. Horeb and Mt. Sinai are either the same mountain or within the same mountain range. Both names seem to be used interchangeably throughout Scripture. Note that the mountain is called “the mountain of God.” Mt. Sinai or Horeb is the mountain...

- where God called Moses to deliver His people from slavery (Exo 3:1f)
- where God gave the law to Moses and His people (Exo 19:1f)
- where Moses struck the rock and God caused water to flow out from the rock (Exo 17:6)
- where the people repented and gave offerings to God (Exo 33:6)
- where Elijah fled from Jezebel (1 Kng 19:8) □

II. *Exodus 03:04–06 What the Call of God Is*

Second, there was the call of God itself. God's call to Moses shows us exactly what is involved when God calls a person. It shows us the factors included in God's call.

1. God's call was to a seeking man. Note when God called Moses: when Moses stopped and sought the meaning of the burning bush (v. 4). Then and only then did God call out to Moses. What would have happened if Moses had ignored the bush and concluded that it was not worth the effort to seek to understand it? Most likely God would not have called him.

But Moses did stop and seek to understand the burning bush. God's call was to a seeking man, a man who sought to understand the truth and meaning of things.

Thought 1. The person who seeks to know the truth and meaning of things, and is open to God, will be met by God. God will meet and call the seeking person. The Bible clearly says that any person who seeks God, who seeks to know and understand God, will find God.

Deu 4:29 *But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all our heart and with all our soul.*

Prov 8:17 *I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.*

Jer 29:13 *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*

Amos 5:4 *This is what the LORD says to Israel: "Seek me and live."*

Luke 11:9-10 *"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."*

2. God's call was a personal call (v. 4). God called Moses by name. Note Moses' response: "Here am I."

Thought 1. Two points of application.

(1) God's call to us is personal. He knows us by name, every one of us.

Exo 33:12 *"I know you by name." (God said this of Moses.)*

Psa 4:3 *Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.*

Isa 43:1 *"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine."*

(2) We must always respond positively to God's call: "Here am I." We must obey God: go and do exactly what He wants.

- Abraham responded, "Here I am."

Gen 22:1 *Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.*

- Samuel responded, "Here am I."

1 Sam 3:4 *Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am."*

- Isaiah responded, "Here am I."

Isa 6:8 *Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

- Paul responded, "Here am I."

And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what will you have me to do [Here am I]?

Acts 9:6 *"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."*

3. God's call was a holy call (v. 5). God stopped Moses dead in his tracks. He told Moses to come no closer and to take off his shoes. Why? Because the ground where he stood was holy ground. Note that the ground was not holy *in and of* itself; it was holy because God was there. God was making a very special manifestation of Himself and using the ground for a specific purpose, that of calling a man to be God's servant, God's messenger.

When God told Moses to take off his shoes, He was teaching Moses a necessary lesson, a lesson that every person must learn: God is holy. Holy means to be separate and distinct, different — entirely different — from mortal man. It means that God is pure, righteous, moral, just and eternal — perfectly so, in every detail of His being.

God is holy. Therefore, when mortal man enters God's presence, he must be prepared: man must be respectful, reverent and submissive.

Thought 1. God is not a *chummy friend* to man. Neither is He *the man upstairs*. Nor is He a *grandfather-type* person who allows us to behave like we want and gives us what we want.

God is holy — different, completely set apart from this universe — ruling and reigning as the Supreme LORD and Majesty of the universe. Therefore, we must enter His holy presence prepared: we must be respectful, reverent and submissive.

Exo 15:11 “Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you — majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?”

Lev 11:44 I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves along the ground.

Psa 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.

Isa 6:3 And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

Rev 15:4 “Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

4. God's call was a call from the only living and true God, the only God who can truly fulfil His promises to man (v. 6). God declared an amazing thing to Moses. Note exactly what He said: “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” God did not declare that He *was* the God of Moses' forefathers; He declared that He *is* their God. Present, active tense. Jesus Christ Himself referred to this passage saying that God was proving His existence and the reality of life hereafter. God was proving:

⇒ that He is the living and true God.

