

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Fifteen

GOD CALLED MOSES (2)

(Exo. 2:11-15, 23-25; 3:1-8; 4:29-31)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how after 40 years of training in Pharaoh's palace Moses, the prince of Egypt, intended to deliver the Hebrews from bondage and failed. Then, after 40 more years of "training" in the wilderness as a simple shepherd, disappointed and rejected, God appeared to Moses and called him. God appeared to Moses in a flame of fire in the midst of a worthless thorn bush. The bush burned yet it was not consumed (burned up entirely). So also, God wanted to express His glory and power in Moses' life. In himself, Moses was nothing, an ordinary "thorn bush." But God called him so that He could shine out of Moses and use him to accomplish a great task: to deliver His people from the Egyptian slavery and bring them into the good land of Canaan.

Memory Verse: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us" (2 Corinthians 4:7).

Facts to Teach:

1. When Moses was grown up, at forty years of age, he felt sympathetic toward his brothers, the Hebrews, who were being abused as slaves by the Egyptians.

② One day Moses saw an Egyptian mistreating a Hebrew. Infuriated, Moses came to the Hebrew's rescue and killed the Egyptian. Although Moses hid the dead body in the sand, the news spread to all around, even to Pharaoh.

3. So after forty years in Pharaoh's luxurious palace, now Moses had to flee from Pharaoh to the barren wilderness to save his life. Almost overnight the powerful Egyptian prince had become a terrified fugitive. It seemed as if Moses' highest dream, to deliver his Hebrew brothers from the cruel Egyptian slavery, had turned into a nightmare.

4. Although God had chosen Moses to deliver His two million people, the Hebrews, from Egyptian slavery, and had arranged for him to "learn all the wisdom of the Egyptians," even becoming "mighty in word and deed" (Acts 7:22), God could not yet use him to carry out the great task that was ahead. Moses still needed more preparation.

5. Moses spent the next forty years of his disappointed life as a simple shepherd in the wilderness. He did not even have a flock to call his own; he shepherded his father-in-law's flock. From a palace to a wilderness, from a scepter to a staff. All of Moses' power, pride, and natural strength withered away.

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Lesson Fifteen (Continued)

6. God's calling, however, never changes. When the right time came, when God's people cried to Him for relief, He appeared to Moses for the first time in his life and called him.

7. One day Moses saw a worthless thorn bush aflame in the desert; not an uncommon sight. But the bush burned with fire and yet was not consumed! When the Lord saw Moses turn aside to see, out of that glorious burning bush God called Moses by name.

8. Now that Moses' self-confidence and natural strength had withered away, God appeared to Him in His bright glory to call Him, infuse him with Himself, and use him for His great purpose.

9. God then revealed His two-fold intention to Moses concerning the children of Israel:

- a. to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians.
- b. to bring them into the good land of Canaan that flows with milk and honey so that they could serve the Lord.

10. When Moses and his brother Aaron gathered the elders of Israel together and told them all the words the Lord had spoken to them and did signs in their midst, the people believed, bowed their heads, and worshipped (Exo. 4:29-31).

- When they were slaves in Egypt they could not sense the Lord in a free way.
- Moses wandered for 40 years in the wilderness so that God can break him down.