

**The Excuses of Moses:
A Reluctant Prophet — Arguments Against Serving God
Exodus 03: 11–22**

1. *Argument 1:*

He felt incapable, unqualified

- a. Moses' excuse: Who am I to take on such a task?
- 1) To go before Pharaoh
 - 2) To deliver a captive people
- b. God's reply: A demand for faith — to believe God's promise
- 1) The promise of God's presence: "I will be with you"
 - 2) The promise of a sign: Israel would worship God upon the very same mountain

2. *Argument 2:*

He felt the people were ignorant of God and would be skeptical of God's power to truly help them

- a. Moses' excuse:
He felt the people would question his call and question just who God is, question His power to save and deliver them
- b. God's reply: Moses was to declare several facts to Israel
- 1) God's name: "I AM THAT I AM" — it was He who sent Moses
 - 2) God's identity, the LORD God: He is the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob — it was He who sent Moses
 - 3) God's memorial: His name, the Lord God, is His memorial, the name to be known and remembered forever

11 But Moses said to God,
"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

12 And God said,
"I will be with you.
And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

13 Moses said to God,
"Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

14 God said to Moses,
"I AM WHO I AM.
This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

15 God also said to Moses,
"Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, 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 forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

4) God's concern and care for His people, Israel

5) God's past promise of deliverance:
God promised 400 years before to bring Israel out from Egypt (Gen 15:13-14; 50:24)

6) God's promise to His servant Moses: The people would listen and accept his leadership

7) God's instructions to the elders: Moses and the elders were to approach Pharaoh and declare that God had appeared to them and demanded that they travel for some three days away from Egypt and worship God

8) God's prediction and forewarning: The king of Egypt would reject their request

9) God's judgment and His assurance of deliverance: His hand of judgment would force the king to free Israel

10) God's power: His power to cause the Egyptians to favour His people and to rectify their injustices against His people:
When freed by Egypt, they were to ask the Egyptians for silver, gold and clothes

16 "Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them,
'The LORD, the God of your fathers — the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob — appeared to me and said:
I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt.

17 And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites — a land flowing with milk and honey.'

18 "The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us.
Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.'

19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him.

20 So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

21 "And I will make the Egyptians favourably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed.

22 Every woman is to ask her neighbour and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians."