



THE STORY OF MOSES

PART 3: THE CALL

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EXODUS 2:23 – 3:10

NIV

²³ During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. ²⁴ God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. ²⁵ So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

EXODUS 2:23 – 3:10

NIV

3 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 wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² 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. ³ So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this strange sight – why the bush does not burn up.'

EXODUS 2:23 – 3:10

NIV

⁴ 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.’ ⁵ ‘Do not come any closer,’ God said. ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.’ ⁶ 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.

EXODUS 2:23 – 3:10

NIV

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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 2:23 – 3:10

NIV

⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.'

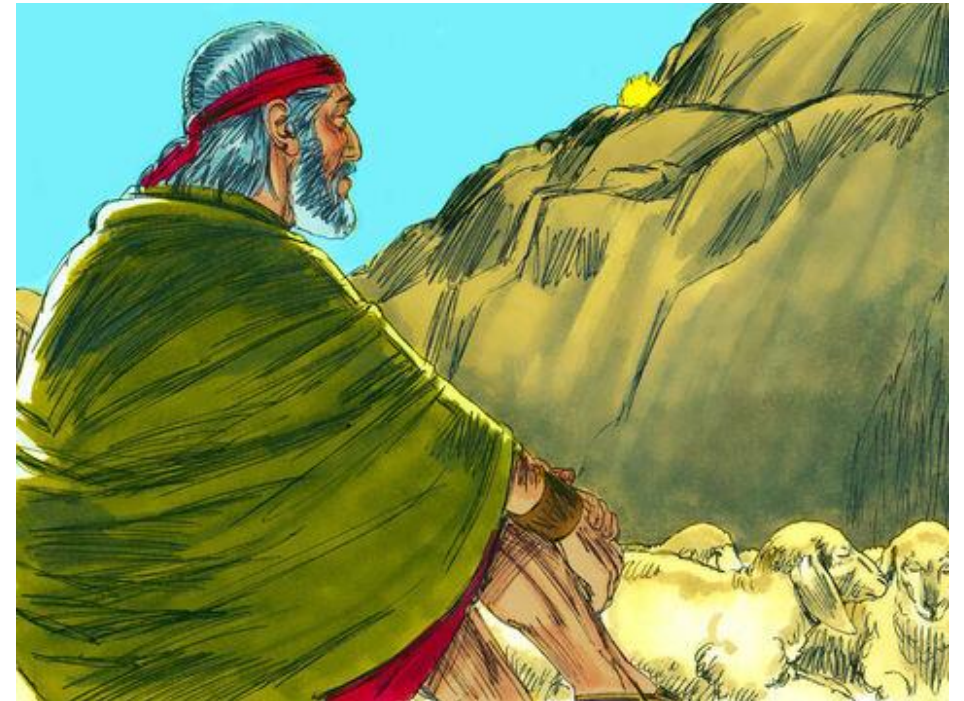
THE CALL

- God gets Moses' attention
- God reveals his plans to Moses
- God calls Moses to participate



GOD GETS MOSES' ATTENTION

- It was just another ordinary working day for Moses looking after Jethro's flock
- God turns up in an ordinary bush



GOD GETS MOSES' ATTENTION

- When God sees he has Moses' attention, he calls out to him.
- What does it take for God to catch our attention?
 - Would we notice something “out of the ordinary”
 - Are we so focused on our own lives that when God steps into our ordinary, we simply walk on by?



GOD GETS MOSES' ATTENTION

- “Moses... Moses..., Yes I’m talking to you; look at me!!”
- Moses responds: “Here I am”.
- Sometimes, that’s all God needs to hear – “I’m listening”
- He has our attention



GOD GETS MOSES' ATTENTION

- God now wants Moses to pay full attention
- Moses approaches God with reverence:
 - He takes off his sandals
 - He hides his face
- How do we approach God?



