

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023  
Pinecrest Baptist Church  
a.m.

Sermon Series: Delivered; Rescued from Bondage  
Sermon #2 Title: The Maker, the Matter, and the Moment  
Sermon #2 Text: (Exodus 3:4-10)

Some years ago, an article appeared in the Chicago Daily News. – stating – “The fact that the Standard Oil Company discovered oil and is operating wells in Egypt is generally known but the reason for its going to that ancient land to look for oil is probably not so well known.

It is asserted that one of the directors of the company happened to read the second chapter of Exodus. The third verse caught his attention. It states that the ark of bulrushes which the mother of Moses made for her child was “daubed with slime and with pitch.”

This gentleman reasoned that where there was pitch, there must be oil, and if there was oil in Moses’ time it is probably still there. So the company sent out Charles Whitshott, its geologist and oil expert, to make investigations, with the result that oil was discovered.”

Friend, God has been using Moses for Millennium to bless this world.

We are studying the story of two men, and two nations. Moses and Pharaoh; Israel and Egypt. – God will bless one, and blast the other one. God will bring one nation to redemption, and the other nation to ruin.

These events of Exodus bring us into times God dealt with individual men; and God dealt corporately with nations.

We pick up this morning, on the backside of a Midianite Mountain, near a scrub brush, where God has taken up residence in His divine fire, and has interrupted the life of a mediocre shepherd.

## I. The Meeting with The Maker – vs 4-6

**A. When the Lord Spoke** – “when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush...”

*\*Note – There are two words in this verse that show us the actions of the movement of God:*

1.) “The LORD saw”

2.) “God called”

*\*Note – No man can ever make God speak . . . but neither can any man keep God from speaking. That being said the very most any man, any woman can do in order to hear from the Lord is to be in a condition that becomes aware of His attention.*

*\*Note – Here are two important aspects of God tied together in one verse. LORD – Jehovah – that’s His Name. God – Elohim that His Sovereignty. – The God of all Gods.*

*\*Note – Note this - The God of God’s, the Lord Jesus, is intently watching how Moses responds to that which he cannot explain!*

(We need not make too much of it, but there is enough here to at least mention the fact that what Moses could not

explain, he would not deny, and would give attention to learn.)

- Here is an honest man, willing to understand the honest truth.

**B. What the Lord Said** – “Moses, Moses...draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground...Moreover He said, “I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob...”

\*Note – When Moses gave God His attention, God gave Moses His Word.

\*Note – Now note this - while the angel of the Lord appeared in the flame of the bush, it was the voice of God Himself that spoke to Moses.

- It was God that called!

#1 – He Spoke to Moses – **Individually** – “Moses, Moses”

\*Note – *Not everything God has to say is for everybody. – These is a particular message for a particular person and never to be taken as though God is saying the same thing to you that He said to him.*

\*note – Now what do we note about this?

**(1) – He Validated Moses Place** - He used his Egyptian name. – We have no idea what Amram and Jochabed named him when he was born.

- There is a lot to consider in that fact:

- God validated the history of Moses life

(If Moses were a thinking man, he would have understood that all he had been through

from an infant to this point, had been clearly known and observed by the Sovereign God.)

**(2) – He Demonstrated His Own Pace** – Moses, Moses

\*note – All the Hebrew scholars tell us that in the Jewish writings a repeated phrase or name speaks to weight, or intensity, or urgency of the matter.

(Now note we did not say “Emergency” – but rather a sense of move now!)

- Now someone may say, “if it’s that urgent, why did God step in so late – why didn’t He start sooner?”

- Know this – God’s not just interested in the “timing” of the things in your life – but the PACE in which He wants you to be moving.

- God validated the present circumstances Moses was in. – He could have come to Moses at any time in the last 80 years, yet did not. By His Sovereign wisdom, God let Moses life unfold as it had from the very beginning.

\*Note – Now know this – that is intended to be a comfort, not an aggravation.

- When God moves on His time, don’t ever question why He didn’t act sooner. – He is precise. Your pace is as important to the Lord, as the timing by which He moves.

- Go back to the Olivet Discourse when Jesus warned the disciples about the coming Abomination of Desolation in Matthew 24:15-16 – **“When ye therefore shall see the**

*abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:"*

- He didn't say just go ahead and start moving to the mountains now. There is not a hurry now – but there will be then.