⇒ that believers are living and are actively engaged with God when they leave this earth.

⇒ that believers really do enter the promised land of heaven.

God *is* the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They had long ago died and had been gone for more than four hundred years, yet they were still alive, living with God and serving Him.

Now, note exactly what God was declaring to Moses: "I am [present, active tense] the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (v. 6).

=> He is the only living and true God.

=> He is the God of Moses' forefathers, the very God whom they believed and served.

=> He is the God who had made the promises to Moses' forefathers, the promise of the promised land and of the promised seed, meaning both a great nation of people and the Saviour Himself.

=> He is the God with whom Moses' forefathers were living, the God who had fulfilled His promises to give the promised land of heaven, eternal life, to them.

Note Moses' response to such a wonderful revelation: he hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God (v. 6).

Thought 1. God's call was bound to strengthen Moses' faith. Just think what Moses had learned from this revelation: God is; God actually exists.

=> The promised land of heaven, eternal life, is true.

=> Believers — all believers who have gone before — are living and will forever live in God's presence.

=> God fulfils His promises. He fulfilled His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Therefore, He will fulfil His promises to us.

Deu 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

1 Kng 8:56 Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses.

Psa 36:5 "Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies."

1 Cor 1:9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

2 Th 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

2 Tim 1:12 I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

Heb 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

III. *Exodus 03:07–08 Reasons for the Call of Moses*

Third, there were the reasons why God called Moses. God called Moses for three very specific reasons, reasons that are true of every God-given call.

1. God was deeply concerned about the suffering of His people (v. 7). His concern is graphically pictured:
 - a. God saw the affliction and misery of His people (v. 7). Note how forcefully the fact is stated: "I have surely [indeed] seen the affliction of my people" (v. 7). This is the first time God ever called Israel "my people."
 - b. God heard the cries of His people (v. 7). The taskmasters no doubt were cursing, abusing, beating and forcing the people to work beyond utter exhaustion. The people moaned and groaned under the oppressive affliction. They had no hope but God, and they could do nothing but cry out to God. This they did, and the most wonderful thing was now happening: God heard their cries and was now acting to meet their need.
 - c. God knew about their sorrow and suffering and was deeply concerned for them (v. 7).

Thought 1. Two lessons are clearly seen in this point.

(1) God always sees our suffering and misery, and He always hears our cries. God knows all about our sorrows and is deeply concerned for us. The very reason God calls us to serve Him is because...

- He sees the affliction and misery of people
- He hears their cries for help
- He knows all about their sorrows and is deeply concerned for them

Psa 40:17 *Yet I am poor and needy; may the LORD think of me. You are my help and my deliverer: O my God, do not delay.*

Isa 41:10 *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Isa 43:2 *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.*

Isa 46:4 *Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.*

1 Pet 5:7 *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

(2) God also wants us to see, hear and be concerned for His people, for those who suffer in this world.

Acts 20:35 *"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

Rom 15:1 *We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.*

Gal 6:2 *Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.*

Col 3:12 *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

Heb 13:3 *Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.*

2. God came down to deliver His people from their suffering (v. 8). He wanted to deliver them from their enslavement, from the enslaving hand of their enemy (Egypt). Note the picture: God came down as the God of deliverance to do the work of redemption. God came down to save His people, to deliver them from the bondage of the evil prince and of the evil enslavers of Egypt.

Thought 1. This should give us great assurance, great confidence, great security — God has the power to deliver us.

(1) God is able to deliver us from all our suffering.

(2) God is able to deliver us from the enslavement of any thing, person, nation or power, whether the power be physical or spiritual. Throughout Scripture, ancient Egypt is a symbol of the world and its worldly ways; and Pharaoh is a symbol of the evil prince, Satan himself. God is able to deliver us from Satan and the world and from the enslavements of this world. No matter how enslaved some power may hold us, whether physical or spiritual power, God is able to deliver us.

