

Moses

Exodus 33:11 [King James] *“And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.”*

A word portrait of Moses in the Old Testament is summed up on the short sentence of this one verse.

For Moses to become a great man of God, he had to have a very intimate, personal experience of God.

Exodus 3:1-6 [NIV] *“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, ‘I will go over and see this strange sight, why the bush does not burn up.’ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, ‘Moses! Moses!’ And Moses said, ‘Here I am.’ ‘Do not come any closer,’ God said. ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.’ Then he said, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.’ At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.”*

Taking off his shoes was an act of reverence, conveying his own unworthiness as was his prostrating himself before God, his face in the dirt from which he knew he had been created.

God is our friend, [**John 15:14-15**] and our Father, [**Romans 8:15-16**], but He is also our Creator and Sovereign Lord.

To approach God frivolously shows a lack of respect and sincerity.

When we come to God in prayer and worship we come as an invited guest before the King of kings and Lord of lords, [**Revelation 19:11-16**], and a Holy God, [**1 Peter 1:15-16**].

Exodus 3:7-10 [NIV] *“The LORD said, ‘I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 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. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.’”*

Out of this flaming bush, symbolic of the purity and power of the Creator God, came a voice telling Moses he had been chosen for the difficult task of liberating the Hebrew nation from slavery in Egypt.

Moses was to be an effective emancipator, liberating a whole nation from slavery in Egypt, a type of slavery in sin, [**Romans 6:17-18; Proverbs 5:22**].

Moses was also a prophet and for it was said of Jesus Christ that He was a prophet like unto Moses, [**Acts 3:22**].

Moses had a major role in the establishment of God’s law, the greatest moral code ever given to humanity.

God prepared Moses for his leadership role under Him.

Reared in the Pharaoh’s palace, educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians.

This gave Moses all the prerequisites for almost any kind of career.

Then God gave Moses a most unusual but highly effective postgraduate course.

Exodus 3:1 [NIV] *“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.”*

God took Moses out of the activity and the noise of Egypt and placed him in the silence of the open spaces.

Tending sheep Moses learned lessons of meditation and observation, [**Psalms 119:176; Isaiah 53:6; Jeremiah 50:6**] that he could **only** have learned in the silence and being a shepherd.

Probably most important, Moses learned to know himself, his strengths and weaknesses.

Such knowledge is essential for any person whom God is preparing to fulfil a task for Him.

Too often today, we seem to know about a great many things other than ourselves, because we do **not** spend enough time away from all the noise of society.

Psalms 4:4 [King James] *“Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.”*

“Selah” means to pause and meditate on what you have just heard or read.

Psalms 46:10-11 [King James] *“Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.”*

It was God’s plan that Moses should learn an overpowering sense of reverence in a dramatic person to Person encounter with his Creator God.

There is **no** way that God can really tell us who and what He is, He can only tell us what He is like in physical terms that we can in measure understand.

For example, in the meeting with Moses, [**Exodus 3:2-6**], we learn that the Creator God is **like** fire, God is **not** fire, God is Spirit, [**John 4:24**], that is **not** limited to any physical attributes.

Previous to this encounter, God had been just a good and pleasant idea to Moses.

Most people have this idea of God, a distant and nebulous concept, and try to deal with it on the basis of intellect.

Once Moses experienced God personally, God became vital and living.

We can receive knowledge by description, but there is a far deeper knowledge that comes from personal experience.

To Moses, God was **no longer** an idea from history but a living Person willing to become involved with His human creation.

Why did the Almighty God use a scrubby bush to reveal His presence and glory?

The bush in itself was completely helpless, it could **not** run away from the presence of God and fire.

Like the bush, we will never know the Creator God until we are helpless in His hands.

John 15:5 [King James] *“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”*

We will never be of worth to our Creator God until we understand our complete dependency on Him.

As long as we can run, as long as we know we can depend upon our avenues of escape, we are **not** really in God's hands.

The joyful Christian has met his Saviour and Lord personally and has found Him an all-sufficient Saviour and Master.

I thank God for the illustration of this little bush!

It was caught, it was helpless, but it was also radiant, useful and enduring in the presence and hands of the living Creator God.

1 Peter 1:15-16 [NIV] *“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”*

God Himself is the holiness and purity that we need to be a created child of His.

Holiness in the Christian life is nothing but the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in them, filling, satisfying the surrendered, committed and trusting believer.

Think also about the blessedness and the security of that little desert bush.

Nothing harmful could come to it while it was filled with the presence of the Creator God.

The sense of sacredness, reverence and joy that we experience in the presence of the Creator God in our lives is what God desires every human being may have.

Matthew 5:14-16 [NIV] *“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”*

All Christians are called to be burning bushes, they are **not** necessarily called by God to be great, like Moses, or to be promoters or organisers.

But they all are called to be beautiful *“burning bushes”* that people will *“turn aside”* to know what it is that the Creator God wants them to know.

1 Peter 3:15 [NIV] *“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”*

Some Christians think that our faith is a personal matter that should be kept to oneself. It is true we should **not** be boisterous or obnoxious in sharing our faith, but we should be well versed in God's promises and conditions in His Word, the Christian Bible, which is the basis of our hope.

