

God Is Always Inviting You!

The God Experience Series- Part 3

Connect: We all have received invitations for birthdays, weddings, sales event, and the list goes on and on! What has been the most important invitation that you have ever received from another person or organization? What made it so special to you?

Hook: When invitations come there are various responses that we can make. We can RSVP, decline the invitation, or sometimes, simply ignore it altogether. We can be surprised that we received an invitation or become hurt when an we are not included. What is the right response when God shows up with an invitation? Today we will look at a portion of Moses' life when God gave him an opportunity to join Him in the Exodus of Israel.

Look:

One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. **2** There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. **3** "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

4 When the LORD saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" Moses replied.

5 "Do not come any closer," the LORD warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. **6** I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the LORD told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. **8** So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. **9** Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. **10** Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

11 But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

12 God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."

13 But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?"

14 God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you." **15** God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.

This is my eternal name,
my name to remember for all generations.

16 "Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, "I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you. **17** I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.'"

18 "The elders of Israel will accept your message. Then you and the elders must go to the king of Egypt and tell him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So please let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD, our God.'

19 "But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand forces him. **20** So I will raise my hand and strike the Egyptians, performing all kinds of miracles among them. Then at last he will let you go. **21** And I will cause the Egyptians to look favorably on you. They will give you gifts when you go so you will not leave empty-handed. **22** Every Israelite woman will ask for articles of silver and gold and fine clothing from her Egyptian neighbors and from the foreign women in their houses. You will dress your sons and daughters with these, stripping the Egyptians of their wealth."

Look:

1. Moses is 80 years old when God invited him to join Him in this great rescue mission in Egypt. How had God been preparing Moses for this task during the first 40 years of his life? How about the next 40 years?
2. What special abilities did Moses recognize in himself for accomplishing such a task?
3. How doable was the task that God was asking Moses to accomplish? Name the possible obstacles that stood in the way of success:
4. Now, go back and take the above set of questions and apply them to yourself, your current situation, age, and experience. What would the answers look like?
5. Is there anything right now that you feel God is inviting you to do? How might we, as your small group, support you as you say "Yes" to God?

If you want to join God, then believe in Him, ask Him to use you, and then get going! Phil. 2:13