

The Back Side of the Desert

Exodus 2:21 – 3:8

~ Redemption is the theological topic that we just do not hear anything about today. Redemption simply is not taught anymore - anywhere. Well, we're going to learn about redemption in this report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. We're going to learn that redemption is, by far, the single most important issue in our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. Exodus teaches redemption. That is the theological subject of this book of the Bible. As we begin today, Moses has been brought up in the court of Pharaoh. There was a childless queen on the throne at this time, so we know Moses was successor to be Pharaoh in Egypt; except Moses had that pesky little first-degree murder on his hands. When they added Moses to the ten most wanted list in Egypt, he took off across the desert as fast as he could. I seriously doubt Moses was trusting in his redemption.

Some historians believe Moses led a campaign through Ethiopia at this time; and that would not have been pretty. We know Moses was an incredibly smart man; schooled at the Temple of the Sun. We saw all of that in our previous report. I always suggest we begin Exodus at page one, by the way – if you haven't been with us to experience the wonders of Exodus in our last two reports. The engineering marvels in their temples, palaces and pyramids; the colors that have lasted thousands of years without fading - it's all a testament to an understanding of science, technology and education far superior to that which man possesses today, friends. To deny that is absurd! Ancient Egyptian chemistry and embalming were, hands down, beyond our contemporary knowledge. Their literature is amongst the best in the world. Those are just basic facts of ancient Egyptian culture.

This is where Moses was educated and trained; however, none of that experience equipped Moses to serve God. So, to equip Moses to serve Him, God set him out there in the desert in Midian. There was, what you might call, a Mosaic lifestyle adjustment. To successfully move from the palace to the backside of the desert takes extreme adaptability. This is when Moses

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meets a woman and falls in love, too. I always wondered why we don't hear more about Zipporah. Tragically, if we closely examine the account that we have been provided of this marriage, it reveals a very troubled relationship. I suppose a fugitive on the run who goes on a crusade across the mid-east dampens marriages, I do not know. I am assuming this marriage was not the best marriage ever because that's what the record leads me to believe....

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21 And Moses was content to dwell with the Priest of Midian: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter.

22 And she bare him a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land.

~ Remember, in our last report we learned that Moses will be the deliverer of Israel. The reason for that deliverance is revealed in this section of Scripture. Israel was NOT some great and wonderful people that worshipped God and abstained from idolatry. Israel did NOT really serve God at any time during their history; they were NOT faithful to Him. As soon as they get out in the wilderness and Moses gets out of site, they will immediately start making a golden calf! They were totally out of the will of God in slavery in Egypt, too. As a result, they are helpless and hopeless. They are in a position where, unless someone rescues them – they're through as a people. Well, God redeemed them – and God redeemed them for two reasons....

23 Because it came to pass in process of time that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

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

~ God heard them cry out to Him in their helplessness and utterly hopeless condition. That is the ONLY thing that appealed to God about these people

at this time. God saw their hurting and He had compassion. God didn't have to have compassion. He could have turned His back and walked away - and He would have been totally justified in doing so. God had made a covenant; but that covenant has been broken – but not by Him – by THEM! Well, God had said to Abraham He WILL do this thing and bring them into the land; so that's exactly what He is going to do.

Why in the world do you think God has redeemed YOU, my beloved – that is, if you ARE redeemed? Honestly, because I always am honest with you dear readers, I can't think of one good reason why God would redeem ME! God finds NOTHING in us that calls for redemption – nothing within us is worthy of salvation! God makes that crystal clear in Scripture. "NONE are righteous; NONE seek after God and ALL have gone astray. We've all sinned and come short of the glory of God. We are justified without any cause." Jesus said, "they hated Me without a cause." Same word; you and I are justified without a cause.

The reason for our justification is not within us. God doesn't look at you and say, "gee, you're a nice looking fellow and you take a bath. You don't drink and you don't smoke, you're pretty good; I think I'll redeem you." In fact, it's the exact reverse of that. In the blackness of darkness there is sin and ignorance; ignorance of what? – Ignorance of the Word of God. God sees you as dead in trespasses and sins if you haven't been born again. The Bible says, "... through His grace we have redemption in Christ Jesus." God didn't redeem us because He loved us. He made a way for us to be saved because He loved us. There is only one way and that way is the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other basis for our redemption.