Also our lifestyle should be such as people do ask why we do the things we do in the way we do.

Exodus 3:10-12 [NIV] *“‘So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.’ But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’ 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.’”*

When God began His plan to use Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt, they had been captive as slaves in Egypt for 400 years.

The Israelites were crushed in spirit under the harsh slavery, and were exposed to the idolatry that marked the lives of their masters.

They were a discouraged people who had lost touch with their forefathers' high concept of the Creator God and His eternal attributes.

Israel was not expecting very much from God, for in their ignorance and discouragement the people had come to hold too low a view of the Creator God, His person and power.

This same low concept of God is our spiritual problem today, humanity has succeeded quite well in reducing the Creator God to a pitiful nothing.

One thing that has influenced this poor view of God is the false belief in evolution which does away with a Creator God.

[Please download and study on this website articles under the sub-heading '*The Delusion Of Evolution*'.]

To truly know the Creator God of all the universe is to revere Him, to bow down before Him in wonder and awesome fear.

Exodus 19:1-2 [NIV] *"In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt, on the very day, they came to the Desert of Sinai. After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain."*

As God had promised Moses, He had brought Israel to the same mountain on which He had revealed to Moses the task he was to accomplish for and with Him.

Mount Sinai, also called Mount Horeb, was where God was going to reveal to Israel the reason why He had brought them out of slavery in Egypt.

Israel was to become a holy nation as an example to other nations as to how humanity should live, a kingdom of priests, [Exodus 19:3-6].

It didn't take long, however, for the people to corrupt God's plan.

God then established Aaron's descendents from the tribe of Levi as priests, representing what the entire nation should have been.

God has once again extended His plan to all believers, Christians are to become holy, a royal priesthood.

1 Peter 2:9-12 [NIV] *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."*

This is the job of Christians now and it will be expanded at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, **[Revelation 1:4-6; Revelation 5:9-10].**

Exodus 19:9-15 [NIV] *"The LORD said to Moses, 'I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you.' Then Moses told the LORD what the people had said. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Make them wash their clothes and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, "Be careful that you do not go up the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. He shall surely be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on him. Whether man or animal, he shall not be permitted to live." Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they go up to the mountain.' After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes. Then he said to the people, 'Prepare yourselves for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations.'"*

The whole nation of Israel had to make special preparation for the Creator God to visit them and communicated His message to them.

Exodus 19:16-25 [NIV] *“On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently, and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him. The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up and the LORD said to him, ‘Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish. Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them.’ Moses said to the LORD, ‘The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, “Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.”’ The LORD replied, ‘Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them.’ So Moses went down to the people and told them.”*

God was revealing His power, holiness and glory through physical things that the people could relate to.

The Creator God of the Christian Bible, the true God, inspires reverence and godly fear.

The Creator God was meeting Moses on Sinai, so that He might free Israel from the false concepts of Himself.

God was revealing His lofty, moral grandeur and His awesome holiness in order that Israel might have a fresh and proper start to their lives.

Even now, God would still reveal Himself to us in the same manner, through His Word, the Christian Bible, and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Exodus 19:7-8 [NIV] *“So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. The people all responded together, ‘We will do everything the LORD has said.’ So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.”*

The people promised to obey the Creator God, but as we read, it was only words **not** true surrender to the will of God.

As a result only a handful of that generation actually entered into the Promised Land that God wanted to give to them, [**Deuteronomy 1:19-36**].

Why is it we no longer find any sorrow, any tears of repentance in our church life?

It is because most Christians do **not** get the right start in their Christian life.

We do not begin with a true vision of the awesome God we are to worship.

Psalms 62:11 [King James] *“God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.”*

Power is **not** something that is an attribute of God, God Himself is power.

Any human force that we consider as powerful is nothing in God’s sight.

Consider the great galaxies that blaze throughout the universe.

Consider the mysteries locked in the atoms of which all physical creation is based.

The great God who created all this should bring the human mind to its senses and humble every one of us in worship of such a Being.

We know that the human mind cannot comprehend or encompass the person of God.

We can know what God is **not**, but in this earthly life it is impossible for us to say *“I know what God is.”*

We never can know because God is in a realm entirely different to ours.

John 17:1-5 [King James] *“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”*

Even though we are offered eternal life to have an intimate relationship with our Creator God, [Greek word translated *“know”* indicates an intimate relationship] we will never fully understand the power and the character of the Creator God we worship.

Why did God single out Moses and perform His will through him?

By his own choice Moses was God’s man. Moses chose to be God’s man.

God had made His choice first, but Moses agreed to be God’s man, God’s servant, God’s friend.

Hebrews 11:24-27 [NIV] *“By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be ill-treated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.”*

Moses had forsaken the luxurious courts of the Pharaohs of Egypt. He had put himself in the way of an encounter with the Creator God. He deliberately had chosen spiritual treasures from the hand of God above anything this world could offer.

Material comfort **cannot** insure us against spiritual crises.

Matthew 6:33 [King James] *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

God is looking for us to be different, He is looking for us to forsake the “treasures of Egypt” even as Moses did.

It is God’s plan that we should shake loose from our selfishness and earthliness and deliberately choose to be His man or woman.