

Message Notes

“Let My People Go – For I Have Seen . . .”

Exodus 3:1-9

April 27, 2014

The Story that Relates – When Consistent with Purpose

- ◆ **An Operatic Travesty**
 - ◆ **Retelling Rossini’s “Moses in Egypt” at 2011 Rossini Opera Festival, Pesaro, Italy**

“ . . . a parable about contemporary Mideast politics (that) is so invasive that it makes the work itself, with its bountiful musical invention, seem inconsequential. . . . (The opera) ends, after the escape through the Red Sea, with an orchestral postlude depicting God’s grace; here, the passage accompanies a young Palestinian boy as he straps himself up for a suicide bombing and approaches an Israeli soldier. Can Vick possibly even have heard Rossini’s grand and noble music?”
(Fred Cohn, *Opera News*)
- ◆ **An Outline of Truthfulness**
 - ◆ **Israel in Egypt: The Savior (1:1-13:16)**
 - ◆ **The Lord’s Providence Hidden and Person Revealed**
 - ◆ **Israel at Sinai: Companion (13:17-24:11)**
 - ◆ **The Lord’s Providence Displayed and Covenant Detailed**

The Man Who Ran: Moses, Kept By God

- ◆ **Embraced a New Relationship**
- ◆ **Entered a New Residence**

The People Who Remained: Israel, Chosen By God

During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God.
(Exodus 2:23 ESV)

◆ **A God Who Answers**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
(Psalm 130:1-2 ESV)

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.
(Romans 8:26 ESV)

And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

(Exodus 2:24-25 ESV)

◆ **A God Who Acts: Hears, Remembers, Sees, Knows**

“Every blow of the hand that buffets you, every cut of the scourge, every scorching hour under the noon-tide sun, every lonely hour when lovers and friends stand aloof, every step into the valley of the shadow, every moment of sleep beneath the juniper tree, is watched by the eyes that never slumber nor sleep.” (F. B. Meyer)

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

(Psalm 34:15 ESV)

Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. (Genesis 15:13-14 ESV)

The God Who Was Revealed: As Personal, Holy, Merciful

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.”

(Exodus 3:1-3 ESV)

◆ **Accommodated to a Place: Horeb, Sinai (“Jebel Musa”)**

◆ **A Special Site**

◆ **A Supernatural Sight**

◆ **Announced as Angel: (“Mal’ak Yahweh” – Angel of the Lord)**

◆ **Language Insight**

◆ **Language Illustration – “The River Euphrates”**

◆ **Lord Jesus Here?**

◆ **Appeared as Fire**

◆ **Shown as Powerful, Permanent, Pure**

◆ **Scripture Shows Picture (Genesis 15; Exodus 13, 19; Luke 19; Deuteronomy 4; Ezekiel 1)**

◆ **He Is Approached in Reverence**

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.”

(Exodus 3:4-5 ESV)

◆ **He Is Separate Due to Holiness**

◆ **Set Apart (Jeremiah 1:5)**

◆ **We Are Susceptible Due to Sin**

“Holiness endangers the sinner because the holiness of the Lord is not a passive attribute but an active force, embracing all that conforms to it (Psalm 24:3-4) and destroying all that offends (1 Samuel 6:19-20). The trepidation humans feel before the Lord is not, therefore, the trembling of the lowly before the Almighty or the created before the Creator, but the fear of sinners endangered by holiness (Isaiah 6:3-5).”

(J. A. Motyer)

◆ **We Are Safe Through Our Savior**

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

(Colossians 1:21-22 ESV)

◆ **He Is Affirmed in Faithfulness**

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.

Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

(Exodus 3:6-8 ESV)

“And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.”

(Matthew 22:31-32 ESV)

◆ **He Is Adored Forever**

“The way God rescued Israel from Egypt is the way God always rescues His people. The exodus is not simply past history, but present reality. The God who revealed Himself to Moses at the burning bush is the same God we serve today. Whenever and wherever we worship Him, we are standing on holy ground, praising the God of Abraham and crying out to Him for salvation.”

(Phil Ryken)