

God's Rescue Squad

Proverbs 24:10-12

10 If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.

11 RESCUE those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.

12 If you say, "Behold, we did not know this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?

Exodus 3 & 4:1-13

1. 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.

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."

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.

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.

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."

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 by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation."

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 desert 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 favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed.

22. Every woman is to ask her neighbor 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."

Exodus 4

1. Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?"

2. Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied.

3. The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it.
4. Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.
5. "This," said the LORD, "is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has appeared to you."
6. Then the LORD said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was leprous, like snow.
7. "Now put it back into your cloak," he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.
8. Then the LORD said, "If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first miraculous sign, they may believe the second."
9. But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground."
10. Moses said to the LORD, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."
11. The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"
12. Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."
13. But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."

I. The Divine Appointment

Exodus 3:2 - 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.

- 1. The burning bush represents the Nation of Israel.*
- 2. The burning bush represents God Himself.*

Deut. 33:16 says that God Himself dwelt in this bush.

Exodus 3:2 says 'the angel of the Lord', I believe this refers to a Christophany: an OT appearance of Jesus.

Heb. 12:29 says "our God is a consuming fire."

3. The burning bush represents Moses himself.

Exodus 3:6 says Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

V. 5 points out that he took off his shoes...an act of humility.

That's a guy God can use!

In v. 4 Moses said, "Here I am."

John 16:28 - I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and GOING TO THE FATHER."

So how do we take our shoes off in His presence?

Through embracing humility, the vulnerability of trusting him, honoring His authority and spending time fellowshiping with Him!

Romans 10:15 - And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Preach the good news = (yoo-ang-ghel-id'-zo) Evangelize

Interestingly, the word or phrase, when translated in English, that the "Evangelist" or messenger would use in Jesus' day was "Tetelestai"!

John 19:30 - When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished" (Tetelestai) and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Tetelestai carries two meanings...

1. It is finished!

2. The debt has been paid in full!

Romans 10:14–15

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the FEET of those who preach the good news!"

II. The Divine Announcement

Exodus 3:6 - Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob."

God is always looking to make himself known to the His rescuers!

Exodus 3:7 - 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.

Exodus 3:8a - "So I have come down to rescue them."

Rom. 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

III. The Divine Assignment

1. In vs. 11, Moses is saying "I have no ability"

Exodus 3:11 - But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

vs. 12 "I will be with you."

Where God guides, He provides; where He directs, He protects; where He sends, He extends!

Philippians 4:13 - I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

2. In vs. 13, Moses is saying, "I have no message"

Exodus 3:13 - 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?"

vs. 14 God says, "I AM" your message!

"I AM" is the most potent name of God there is!

The eternally existent one, past, present, and future.

3. In Exodus 4:1, Moses is saying, "I have no authority"—

Exodus 4:1 - Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?"

Exodus 4:2 - Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied.

Just put what little you have in your hand into God's hands and watch what HE can do with it!

Exodus 4:3-4 - The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.

Matthew 28:18-19 - Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing 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, to the very end of the age."

4. Moses was saying in 4:10 "I have no eloquence"

Exodus 4:10 - Moses said to the LORD, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

Did he stutter?

Was he not a people person?

Acts 7:22 says he was mighty in word and deed!

In vs. 12 God is saying, "I made your mouth and I can fill it when the time comes!"

5. Moses was saying in 4:13, "I have no desire"

Exodus 4:13 - But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."

Philippians 2:13 - for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Exodus 4:29-31 - Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.