- Do you remember when the disciple asked Jesus standing in the sunshine on that beautiful ascension-day on the Mount of Olives about the restoration of the kingdom of Israel? – The answer Jesus gave applies to far more than that subject...

He said – *"It is not for you to know the times or the seasons that the Father hath put in His own power."* – Acts 1:7

\*Note – One of the fundamental elements of trusting the Lord is accepting both His timing of events, and His pace with which He sets.

- All of that being said – He spoke to Moses Individually at the moment of His choosing, with the pace of His decision.

#2 – He Spoke to Moses – **Instructionally** – "draw not nigh hither, put off thy shoes from off thy feet...you are on holy ground"

\*Note – Once He saw Moses give God His attention, God told Him how He could approach!

\*Note – No man has ever come to God on his own terms – and No man has ever come to God without divine Permission!

(Here is one reason that we often preach about being in "praying condition" or "standing on praying ground" – God is

not obligated to hear any man speak, nor is He obligated to let you or me approach Him.)

- But note his instructions:

(1) Don't come any closer – "Draw not nigh hither"

- He could see from where he was standing

- He could hear from where he was standing

- He could speak from where he was standing

\*Note – (Now this is interesting to me. Because sometimes in the Old Testament the Lord tells people to go to a particular place, and He will speak to them. – He told Jeremiah to go to the Potters house and I will speak to you there. He told Elijah to go to the brook Cherith, and he would feed him there. He told Saul to go to Ananias, and he would be ministered to there.) – Here he told Moses – Stand still.

\*Note – Now here's the point and I'll move on. – Once you realize the Lord is speaking to you, you don't move till He say so, and you don't stay longer than He allows.

(2) Take off your shoes, you are standing on Holy Ground.

- Simply put, God's dirt was holier than the best Midianite sandals man could make.

- The sandals were the only thing between Moses feet and God's ground.

\*Note – There is nothing that will come between you and the holiness of God like man-made things. There is nothing that will come between you and knowing the fullness of God's presence like man-made things.

- Now always remember that the only man-made thing in heaven will be the scars in the hands and feet of Jesus.

\*Note – Now with that being said, He spoke to God Individually at the time and place of God's choosing. He spoke to God instructionally – here is where you can stand, and here is what you remove from you now...

#3 – He Spoke to Moses – Informatively – “I am the God of thy father(s)...

\*Note – This was not just the God of History, but the God of HIS History.

- The phrase – “God of thy fathers” according to some Hebrew scholars means the God that they Fathers Worshipped.

- The primary thing here is that He is not some “New” and “unknown God,” or one of the many Egyptian pagan deities; but I am the God that has Always been – and the God that Has Always been over your family.

- There is also the subtle declaration of the eternal life now enjoyed by those fathers.

- As Jesus dealt with it in the New Testament – to say “I am the God of Abraham” is the saying that “I am now, the God of Abraham, and He is Now with me” – He is the God of both the dead and the living -and the Godly dead, are still living.

\*Note – Now here is the idea – Moses, you now know who You are answering to. The God that has over seen your life and your family's life, and all of history which now is.

\*Note – We've seen When the Lord spoke, and What the Lord Said, and now notice what Moses did.

**C. What Moses Did** – “...hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.”

1.) Nothing makes sin stand out like the Holy Presence of God.

- Here is a picture of a sinful man in the known presence of a Holy God... and this picture is repeated over and over throughout the scripture....

- He Hid His Face....

- Genesis – “Abram fell on his face”

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kings – Elijah wrapped his face in his Mantle

- Isaiah – the seraphims covered their face

- Matthew – the disciples heard the voice of God on the Mount of Transfiguration and “they fell on their face”

- Revelation – John the Revelator “fell at his feet as dead”

\*Note – A crushing force of unworthiness will always settle in hard when a mortal human being, living under the curse of sin is given a full dose of the presence of God.

In this earthly condition, you would have a better chance of living in the radiation chamber of a nuclear reactor than you would in the actual presence of God.

\*Note – 40 years later, in Exodus 33, this same Moses, having walked with this same God, begged the Lord to let him see God's face; and in the Lord's loving grace told him in verse 20

“...Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.”

