

**Monday, 26 February 2018** Exodus 3:4-6

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

A burning bush which was not consumed. That alone was very startling to a shepherd, even one who had been a prince of Egypt. I'm quite sure that each of us has supervised a bonfire with the intent to make sure it was fully consumed. This was certainly different. But it was the voice, the voice of the LORD, God the Almighty, emanating from the fire. Not a gentle, soft voice, but a voice that immediately demanded attention. A voice that thundered, "I am the God of your father..." And Moses was afraid to look upon God. A stomach churning, heart-stopping fright; a life-transforming fright that was the beginning of the transformation from shepherd to leader and emancipator of his people.

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**Tuesday, 27 February 2018** Exodus 4:10-14

*But Moses said to the LORD, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.*

Look at that first hi-lighted sentence. Is it an early form of "Say the Sinner's Prayer, and I'll meet you at the pearly gates?" Or, I'll acknowledge you as Lord, but don't ask me to participate in the work that needs to be done.

Did Moses realize Who's anger he had kindled? Was his fright a skin-deep emotion rather than a life-transforming

event? Did he understand that the blessing of being the LORD's spokesperson had just been given to his brother? Do I need to examine my walk before the LORD, God, the Almighty using the same criteria?

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**Wednesday, 28 February 2018** Exodus 5:22-23

*Then Moses turned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all."*

Moses was not a good listener. In Ex. 4:21-23 the LORD told Moses that he was going to be equipped with multiple miracles to demonstrate the LORD's power, that Pharaoh would harden his heart and refuse to release Israel and that Pharaoh's oldest son would be forfeited for his refusal. In one ear and out the other. And Moses had the temerity to accuse the LORD of going back on His word.

How often do we tell God that He has not followed through on His promise to provide for all our needs? Sometimes, Moses was a piker when it comes to demonstrating impatience with the LORD.

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**Thursday, 1 March 2018** Exodus 6:1-3

*But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land." God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them.*

In Exodus 3:14 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.'"

The LORD reveals the special status that has been given to Moses. He is the first with whom the Name of the LORD, God, the Almighty has been shared. He was the first, the forerunner of that great cloud of witnesses in Heb 11:1-12:1. And we, the saints called to the Name of the LORD, God, the Almighty follow in his footsteps.

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**Friday, 2 March 2018** Exodus 11:1

*The LORD said to Moses, "Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely.*

The Denouement, the final step in the redemption of the LORD's people from bondage in Egypt. The LORD announces the ransom: Egypt's firstborn, for His firstborn, Israel. We also are given a hint that He will give His only begotten Son for the ransom of His people from bondage to Satan.

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**Saturday, 3 March 2018** Exodus 12:31-32

*Then he (Pharaoh) summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said. Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!"*

Almost the end. Pharaoh, who had trouble making a decision and sticking with it, ejects Israel at the end of the 400 years that had been prophesied in Genesis 15:13-14. Not only was the timing fulfilled, but judgment was brought upon Egypt and the Israelites impoverished the Egyptians, Ex 11:2-3.

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**Lord's Day, 4 March 2018** Psalm 119:7

*I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules.*

Does not this indicate that as I learn Your righteous rules, my heart turns to praise at their beauty and comprehensiveness? There is beauty in perfection and my heart is in awe of that beauty.

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Realizing the presence, promise and power of the Kingdom of God.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*February 26-March 4, 2018*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Philippians 1:9-11**

*And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.*

Another one of Paul's prayers that is a pristine jewel and complete as it stands.

LORD, may I use this prayer as the basis for my prayers for my brothers and sisters this week.

May the love of the [Congregation] abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that we may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

***To fear or not to fear, that is the question.***

The fear of the Lord, an expression that occurs many times in Scripture, 142 in the ESV in various forms, is not well understood in the Church today. For many, the phrase represents a weak and flabby description of an overly saccharine spiritual being of some sort. It certainly does not include the concept of the LORD, God the Almighty who spoke all things into being and who controls all things.

Join with me in examining the fear of the LORD and seeking an understanding of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now as guided by that fear. I have chosen to take an introductory look at the subject through the lens of the life of Moses.