**Moses and the Burning Bush**

**A Bible Story From**

**Exodus 3:1–4:17**

**Bible Story Number: 1010470**

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**Bible Story**

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**Background**

God made a profound promise to Abraham (called a covenant):

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

This promise (covenant) was passed on to Isaac and Jacob. God reconfirmed His promise to the descendents of Abraham. The nation of Israel continued to be God’s chosen people.

The Israelites (descendents of Jacob) moved to Egypt as a part of God’s plan. God used what Joseph’s brothers intended as evil as a way to bless Joseph and rescue the entire family.

**Story from the Bible**

**Exodus 3:1–4:17**

This is what the Bible says.

Moses worked for his father-in-law, Jethro. He took care of his livestock. While he was out leading the animals, he took them to the far side of the wilderness. He came to Horeb, also known as the mountain of God.

An angel from God appeared to him from a flame in a bush. The flame did not burn up the bush. So Moses went to see why the bush was not being burned up.

God spoke to Moses from the burning bush. Moses responded and said, “Here I am.”

God told him not to come any closer. He told him to take off his sandals because the place where he was standing was holy ground.

God said, “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 at God.

Then God told him that He had seen the misery of His people (the Israelites) in Egypt. He had heard their cries for help and was concerned about their suffering. God told Moses that He had come to rescue them. He was going to take them out of slavery in Egypt and take them to a land flowing with milk and honey. God told Moses to go. He was sending Moses to Pharaoh to bring God’s people out of Egypt.

Moses responded and said, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

God said He would be with Moses. God promised a sign to Moses, that the Israelite people would worship Him on that same mountain after Moses had led them out of Egypt.

Moses asked God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

God answered Moses and told him to tell them, “I AM WHO I AM … I AM has sent me to you … Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.”

God told Moses that the elders would listen to him. He also told Moses that he and the elders were to go to Pharaoh and give him a message. They were to tell Pharaoh that they had met with the God of the Hebrews and Pharaoh was to let the people go into the wilderness to worship their God. It would be a three-day journey.

God also told Moses that Pharaoh would not let them go unless a mighty hand compelled him. He told Moses that He would strike the Egyptians with great wonders. After that, Pharaoh would let them go.

In addition, God said He would make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the Israelites so they would not leave empty-handed. He told him that every Israelite woman should ask her neighbor and any Egyptian living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. In this way, God said they would plunder the Egyptians before they left.

Moses asked, “What if they won’t believe me and will not obey me but say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you’?”

God responded by asking what Moses had in his hand. Moses told him he had a staff in his hand.

God said, “Throw it on the ground.”

Moses did as he was told and his staff became a snake. Moses ran from it.

Then God said, “Stretch out your hand and grab it by the tail.”

So Moses did and it turned back into a staff in his hand. God told him that this miracle was a sign so they would believe that God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, had sent him.

Then God told him to put his hand inside his cloak. Moses obeyed. When he took his hand out it was white with leprosy.

God told him to put his hand back inside his cloak. Moses obeyed again. When he took it out it was normal again.

God said, “If they will not believe you and will not respond to the evidence of the first sign, they may believe the evidence of the second sign. And if they don’t believe even these two signs or listen to what you say, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the Nile will become blood on the ground.”

Moses apologetically told God that he had never been eloquent and that he was slow of speech and tongue.

God responded to Moses, “Who made the human mouth? Who makes him mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, Yahweh? Now go! I will help you speak and I will teach you what to say.”

Moses pleaded with God and asked him, “Please, Lord, send someone else.”

Then God became angry with Moses. He said, “Isn’t Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, he is on his way now to meet you. He will rejoice when he sees you. You will speak with him and tell him what to say. I will help both you and him to speak and will teach you both what to do. He will speak to the people for you. He will be your spokesman, and you will serve as God to him. And take this staff in your hand that you will perform the signs with.”

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* What was it that caught Moses’ attention and caused him to investigate?
* How did God speak to Moses?
* What was the first thing God told Moses to do when He spoke to him?
* How did God identify Himself?
* What was Moses reaction when he realized he was speaking with God?
* What did God tell Moses he was to do?
* How did Moses react?
* What miracles did God give Moses to use as evidence he was truly from God?
* What did Moses say to God after God gave him the miracles to show?
* Even though God was not pleased with Moses’ response, what evidence of God’s preparation is found in His reply to Moses?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.