



Sermon Overview

The first four chapters of Exodus cover decades of time and significant episodes in the history of the nation of Israel. But the majority of these chapters is the story of God's call on the life of one man: Moses. From his unlikely rescue from the Nile to his favored status in the house of Pharaoh to a lowly exile to a lone shepherd in the wilderness who met God Almighty on holy ground.

This individual focus can lead some to believe the story of Exodus is the story of Moses. A hero's story of privilege, courage and overcoming the odds. However, a closer look at chapters three and four bring Moses' true identity into question. Is this man a leader or a murderer? A shepherd or saint? Surely the mind of Moses was as confused as the narrative of his life to this point. Questions must have consumed many of his days in the Midian wilderness. Questions like, "If God is using me, why am I here?" A sense of abandonment is an understandable answer to such an inquiry of the will of God.

We all have questions of identity and purpose. And, like Moses, these questions can steal our joy and damage our resolve if our questions stop with our own self-interests. As Moses learns, the question, "Who am I?" Can only make sense in the context of *who God is*. Our design, calling and purpose in this world finds meaning and validity in the identity, character and nature of God.

Starting with God

[*Listen to recent sermons*](#)

[*Visit Exodus Resource Page*](#)

1. Read Exodus 3: 1– 6. Though God may be silent, he is not absent, and in Exodus 3, God breaks his four-hundred-year silence by speaking to Moses from the burning bush. What were the first words Moses heard God say from the burning bush and what difference do you think this made to Moses?

2. How did God protect Moses in Exodus 3:5, and who or whom is he protecting him from? What does this tell you about the character and nature of God?

Living God's Word

3. In Exodus 3:14 God reveals to Moses his name, or his identity as, "I am." Moses' request to know the name of God can be seen (in a sense) as a request for God's credentials. God's reply, "I am" essentially means "I am who I am." In this statement of revelation, God is telling Moses (and us) that he is self-existent, unchanging, eternal, and the creator and sustainer of all. Still Moses protests the wisdom of God's instruction. When you ignore or rebel against God do you see your denial of God as creator, sustainer and deliverer?

Continuing the Discussion

4. As we study Exodus, we're recognizing that this story is really the story of bondage to sin and deliverance through Christ. Let's think more about sin as bondage. Is that how you see sin? In what ways is sin bondage, and how does Christ bring us out of this bondage?
5. Exodus 1:13-14 tells of the brutality with which the Israelites were made to serve the Egyptians. Compare those verses with Exodus 3:12. What do these verses tell us about our own slavery and freedom?

Prayer

Father God, thank you for the freedom found through life in Jesus. Please lead our hearts to love you and find our identity in the liberation of your cross.

Amen.