2 Sam 22:2 *He said: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer."*

Psa 91:3 *Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.*

Jer 1:8 *Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.*

Dan 6:27 *He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.*

1 Cor 10:13 *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

2 Tim 4:18 *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Heb 2:14-15 *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

2 Pet 2:9 *If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.*

Thought 2. Note two significant facts about redemption.

(1) God is our Redeemer.

Job 19:25 *I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.*

Psa 130:8 *He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.*

Prov 23:11 *For their Defender is strong; he will take up their case against you.*

Isa 44:24 *“This is what the LORD says — your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, the Maker of all things, who stretches out the heavens, who spreads out the earth by myself.*

Isa 47:4 *Our Redeemer — the LORD Almighty is his name — is the Holy One of Israel.*

Isa 59:20 *“The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the LORD.*

Psa 31:5 *Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.*

Psa 111:9 *He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever — holy and awesome is his name.*

Psa 130:7 *O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.*

Isa 43:1 *But now, this is what the LORD says he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.”*

Luke 1:68 *Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.*

Luke 2:38 *Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.*

(2) God redeems us through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is Christ who saves and delivers us from the power of Satan and from the enslavements of this world. Jesus Christ can deliver us out of shame, brokenness, loneliness, routineness, immorality, drugs, alcohol, pornography, stealing, abuse, crime and any other enslaving power. Jesus Christ is the Redeemer and Saviour of man. Jesus Christ can deliver us...

- from sin to righteousness
- from death to life
- from hell to heaven
- from emptiness to fullness
- from loneliness to friendship
- from darkness to light
- from no direction to purpose
- from meaninglessness to significance

Rom 3:24 *And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

1 Cor 1:30 *It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.*

Gal 3:13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."*

Col 1:14 *In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Titus 2:14 *Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

Heb 9:12 *He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.*

1 Pet 1:18 *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers.*

Rev 5:9 *And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.*

3. God wanted to give the promised land to His people (v. 8). Remember, the promised land of Canaan was a symbol of the promised land of heaven (see note, Gen 12:1). Note exactly what God said: not only was He going to deliver His people from their enslavement, but He was also going to lead them into the promised land. He said two things about the land:

=> It was a land "flowing with milk and honey" (v. 8). This is a picture of plenty, fruitfulness, fertility and abundance. The promised land was a land that just flourished with the best of everything, a land where full provision was available to meet all the physical needs of God's people. The term is used throughout Scripture (Exo 3:17; 13:5).

=> It was a land that was spacious, a land so spacious that six nations were then living there (v. 8). The idea is that the land was large enough to take care of everyone. It was a land where everyone would have plenty of space and would live in peace with one another (v. 8).

Thought 1. God not only redeems us *from* something, He redeems us *to* something. He redeems us from Satan and the world and redeems us to Himself and to heaven. The land of Canaan promised to Israel is a picture of the promised land of heaven.

(1) Heaven is a place that is flowing with milk and honey, a place where all our needs are abundantly met.

1 Cor 2:9 *However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."*

Rev 21:1-5 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem [the capital of the new heavens and earth], coming down out of heaven*

from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God." He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

Rev 22:1-5 *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. Down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city [New Jerusalem], and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*

(2) Heaven is spacious: there is room in heaven for all who will believe God.

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

John 14:1-3 *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."*

2 Cor 5:1 *Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.*

Heb 11:8-10 *By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

Heb 11:13-16 *All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*

1 Pet 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade kept in heaven for you.

2 Pet 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives. As you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

EXODUS 03:08 CANAANITES AND THE PROMISED LAND

*“So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey — the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.” **Exodus 03:08***

The land that God had promised the Israelites was not void of people. Before Israel could fully possess the land flowing with milk and honey, they would have to deal with a variety of foes.

