

The God who speaks Exodus 3 and 4

I like to think of God like...

The God I like to believe in...

I'm sure you've heard people speak like this. Perhaps that's even how you speak about God.

Sometimes it's pretty harmless to speculate about what people are like. Do you ever go people watching? Not the weird kind or the surveillance kind. But the harmless watching the world go by over a cup of coffee. It's okay to guess who people are and who they are meeting with. It doesn't make a difference.

But it's really dangerous when it comes to knowing God.

It may be really comfortable for us to create a God in our own image. In fact, to simply create a bigger version of me, a God who likes the same things as me and agrees with me on my politics and my ethics.

But that's a disaster. We must allow the real God to speak up for himself. And when he does he must listen carefully.

In the book of **Exodus** we are confronted with the real God of the universe. Uncomfortable. Awe-inspiring. Beautiful. Compelling. Trustworthy. He is worth following all your days.

Today we're going to be focusing on **chapters 3 and 4**.

- The God who rescues his people (3:1-10)
- The God who provides for his people (3:11-4:31)

First of all, the God who rescues his people (3:1-10)

Look at verse 1. **Read verses 1-3.**

This seems like a sensible thing to do. He sees a very intriguing sight. Normally a fire would destroy the bush **and** then it would cease to burn after the fuel was gone.

But not this one. This one keeps on burning and the bush doesn't burn up either. **Why not?**

The answer is given in verses 4-6. **Read verses 4-6.**

God himself is within the bush.

- The angel of the LORD – vs 2
- The LORD - vs 4
- God – vs 4

Why the non-burning bush? This unique visitor wants to get Moses' attention.

But it's not just a **gimmick**. It is also supposed to teach us something about the God within the bush.

- God doesn't rely on anything external for his own existence
- God is eternal
- God is absolutely pure – or holy.

We're told in **verse 6** that Moses was afraid to look at God.

- Not just because he is small and God is big. Part of it.
- But because he is small and sinful and God is big and burning in purity.

How many people think they will stroll up or strut up to God at the end of the age and ask him a few questions?

A better question is, how can we get close to him? How can sinful creatures not be consumed by a holy God?

The angel of the LORD who was speaking to Moses would one day come to sort it out.

Not in a *bush* but on a *tree*. Others turned their faces from Jesus because of the beatings he had received.

But it was on here on a cross when Jesus would provide a way for sinful creatures to be in the presence of a holy God.

Why was God visiting? It's important to know why a visitor has turned up.
Do you have my Black and Decker drill?

Why did the Son of God meet Moses that day? Look at verse 7. **Read verses 7 and 8.**

If you were Moses you would have been very encouraged at this point. He was 80 years old. He was living far away from Egypt. He hears that his God has come down to rescue his people. The sense of excitement and relief would have been fantastic.

Until, that is, he hears what God says in verse 10. **Read verse 10.** I am sending **you**.

I thought God was coming himself.

In the Bible, God carries out his rescues in different ways.

- Sometimes his rescue of his people is completely without human involvement. The drama of the cross. The eternal Son of God does it.
- Sometimes he empower a person to do the rescue. Like the spreading of the gospel.

At this point in Exodus, he sends Moses to be his agent of rescue.

Key question is, how will Moses respond to this great commission?

The short answer is, not well. In the next one and a half chapters he gives **five** reasons why he can't do what God says.

Each time God responds by telling him how God will supply his needs.

Let's look more closely at...

Second, the God who provides for his people (3:11-4:31)

- **1st objection (3:11-12)**

Look at verse 11. **Read verses 11-12.**

Who am I to do such a great thing? **I will be with you.**

What about ourselves as we seek to play our part in spreading the gospel? **Matthew 28** – Jesus promises to be with us to the end of the age,

- **2nd objection (3:13-22)**

Look at verse 13. **Read verse 13.**

This is not like some **secret password**.

A name indicated the character of the person.

God has promised to go with him and be with him. So what? What kind of God is on your side?

The answer is in verses 14 and 15. **Read verses 14 and 15.**

God will be who he needs to be in every situation.

His name is the LORD.

- YHWH
- Jehovah.

The key thing to know is that YHWH sounds like the Hebrew verb for 'to be'.

Every time we hear his name, the very sound is to remind us that God will be who he will be.

Implications for the I am sayings of Jesus – this is a claim of divinity from Jesus.

- The bread of life
- The light of the world
- The good shepherd
- The resurrection and the life
- The true vine
- Before Abraham, I am

- **3rd objection (4:1-9)**

Look at verse 1. **Read verse 1.**

In response the LORD gives him three signs.

- Snake
- Leprous
- Water from the Nile into blood

Wouldn't you like some powerful signs as you speak the gospel?

Powerful signs were given to the first generation of apostles. Those authenticated their message.

We are not apostles. We continue to point people back to the apostolic message.

- **4th objection (4:10-12)**

Look at verse 10. **Read verse 10.**

The LORD's answer. Verse 11. **Read verse 11.**

I will help you to speak and will teach you what to say.

How does this help us as we seek to take our part in the great commission?

- Learn truth
- Don't fret because the promise is that the Spirit will teach us what to say

- **5th objection (4:13-31)**

The last one. Verse 13. **Read verse 13.** Send someone else.

The LORD's response. Verse 14. **Read verse 14.**

The LORD will send someone else if necessary. But he wants to use us in this great task. He has placed us here for this reason.

See **Acts 17:26-27**

Where he has placed you. Where he has placed others? Do you believe this?

My conversation with someone on the plane to Belfast

Send me. Whatever the results. Use me.

In conclusion

I like to think of God like...

The God I like to believe in...

Believe what the real God says about himself

- Be found in Jesus
- Help others be found in him

Let's pray.