


Moses Returns To His People With Signs and They Believe


Exodus 4

Presented by Bob DeWaay
February 18, 2007



Moses Doubts What God Said

- **Exodus 4:1**
Then Moses answered and said, "What if they will not believe me, or listen to what I say? For they may say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you.'"
- **Exodus 3:18a**
"And they will pay heed to what you say."



The First Sign

- **Exodus 4:2, 3**
And the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he said, "A staff." Then He said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.



A Sign That God Spoke to Moses

■ Exodus 4:4, 5

But the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand and grasp it by its tail" -- so he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand -- "that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."



The Second Sign

■ Exodus 4:6

And the Lord furthermore said to him, "Now put your hand into your bosom." So he put his hand into his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow.



The Second Sign's "Voice"

■ Exodus 4:7, 8

Then He said, "Put your hand into your bosom again." So he put his hand into his bosom again; and when he took it out of his bosom, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. And it shall come about that if they will not believe you or heed the witness of the first sign, they may believe the witness of the last sign.



The Signs Verify Moses As God's Spokesman

■ Exodus 4:9

"But it shall be that if they will not believe even these two signs or heed what you say, then you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground; and the water which you take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground."



Moses Poses Another Objection

■ Exodus 4:10


Then Moses said to the Lord, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since Thou hast spoken to Thy servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."



God Will Be With Moses, Even His Mouth

■ Exodus 4:11


And the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him dumb or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say."



Moses: “Anybody But Me”

■ **Exodus 4:13**


But he said, “Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever Thou wilt.”



God Is Angry Because Moses Wanted out of His Mission

■ **Exodus 4:14**

Then the anger of the Lord burned against Moses, and He said, “Is there not your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he speaks fluently. And moreover, behold, he is coming out to meet you; when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.”



Moses Keeps His Unique Role as Mediator

■ **Exodus 4:15**

“And you are to speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I, even I, will be with your mouth and his mouth, and I will teach you what you are to do.”



Aaron's Words On Moses' Behalf Will Be God's Words

■ **Exodus 4:16, 17**

"Moreover, he shall speak for you to the people; and it shall come about that he shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be as God to him. And you shall take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs."



Moses Receives Permission from His Father-in-law

■ **Exodus 4:18**

Then Moses departed and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, "Please, let me go, that I may return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see if they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace."



Moses' Shepherd's Staff is Now "The Staff of God"

■ **Exodus 4:19, 20**

Now the Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead." So Moses took his wife and his sons and mounted them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. Moses also took the staff of God in his hand.



Pharaoh's Hardened Heart

■ Exodus 4:21

And the Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go."



Israel Is God's First-born Son

■ Exodus 4:22, 23

"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord, Israel is My son, My first-born.' So I said to you, 'Let My son go, that he may serve Me'; but you have refused to let him go. Behold, I will kill your son, your first-born.'"



Moses' Covenant Unfaithfulness

■ Exodus 4:24 - 26

Now it came about at the lodging place on the way that the Lord met him and sought to put him to death. Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and threw it at Moses' feet, and she said, "You are indeed a bridegroom of blood to me." So He let him alone. At that time she said, "You are a bridegroom of blood" -- because of the circumcision.



Circumcision and the Abrahamic Covenant

■ Genesis 17:14

“But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”



Moses Meets Aaron at Horeb

■ Exodus 4:27, 28

Now the Lord said to Aaron, “Go to meet Moses in the wilderness.” So he went and met him at the mountain of God, and he kissed him. And Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord with which He had sent him, and all the signs that He had commanded him to do.



The Israelites See the Signs and Hear God’s Words

■ Exodus 4:29, 30

Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the sons of Israel; and Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses. He then performed the signs in the sight of the people.



The Israelites Believe and Worship

■ Exodus 4:31

So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, then they bowed low and worshiped.



Applications

- God works through inadequate vessels.
- God does not need our eloquence to speak through us.
- The privilege of being a first-born son.



Our Weaknesses Do Not Hinder God's Power

■ 2Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves;



God Does Not Need Eloquent Speakers to Change Lives

■ 1Corinthians 2:1, 2

And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.



God Does Not Need Eloquent Speakers to Change Lives

■ 1Corinthians 2:3 - 5

And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.



The First-born Son and His Sons

■ Romans 8:29

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;

■ Hebrews 12:23a

to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven,



Benediction

■ Jude 1:24, 25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.