

## LESSON 2—Exodus Chapters 3 & 4

### **PART A: EXODUS 3; ACTS 7:29-36; Genesis 15: 13-21**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 3:1-6**

A1. What does the JST say for the King James Translation of “angel of the Lord”?

A2. a) The Lord did not speak to Moses until he had “turned aside” from his normal state of attention to his sheep. How did the Lord get Moses’ attention?

b) Many things vie for our attention. How do you turn your attention towards God when you read His word, so that you can have a personal experience with the divine?

A3. a. What made this place “holy ground”?

b) What places are “holy ground” to you?

c) Why was Moses required to remove his shoes, and why is that a good symbol for the proper attitude and actions that we should have on holy ground?

A4. a) How does God identify Himself to Moses?

b) What would this remind Moses of?

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: EXODUS 3:7 – 21**

A5. a) What does the Lord tell Moses is His motivation for acting at this time?

b) What does the Lord tell Moses is His plan of action in verse 10?

A6. Forty years before Moses had been ready to deliver the Israelites. Now he is not so sure.

a. What is Moses’ first protest, in Ex. 3:11-12?

- b. What does this show Moses is focusing on?
- c. How does God refocus Moses' vision at this point?

- A7. a) In verse 13, Moses anticipates a question from the children of Israel. What is it?
- b) Please read Genesis 15:13 and tell how long the Israelites had been living in Egypt.
- c) THOUGHT QUESTION: Why might the children of Israel ask this question of Moses?

A8. God gives Moses two names to identify Himself to the children of Israel, one in verse 14, and one in verse 15. Tell:

God's name from verse 14:

God's name from verse 15:

**Reading Note:** God uses a name or title in this chapter He had used before. It is the name Yaweh, or Jehovah, a form of the verb "Haveh," meaning "to be, or exist." It can be translated by the English, "I AM." We don't know exactly what the name sounded like because Hebrew scribes didn't record vowels, only consonants. God's name had four of them: Y-H-W-H. This is sometimes called the Tetragramaton, meaning "The Four Letters." At some point in history, it was decided to use the vowels from the Hebrew word Lord and put them with the consonants YHWH, resulting in the word "Jehovah." This is not given here as a new name. Moses' mother was Jochabed, which means "Jehovah-is-my-glory." The name Jehovah is found over 160 times in Genesis. God was reminding the children of Israel of who He was and of His dealings with them in the past.

A9. CHALLENGE QUESTION: Look up John 8:58-59. Why did the Jews want to stone Jesus?

A10. THOUGHT QUESTION: "I AM" or "I EXIST" is certainly an intriguing name. What meaning does this have for you as you contemplate it?

A11. Taken in another way, I AM is a kind of "unfinished" name, inviting us to fill in the blanks. So look up the following scriptures and fill in these blanks.

- a) To a person who is struggling in the dark, the name might be (John 8:12)

I AM \_\_\_\_\_.

- b) To a person who needs protection and care, the name might be (John 10:11)

I AM \_\_\_\_\_.

c) To a person who is hungering for spiritual life, the name might be (John 6:35)

I AM \_\_\_\_\_.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading: Genesis 15:13-21**

**A 12.** What does God tell Moses to promise to the elders of Israel that was also promised to Abraham?

A 13. a) The Israelites had served for 400 years in Egypt as slaves, without being paid wages for their labor. How does Moses say this wrong shall be righted and how is this a fulfillment of a prophecy to Abraham?

b) The word "borrow" in verse 22 is a poor translation that has cre1pt into the text. What does the footnote say is an accurate translation of the Hebrew word?

A14. Why does focusing on ourselves never give us a true picture or vision of our possibilities?

**PART B: EXODUS CHAPTER 4**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 4:1-17**

**B1.** a) What is the first protest Moses makes in these verses? Cite verse.

b) How does God answer him?

**B2.** a) What is the second protest Moses makes in these verses? Cite verse.

b) How does God answer him?

**B3.** Verse 13 is difficult, but we see in verse 14 that God was not happy with Moses' request. Some scholars have translated v.13, "Please send someone else more qualified than me." Or "Are you sure you can't find somebody else?" Gone is the "Prince of Egypt" of 40 years before!

a) What deep emotions are being expressed here by Moses do you think?

b) Relate Moses' reluctance here to D&C 1:19. "The weak things of the world shall come forth and break down the mighty and strong ones, that man should not counsel his fellow man, neither trust in the arm of flesh." What is God trying to teach Moses, and us?

**B4.** a.) What are some things we say to ourselves or others when God makes a request of us that are "protests" like the ones in this section? You may give examples from your own life if you want.

b) Considering the answers He gave Moses, what would be the Lord's response to our protests? Or you may answer: How does He provide a means of support to us when He asks hard things of us?

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING: EXODUS 4:18-31 and Exodus 4: 24-27 in the JST APPENDIX.**

**B5.** a. How will Moses establish his authority for demanding that Pharaoh let the people go?

b. What does the Lord say is His relationship to the nation of Israel?

c. Read the bible dictionary (page 675) and list 3 standard elements of being “the firstborn.”

d. There must be something about being “firstborn” that *doesn't* come from being born first, because in the Old Testament God identifies two men as firstborn, neither of whom were born first. (Ex 4:22=about Israel (or Jacob, same man) & Genesis 48:14 & Jeremiah 31:9=about Ephraim) Underline which of the following best sums up the meaning of being “firstborn” in your opinion?

A. The father's favorite son.

B. The son who will carry on the father's work.

C. The most talented son.

e. Explain why you chose what you did?

**10. CHALLENGE:** How could the entire nation of Israel be called the Lord's firstborn?

**11. Extra Credit:** ☺ Look up “church of the firstborn” and read several scriptures that contain this phrase. What do we have to do to belong to this church?

**12.** After reading the JST of Exodus 4:24-27...

a) What had Moses neglected to do? And how did his wife save his life?

b) What were Zipporah's apparent feelings about having to circumcise her sons?

c) What are some possible reasons Moses might have gotten into this predicament? (There is no definitive answer. Talk about what you know of human nature.)

**13.** What was the reaction of the children of Israel when they saw the power and calling of Moses and Aaron?

**14.** What life lessons did you take away from this reading?