

School of the Desert

Message 2

God Knows

Exodus 2:15-3:15 *When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.*

16 *Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.*

17 *The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock.*

18 *When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come home so soon today?"*

19 *They said, "An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock."*

20 *He said to his daughters, "Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread."*

21 *And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah.*

22 *She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land."*

23 *During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God.*

24 *And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.*

25 *God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.*

1 *Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.*

2 *And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.*

3 *And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."*

4 When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

5 Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

6 And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,

8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

9 And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

10 Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

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

12 He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

15 God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: '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, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

21 And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, **22**but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing.

You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.”

Opening Statement; Sometimes the Lord needs to remove us from what we know and expect, to prepare us for a greater work.

This is where the 'backside of the desert' comes in, that strategic and sometimes obscure place where the Lord places us to prune us.

Exodus 3:1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

For Your Consideration:

I. Moses Story

Moses went from humble beginnings to privilege, prestige and power:

- **His birth (Ex.2:2)**
- **His upbringing (Ex.2:3-10)**
- **His mistake (Ex.2:11-12)**
- **His flight (Ex.2:13-15)**

...Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well. Ex.2:15b (the well represents refreshment)

There was so much that the Lord needed to do in Moses before he was able to undertake the task set before him.

Moses still looked like,

smelled like,

spoke like

and behaved like an Egyptian

Because he was recognized as an Egyptian by Jethro's daughters...***And they said, an Egyptian delivered us out of the hands of the shepherds...Ex.2:19a***

So, there was a need for Moses to enter a time of renewal and solitude where God could deal with him one on one.

What Moses needed to learn could not be taught in the palaces of Egypt-he needed 'the backside of the desert'.

It would take 40 years to get Egypt out of Moses.

II. Then, Backside life

...and he led the flock to the backside of the desert...Ex.3:1

What is the backside of the desert?

Where God Strategically Places Us In Order To Prepare Us For His Work.

It is a place of:

- **refreshment** (typified by the well he sat down by)
- **preparation** (make ready for a task)
- **pruning** (trim by cutting away dead or unwanted parts)
- **solitude/obscurity** (aloneness not loneliness)
- **development** (build up; enlarge; make usable or profitable)
- **lowliness** (Moses went from royalty to shepherding)
- **growth** (The kind of growth only God can produce)
- **instruction** (lessons will be taught and learned)
- **transition** (the passage from one state or stage to another)

III. What does backside living teach us:

- **patience** (wait on God for needs)
- **reliance** (all reliance on self, taken away, He is the source of all)
- **trust** (all faith is to be in Him)
- **humility** (soaring means to start on the ground)



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IV. On the Backside

Never forget that not only is the desert a place that God takes us to alter us, but it is also a place where death greets the stubborn, unyielding and disobedient.

We must be careful not to meddle with, frustrate or challenge the will and workings of the Lord during this time-because of this 'dark side' to the backside.

The devil will be busy there.

He will attempt to bring:

- **doubt**
- **confusion**
- **opposition**
- **persecution**
- **oppression**
- **temptation**

V. There is a Mountain on the Backside

...and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. Ex.3:1b

With all that is taking place on the backside, there is still more; because on the backside there is a mountain (thank God for the mountain!)-the mountain of God.

There I will find:

- **revelation from God**
- **assurance from God** (His promises)
- **my purpose in God**
- **the power of God**
- **peace of God** (that results from doing and being what He wants me to be)

God caused this place of 'waste' and 'desolation' (the meaning of Horeb), to be a place of holiness.

Our role in this entire process, however long it may take is simple, but it will not be easy.

Submissiveness and obedience are what is necessary.

The problem is that we think we know what's best; we constantly want our own way.

Through it all, God will be there.

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