



One day, Moses was tending Jethro's flock. Remember that Jethro is his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. Moses led the flock to the back of the desert, to Mount Horeb, known as the mountain of God. The Angel of the Lord appeared in a flame of fire from the middle of a bush. Moses noticed that the bush was on fire, but the bush was not burning. Moses said, "I must go and see why the bush does not burn to ash."

When the Lord saw that Moses turned to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" Moses said, "Here I am." God said, "Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, because the place where you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look upon God.



The Lord said, "I have seen the suffering of My people in Egypt, and I have heard them cry because of how their taskmasters treat them. I know of their sorrows. I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them to a land flowing with milk and honey to a good and large land. Come now and I will send you to Pharaoh so that you can bring My people out of Egypt."

Moses asked God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring all of the children of Israel out of Egypt?" God said, "I will be with you. Do as I ask and you will know that I have sent you. When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you all will serve God on this mountain."



Moses said to God, "Really, when I go to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?', what shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said, "This is what you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Tell them 'The Lord 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 this is My memorial to all generations.' Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, 'I have visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt, and I will bring you out of the affliction of Egypt to a land flowing with milk and honey.' ' Then they will listen to your voice, and you will go to Pharaoh, with the elders of Israel and you shall tell him, 'The Lord God of the Hebrews has met with us and now, please, let us go three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.' But I am sure that Pharaoh will not let you go, not even by a mighty hand. So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do so that all may see, and after that he will let you go. I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. When you go, you shall not go empty-handed. Every woman shall ask her neighbor for articles of gold, and clothing and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. This is how you shall take riches from the Egyptians.

Moses asked, "What if they will not believe me or listen to my voice? Suppose they say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you.' "

The Lord asked him, "What is that in your hand?" Moses said, "A rod."

The Lord said, "Cast it on the ground." Moses dropped it on the ground, and it became a live serpent. It startled Moses and he backed away from it. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." When Moses reached out and caught it, it became a rod again. The Lord said, "Do this so that they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

Next, the Lord said to Moses, "Now put your hand in your bosom." Moses put his hand in his bosom and when he took it out, his hand was leprous, like snow. The Lord said, "Put your hand in your bosom again." Moses put his hand in his bosom again, and when he took it out, it was restored, normal again.

God said, "If they still do not believe you, take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. The water will become blood."



Moses was confident of what the Lord could do with the right person. He was not sure he was that right person. Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I have never been an eloquent speaker, even now, since You have spoken to Your servant. I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."



The Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Isn't it I, the Lord? Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

But Moses said, "O my Lord, please send someone else."

The Lord became angry with Moses. Moses could hear it in the Lord's voice when He said, "Isn't Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. He is coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. You will speak to him and tell him what he shall say. I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you will do. Aaron will be your spokesman to the people. As he speaks for you, you shall be to him as God. And you will take this rod in your hand and use it to do the signs."

Moses knew that he had to do as the Lord required. When Moses returned to Jethro, his father-in-law, he said to him, "Please let me go and return to my brethren in Egypt and see whether they are still alive." Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace."

The Lord told Moses, while he was still in Midian, "It is safe for you to return to Egypt. All the men who sought your life are dead." Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he started his return to the land of Egypt with the rod of God in his hand.

The Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. I want you to know that I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, I will kill your son, your firstborn." ' "

On his way to Egypt, at the encampment, the Lord met Moses and reminded him of the covenant He made with Abraham, saying, "The uncircumcised male child shall be cut off from his people. He has broken My covenant." This was serious enough that the Lord would have taken the life of Moses' son.

Moses told Zipporah what had to be done. Zipporah became very angry with Moses, but she did as she was asked. Zipporah took a sharp stone and circumcised her son and said, "Surely you are a husband of blood to me!"—because of the circumcision. So the Lord let him go.



The Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." Without hesitation, he went and met Moses on the mountain of God. He was very happy to see Moses again. Moses told Aaron everything the Lord wanted said and all the signs the Lord wanted shone. Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered all the elders of the children of Israel. Aaron said everything the Lord had spoken to Moses. Moses did the signs in the sight of the people. So the people believed and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel, and that He had looked on their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