(Now before we move on, there will be a day, where there are certain people, who will see God's face!

- "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." – Matthew 5

- "After the skin worms destroy my body, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself." – Job 19.)

Now having said all of that. Know this and we'll move on. "Meeting with The Maker" is not some half-hearted handshake in passing, it is absolutely Soul Changing, and Substance Changing. The Substance of your heart, and your mind, and your will. – Changing for that which is Right and Holy.

\*Note – Now we come to verse 7, and we see what is on the Lord's mind. What is it that God wants Moses to hear.

II. The Matter of the Moment – vs 7-9

\*Note – vs 7 – "And the Lord said..." – Not the Lord asked. The Lord was not there to listen to Moses, but to Speak to Him.

**A. His Knowledge of Israel's Despair** – "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."

\*Note – Note three things God brings to Moses attention...

- 1.) – "I have seen the affliction"
- 2.) – "I have heard their cry"
- 3.) – "I know their sorrows"

\*Note – These were all things Moses himself knew. He had seen their afflictions, he had heard their cry, and had known their sorrows. – And he had so for nearly 80 years!

(Now we don't know if Moses had just tried to put them out of his mind or not....

- We don't know if Moses had just felt helpless and decided to stop caring about them...

- We do not know what Moses disposition toward those he had left behind was...

- indifference
- forgetfulness
- helplessness
- worry – we don't know)

- But here is one thing for sure about the things the Lord said.

- 1) He had not forgotten
- 2) They were not out of His mind
- 3) He was not helpless

- There are no things that God does not know!

\*Note – Now that being said, look at the things that God of all Creation resonates with...

- 1.) Affliction
- 2.) Cry
- 3.) Sorrows

Affliction – This word in the Hebrew language also translates to Misery, and/or despair. – This is the inward feelings resulting from outward circumstances.

- In other words the Lord said, I see the feelings of their inward lives.

Cry – literally to shriek – this is that outward expression of inward pain. Pain from the heart, pain from the mind, pain from the soul.

Sorrows – the word for “anguish” – the total combination of both inward pain, and outward pain all combined together.

\*Note – He said – “I have seen, heard, and known” all of these things that are happening to my children Israel, and have been happening to my children Israel; and I’ve seen it, heard it, and known it, for 400 years!

\*Note – Furthermore, the Lord said, “I know where they are suffering, and I know why they are suffering, and I know who is responsible!”

- They are suffering in Egypt
- They are suffering by reason of their Taskmasters!
- vs 9 – “I have seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.”

They are controlled, they are abused, they are robbed, they are hurting inside and out, and many generations of them have already died in this condition!

- The Lord said, “I know and have known!”

\*Note – Without it being in plain English it is as though the Lord said, it is only NOW the right time to stop it.

- There was a time that it is holy and necessary for such turmoil to be endured. – To act before now, would have been wrong. To act later than now – would be wrong. Now is the holiest and most righteous time for God to act.

\*Note – Now here is what I’m here for...

**B. His Plan for Israel’s Deliverance** – “I am come 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...”

1.) I am come to “deliver them out of”

2.) I am come to “deliver them into”

\*Note – the Lord’s plan for Israel and their Deliverance was never just to get them “out of Egypt” but to get them “into the Land God wanted them to be.”

1.) To end Egyptian control over Israel

2.) To begin Divine instruction for Israel

3.) To relieve the pain and suffering

4.) To restore freedom under God, and health in their land.

\*Note – God explains to Moses this is my desire for the people oppressed by Egypt. This is the work that I have come down to do.

III. The Measure of Moses – vs 10 – “Come now therefore, and I will send thee...”

\*Note – I have come to use YOU to do just that...

- “Come now . . . go there . . .”

\*Note – Here is where Moses is placed at the cross roads every man comes to. – Obey God or run.

Conclusion: God has interrupted Moses ordinary life.

- He introduced Himself to Moses

- He instructed Moses

- He informed Moses

- Now there is no way that Moses cannot respond. – No response, is a response. No answer. Is an answer. As God has called you into Christ, that He may send you to the world; He has delivered us from sin and self, into a kingdom that we might serve our Savior! -