Some mistakenly believe that after they are converted and get saved, they become a lovely person. The Bible says, "NONE!" Does that include you or not? Paul said that he knew that in his flesh dwelleth no good thing. Do you believe God when He says there is no good in you at all? Is it offensive to you? I am certainly not writing these reports to win a man of the year award. This message is a shoe that seems one size too small – it pinches. That's why we never hear about redemption anymore. To think there is no good in us is distastefully difficult doctrine. So, God gives us a new nature

when we are born again; but that new nature is STILL powerless and ineffective without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. God never intends to reform the old nature, either. In fact, God says all flesh will go in the ground and rot. This is what caused God to come down to our level and deliver these people at this time, friends. This is what's real. God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. The only way to God is through the Lord Jesus Christ.

By the way, God didn't seem fit to consult me on this plan of His – and He's not interested in what you think about it, either. God says, "this is My way – and it's the only way." We take it or we leave it. If you'll trust Christ, He'll save you. The modern, liberal university and theological seminary teach this is not the way – in fact, they simply do not teach it. God is wonderful to save us. We are so small in this infinite universe. If God let us simply be lost without hope, He would lose His credibility. We would not lose credibility because we don't have any to begin with. I don't see that happening; and this understanding is very comforting to my soul. I hope it is to yours, too. Well, God has physically demonstrated His love to me – I hope you can say the same? ~

25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

III

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.

2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

~ All credible fundamental conservative theologians and Bible scholars hold the position that the burning bush is representative of the nation Israel. Israel has lived and survived in the fire continuously, and they're in it today. Down through the ages this has been the experience of Israel. As the

burning bush – they have never been consumed. Other great nations that have never experienced any of the fiery trials that Israel has experienced have come and gone – mostly gone! The Angel of the Lord in the burning bush is the Lord Jesus Christ! This is a non-negotiable tenet of Scriptural fact on this safari. People have certain convictions and I have mine. I just do not debate those convictions. Some people want to debate whether two plus two equals four. I don't. I was taught it in school, and I accepted it as fact; the supposition has always worked out well for me using that formula - so we're going to use THIS formula because it is a Biblical formula. Here is the answer: every single time we see the "Angel of the Lord" in the Old Testament – we see the pre-incarnate Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man! If you haven't come to that point in your life, then it's time you do....

3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

4 And when the LORD JESUS CHRIST saw that he turned aside to see, God – the Angel of the Lord – the pre-incarnate Christ – the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of Man and the Son of God - called unto Moses out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And Moses said, Here am I.

5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy 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 upon God.

7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and

the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivite, and the Jebusites.

~ When God first called Moses, Moses didn't even know enough to take off his shoes! So many people are learned in the wisdom of this world today and yet they are completely ignorant of the Word of God. They trample Holy ground underfoot and talk incessantly about the Bible; but they have no idea what the message is or Who it is about. They always think it is about them. They never get to a cohesive point in their conversation – because it's all me, myself and I. The very first encounter Moses had with God – God's very first words to Moses - was a rebuke of Moses to take off his shoes. This is a Holy lesson in which God reveals exactly how patient He really is with us, friends.

In verse six we are told that Moses was afraid to look upon God; and that means Moses was afraid to look upon the REVELATION of God. When Christ was on this earth He was veiled in human flesh. No man hath seen God at any time; another, non-negotiable safari fact, by the way. We'll go into that in detail and ad infinitum at the appropriate time in our expedition through the entire Word of God. Here, the point is: the only begotten Son in the bosom of the Father exegetes this by leading Christ out into the open where we can know God today. The only way you can know our Father in Heaven is through belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other way. God says so.

Further, God does not redeem us FROM anything; whatever you may think you are "saved from" shouldn't even be part of your thinking - because it should be permanently gone from your life. If not, then something is radically wrong with your relationship to Christ. No, friends, we are redeemed UNTO the Lord Jesus Christ; that is how we are saved from sin unto Heaven and unto holiness. It's important to sort that out in your thinking. This is about HIM – NOT you! We aren't separated from the world – at least – I'm not. I'm right here – I promise you I am very real in the world. That is sanctification. Sanctification means we are set aside for His Holy use. Alright, our Spiritual Safari is going into the redemption of God's chosen children from here. Israel, we see, is in abject slavery down in the land of Egypt; that is, slavery to sin. They are waiting for Moses. Moses will

lead our way now because in front of him goes the Holy Spirit of God
Almighty ~

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