



He Is That He Is

Exodus 2:11—4:31

Message Two in the Series: Knowing God Through Exodus

Introduction: As we pointed out during the first two Sunday morning messages, the overall intention of Exodus was to allow the Nation of Israel to know the true identity and character of the One and Only Living God. As they fled the horrible environment of Egypt, traveled a meandering path through the wilderness, and prepared to enter the land of Canaan, they were being taught through God's spokesman and the written word that the True God is nothing like the false gods of Egypt, the nomadic tribes of the wilderness, or the vile religions of Canaan.

The very history of Israel (both recent for the ancient Israelites and long ago for us) was a lesson in the identity and character of Almighty God. How he interacted with Israel, what he said through Moses, and the vivid contrast between him and the gods of false religions taught the people of Israel that they could count on the Creator. Unlike the despotic gods created by kings and priests of false religions, God was their benefactor. He wanted only their best. They were not to be his slaves. They were to be his partners in the proclamation of his glory and goodwill.

So, while the Book of Exodus is indeed a historical record, it is also a book of theology. The eternal truths about God so profoundly needed by Israel as it prepared to enter the promised land are every bit as necessary for us. We too live among idols. We too need to fully comprehend not only who God is, but what he is like...for, like any good relationship, intimacy is all about how well you know someone.

1. God will never break a vow

Read through Exodus 2:11-25. Now look more carefully at vss. 23-25.

Read also Genesis 12:1-3

So, again, what vow was God keeping with Moses and Israel?

The _____ Covenant

Application: While the Lord will indeed never break a vow, we must never fall into the trap of believing in myths created by well intentioned Christians that masquerade as promises from God.

For example:

- if one's faith is strong enough he or she will always be healed
- a believer can always determine the "perfect will of God" by asking others for advice and paying attention to circumstances like open and closed doors
- a victorious Christian will always be happy

What are some more?

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Question: So then, what promises should we count on?

Question: What does this require?

Question: How might this change our approach to evangelism?

2. God will always be all that we need

Read through Exodus 3:1-12. Now look more carefully at vss. 11 and 12

Question: What kind of statements do we sometimes make that reflect the same doubts Moses suffered?

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3. God will never change

Read through Exodus 3:13-22. Now look more carefully at vss. 13-15.

Question: Think back to your grammar classes in school. What does the phrase "I Am" mean? What tense is it in? What does this imply?

Question: What does this mean to us...

- when the kids are being buggers and our spouse is pulling the silent treatment on us.
- when one more night of singlehood loneliness starts playing its little mind games.
- when we get in over our head with debt

How about trying some of your own...

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4. God will always enable his children to fulfill his will

Read through Exodus 4:1-17

Now look more carefully at vs. 5, vss. 11 and 12, and vss. 14-17.

Remember the original recipients of the Book of Exodus – the Israelites. As they would flee Egypt, encounter many wilderness trials, and eventually enter the Land of Canaan, they needed to understand and depend upon the absolute reliability of God. Remember also their leader – Moses. As they came to understand how they were like Moses (weak and of little faith) they could also come to understand how, like Moses, they could learn to trust God.

Does Exodus 4:1-17 teach us that every time we doubt whether or not we can fulfill God's will he will speak to us audibly or perform a supernatural thing right in front of us as he did with Moses? No. If it did teach this, then we could expect that each and every Israelite received the same kind of personal intervention from God that Moses received. This, however, is not the case. Instead, they received a few national signs (i.e. pillar of fire and smoke, manna, quail, etc.) and the written word of God.

5. God will never abdicate his authority

Read through Exodus 4:18-31

Question: What two leaders would receive this message?

- vss. 21-23
- vss. 24-26

Question: How should this change the way we go about everyday life?
Hint: read Exodus 4:29-31.