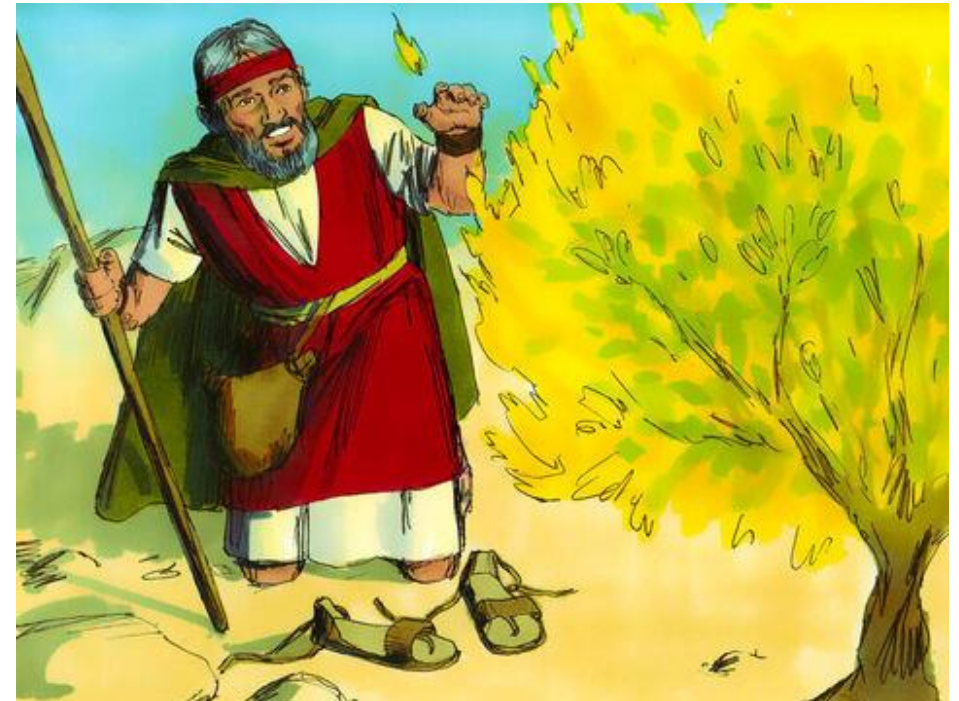
GOD GETS MOSES' ATTENTION

- How do we approach God?
 - “... come boldly to the throne of grace” (Hebrews 4:16)
 - This should not mean casually, half-heartedly or irreverently
 - “... and let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:28-29)
- Do we allow distractions to draw our attention away from God?



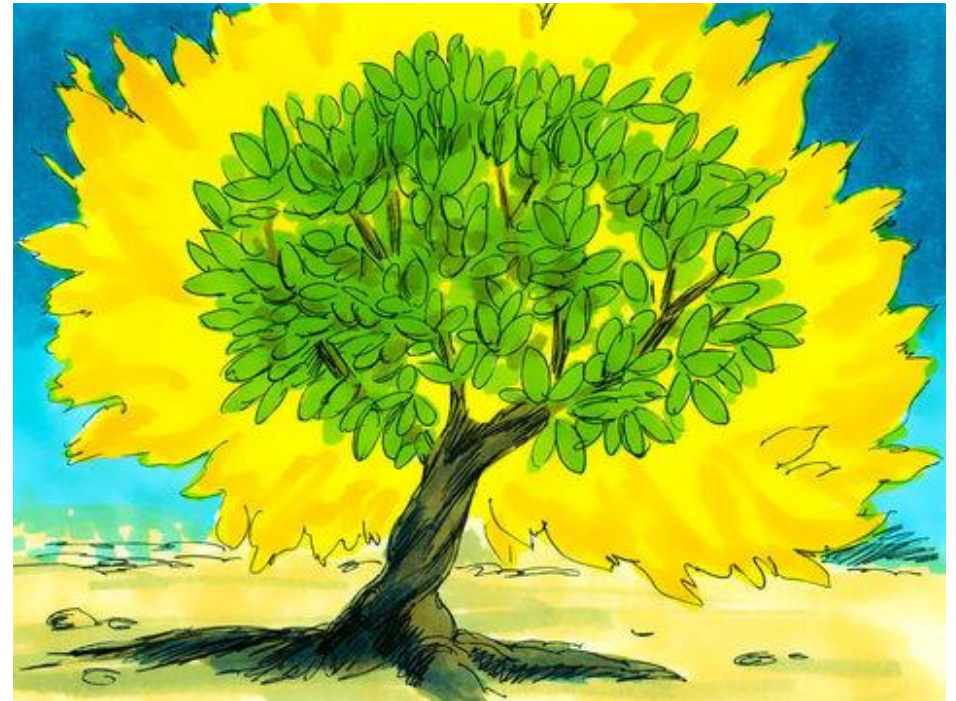
GOD GETS MOSES' ATTENTION

- How ready are we to be interrupted by God?
- How willing are we to give him our full attention?



