



REFLECTIONS

July 31, 2022

"Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses."

1 Kings 8:56

Called to Do

Remember. Moses watched a bush burn in the desert. Only it didn't burn up. *So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight — why the bush does not burn up."*

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." (Exodus 3:3-4)

The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians.... So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." (Exodus 3:7-8, 10)

Moses might have thought his life was over after becoming a fugitive for killing an Egyptian man. But here before him is the burning image of God with a mission impossible that must have felt more like a command than a request. All Moses could envision were the personal barriers he would face. How would he show his authority to the Israelites when he couldn't even tell them God's name? How could he impress Pharaoh with no magic powers like Pharaoh's magicians? And how could he lead the people when he couldn't speak well in front of a crowd?

So, God gave Moses an answer for his name: *"Tell them I AM sent me."* He gave him powers to turn his staff into a snake and restore it again; to impose leprosy to his hand and heal it again; and to turn water from the Nile into blood. He promised to give him the words to say and his brother Aaron to say them for him. And God didn't even mention the parting of the Red Sea when Pharaoh and his army were overtaking the escaping Israelites. But in addition, *God said, "I will be with you."* (Exodus 3:12)

We are never too far from God for Him to call us for a mission that we feel is beyond our abilities. But rest assured God had fully equipped us for the job. *God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength,* (1 Corinthians 10:13 RSV) And in addition God promises, *"I will be with you."*

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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