- => The *Canaanites* were direct descendents from Canaan (Gen 10:15-18). From the sons of Canaan came a variety of different people: the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.
- => The *religion* of the Canaanites focused on a variety of deities, but gave greatest emphasis to El (who was also known as Baal). Over time, Israel would find itself neglecting the command of God to destroy every Canaanite influence. They would fail to worship God alone. They would allow the false religion of the Canaanites to seep into their lives. This neglect would later prove to be a fatal error.
- => The *materialistic* and *immoral* lifestyle of the Canaanites became very appealing to the Israelites. Instead of Israel pulling up the Canaanite culture, the Canaanites pulled the Israelites down into their culture. The Israelites allowed the poison of worldliness to pollute their lives with lust, with the lust for the things of this world: they lusted after the men and women of Canaan and they lusted after the material possessions of the Canaanites. It was a poison that numbed their desire to live a moral life before God and man.

Thought 1. We face a daily struggle...

- in seeking to live a life of separation, a life of morality and righteousness
- in seeking to resist people and things that try to turn us away from God
- in seeking to not compromise Biblical convictions in an ever-changing moral climate
- in seeking to resist the temptation to run in the 'rat race' of seeking material possessions
- in seeking to avoid the pitfalls of idolatry
- in seeking to live for the truth
- in seeking to walk about acknowledging and praising God.

Psa 119:9-11 *How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

Psa 119:133 *Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me. □*

IV. Exodus 03:09–10 Response to the Call of God

There was the expected response to God's call. God expected two responses from Moses, the same two responses He expects from every person He calls to serve Him.

1. Moses was to behold — see, grasp, lay hold of — God's vision and compassion for His people (v. 9). Note that God was repeating what He had just said in verse seven: the cry of His people had reached Him and He saw their terrible suffering. Why repeat this fact? Obviously, the sufferings of the people had deeply touched God. But more than this, God wanted to drive the point home to Moses' heart. God wanted to touch Moses' heart with the sufferings of His people. God wanted Moses heartbroken with compassion. Moses needed to grasp the great vision of God for His people. Then and only then would Moses obey God's call.
2. Moses was to go as God's messenger to deliver God's people from their enslavement (v. 10). This is the great call of Moses, the great commission that God gave to Moses. Note these facts:
 - a. It was God who was sending Moses (v. 10). Moses was not appointing himself to be God's spokesman; he had no authority to do such a thing. Moses was being appointed, chosen, sent and commissioned by God Himself. God and God alone has the authority to call and commission people to represent Him.

Thought 1. How many pulpits have been filled by people who were not truly called by God? Who looked upon the ministry only as a profession? Only as a way to make some money or a decent living? How many people have chosen the ministry only

because it seemed to be the best way to serve people and to make a commendable contribution to society?

Mat 7:15 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”

Mat 15:9 “They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.”

2 Cor 2:17 Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

2 Cor 4:2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.

1 Tim 4:1-2 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

2 Pet 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them — bringing swift destruction on themselves.

- b. Moses’ call and commission was to rescue people, to deliver them from their enslavement (v. 10).

Thought 1. When God calls us, He expects us to respond, to accept His call.

(1) God expects us to grasp His vision and compassion for people.

(2) God expects us to go forth as His messengers, to go forth and deliver people from their enslavement to the worldly ways of this earth. God expects us to lead sinners...

- from sin to righteousness
- from death to life
- from hunger to fullness
- from division to reconciliation
- from war to peace
- from bondage to liberty
- from suffering to health
- from loneliness to friendship
- from hate to love
- from prejudice to acceptance

Mat 20:28 “Just as the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mat 28:19-20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, [even] to the very end of the age.”

Mark 16:15 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

John 15:16-17 “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.”

Acts 22:14-15 Then he said: “The God of our fathers has chosen you [Paul], to know his will, and see the Righteous One, and to hear words from his mouth. You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.”

1 John 1:3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ■