

Sermon Notes

Exodus – The Revealing of God’s Glory and His Design for the Chosen

“A Funny Thing Happened While Doing Nothing in the Wilderness”
– Exodus 3:1-7

I. Introduction

A. Literary analysis – Chapters one and two.

1. Why did Moses include the story about his early life?

- a. Moses is communicating to the original audience – the first and second generations that will be leaving Egypt – he is one of them.
- b. First two chapters cover 400 years.

B. Today’s text: Exodus 3:1-7

II. Exposition

A. Verse 1 – Moses identified as a shepherd.

1. Remember Egyptians despised shepherds – Gen. 46:34.
 - a. Hyksos connection.
 - b. Moses appears as a tragic figure at this point.

2. Jethro, verse 1.

- a. Called Reuel in Chapter Two.

3. Horeb, verse 1.

- a. Interchangeable with Sinai.

B. Verse 2.

1. “Angel of the Lord.”
 - a. Theophany or Christophany.
 - b. The phrase occurs many times in Genesis – Genesis 21:7; 22:11-12.
 - c. Calvin.

2. Blazing fire from the midst of a bush.
 - a. Hebrew sentence construction.
 - b. Fire is a sign of God’s presence in this book.
 1. Exodus 13:21; 14:24; 19:18; 24:17.
 2. Moses would later write Deuteronomy 4:24.
 - c. This miracle points to God’s self-sufficiency.
 1. Hebrews 1:2-3; Colossians 1:16a, 17.
 - d. The Hebrew construction is emphatic regarding Moses’ determination to see this bush up close.

C. Verse 4.

1. Messenger does not speak for God, but as God.
2. *Yahweh* and *Elohim* are used.
3. Repetition of name – Moses, Moses – used for emphasis.
 - a. Genesis 22:11; 46:2.

D. Verse 5.

1. Holy ground.
 - a. *Qudesh* – First use of term since Genesis 2:3 and the setting aside of the seventh day.
2. Holiness causes separation – see Isaiah 6.
 - a. Throughout Exodus, it is emphasized that approaching God may not be done casually.
 - b. Application to today.

E. Verse 6

1. God of your father.
 - a. Ryken.
 - b. Jesus used this construct to prove the resurrection of the dead to the Sadducees – Matthew 22:31-32.

III. Points for Reflection

- A. What seems like doing nothing in the wilderness is never nothing to God.
- B. Israel’s bondage is a picture of our slavery to sin.