GOD REVEALS HIS PLANS TO MOSES

- *The Lord said: “I have seen... I have heard... I am concerned” (Exodus 3:7)*
- *God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham (Exodus 2:34)*
- Anthropomorphism



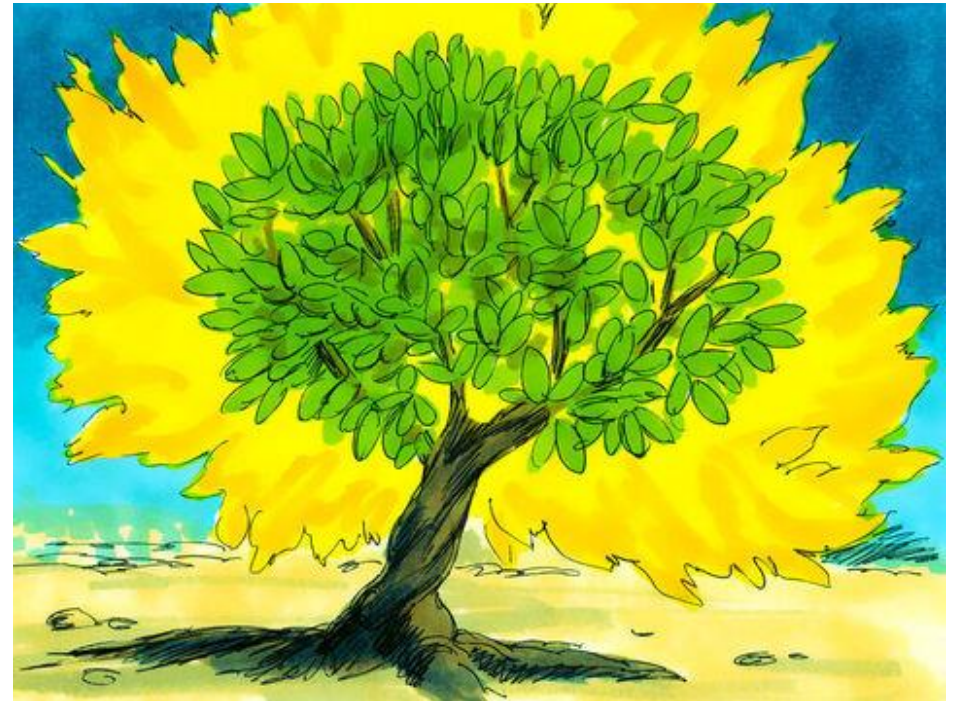
GOD REVEALS HIS PLANS TO MOSES

- When it says God remembers, it does not mean:
 - *“Oh no!! I completely forgot about those people being enslaved in Egypt; I’ve taken my eye off the ball; I’d better do something about it!”*
- God’s people were never out of his sight, but now the time has come for him to respond.



GOD REVEALS HIS PLANS TO MOSES

- *Exodus 3:8 – I have come to rescue them...*
- *This is God's plan; he reveals it to Moses because he wants him to get involved*
- What plans does God have for you and me?



GOD CALLS MOSES TO PARTICIPATE

- *Exodus 3:10* “So now go, I am sending you...”
- Our hearts can rise when we hear the prophetic vision, but then sink when we realise it involves us.



GOD CALLS MOSES TO PARTICIPATE

- When God says “*I will do...*” it will often mean working through you and me
- What is our inclination towards God’s call, to step forward or to step back?



GOD CALLS MOSES TO PARTICIPATE

- Moses hesitation:
 - Who am I?
 - Who are You?
 - What if no-one listens to me?
 - I can't speak
 - Send someone else *



* Did Moses actually say this?

MOSES HESITATION

- Why not read ahead
 - Exodus 3:11 – 4:17

