

Exodus | It's Time To Go! | Part 1

Echo Church | Week 18 | May 4, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr. |

Exodus 3:1-10 (NKJV)

1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

4 So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!"

And he said, "Here I am."

5 Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

6 Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

7 And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

1. Historical Context (Exodus 1–2)

Before we step into Exodus 3, we've got to know where we are and why this moment is so monumental—not just for Moses but for Israel.

- *Israel's Bondage:* Exodus 1 tells us that in just a few generations, the favor Joseph had secured for his people with Pharaoh had evaporated. A “new king who knew not Joseph” arose, and with him, oppression began. What started as residence turned into slavery. Pharaoh was building wealth and power on the backs of God's people.
- *Deliverance in Disguise:* Exodus 2 shows us that when hell launches an attack, heaven orchestrates a counter. While Pharaoh orders the genocide of Hebrew baby boys, God plants the seed of deliverance in the same house that's trying to destroy His people. Moses, drawn from the water, is raised in Pharaoh's palace but runs to the wilderness after a failed attempt to act as a savior prematurely. Key Truth: *Even when we don't see it, God is still orchestrating deliverance behind the scenes.*

2. The Burning Bush That's Not Burning (Exodus 3:1–3)

Here's Moses, now 40 years removed from Pharaoh's court, tending sheep in Midian. Then comes the moment that shifts destinies.

- *The Phenomenon:* Moses sees a bush on fire, but it's not burning up. Scripture says he turns aside to see this sight.
- *Point:* This isn't just about spectacle; it's about significance. Moses could have ignored it, but he didn't.
- *Believer Application:* Many of us misdiagnose the “bushes” in our lives. We see moments of tension, inconvenience, or disruption as distractions. But what if God is using the unburning bush of your situation to call your attention to divine instruction? What if your frustration isn't a fire; it's an invitation?
- *Church Application:* Corporately, the Church can also misdiagnose moments. We focus on what's consuming but not look deep enough at what's sustaining. The Church isn't burned out; it's being recalibrated. God is commanding our attention in this season for something greater.

Supporting Scripture: Psalm 25:14 says, “The secret of the Lord is with those who fear him, and he will make them know his covenant.” God reveals extraordinary things when we pause and listen.

"How many times have we, like Moses, overlooked the ordinary things God is using to get our attention? Exodus 3 shows us that the bush wasn't extraordinary because of what it was, but because of who was in it. Yet, here's the problem—we've become numb. We misread the 'dumpster fires' of life because they don't look supernatural; we dismiss challenges, routine church moments, and even people as just another part of life. Church as usual, people being people, has dulled our sensitivity to the extraordinary work of God in the ordinary. But what if the struggle, the chaos, or even the conflict we're minimizing is where God is speaking? The

question isn't if God is moving but whether we'll take a moment to stop, turn aside, and truly see Him at work in what we've been quick to label insignificant."

3. You're Standing on Holy Ground (Exodus 3:4–5)

Moses approaches, and God stops him with this declaration, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

- *What Makes the Ground Holy:* Holiness is not tied to geography but God's presence. Wherever He is becomes sacred. When Moses obeys, he acknowledges God's lordship.
- *Holy Still Matters:* Holiness is still relevant. While culture may make holy sound outdated or restrictive, it's a call to reverence and value. When you recognize it, you see where you are and what you're called to do with clarity.
- *Don't Fear "Holy":* Fear paralyzes believers from stepping fully into their call. Fear makes us hesitant to take off our sandals. Fear makes us avoid the depth of God's presence. But holy moments are not meant to stop you; they're meant to launch you.

Key Truth: You can't separate holy ground from God's voice. One creates the platform; the other delivers the assignment.

"When God told Moses to take off his sandals, it wasn't just about the ground being holy; it was about Moses being humbled in the presence of a holy God. Exodus 3:4-5 reminds us that holiness isn't something we create, it's somewhere we meet God. But here's the reality check for us today—we've dressed up buildings, polished performances, and manipulated atmospheres to make things feel holy, while living lives that don't reflect time spent with God. How can we expect an authentic encounter with a holy God when we've been out here all week with ratchet behavior, far from His presence? You can't make holy ground out of hype. Holiness requires surrender. It requires repentance. It requires us to come correct—not perfect, but reverent. God doesn't show up just because we walked into a well-lit building on Sunday; He shows up where lives are willing to acknowledge His authority and bow in His presence. The question isn't whether the ground is holy; it's whether you've prepared your heart to stand on it."

4. God's Words to Moses (Exodus 3:6–10)

God identifies Himself to Moses, saying, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Moses hides his face in reverent fear.

- *God Sees and Hears:* God tells Moses, "I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cry..." This means God is not distant; He's present in every moment of our suffering.
- *God Calls Moses Out:* God doesn't just offer a pep talk; He gives Moses a mission. "I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people out of Egypt." Notice this isn't what Moses planned. You may want to sit in the corner, but God will call you to the center of His plan. Application for Today: God is still calling people to be deliverers, not just in the pulpit but in workplaces, families, and communities. Are you listening?

"When God called Moses in Exodus 3:6-10, He wasn't asking for Moses' preferences or plans. He was giving Moses a mission. And guess what? It wasn't what Moses wanted. Moses wanted the background, but God was calling him to the center of the room. How many of us hear God

speaking, but instead of moving, we start negotiating? We minimize the power of God because we're too focused on our insecurities and preferences. This is the same God who revealed Himself as the Deliverer, the Promise-Keeper, the God who brought your mom through, your friend through, your coworker through—but now, when He calls you, you're questioning Him? Here's the truth we don't want to face: when God puts you in the center, it's not about you. It's about Him. The mission is about freeing the people He's sending you to, not about your comfort zone. The question isn't whether God is speaking; it's whether you'll step up and trust the same God you've seen move time and time again to move through you."

5. The Land Flowing With Milk and Honey (Exodus 3:17)

God promises Moses He will lead the people to a good and spacious land, one flowing with milk and honey.

- *Milking the Meaning:* Milk and honey symbolize abundance, provision, and satisfaction. But to a people who had been slaves, this was more than symbolic. It represented restoration, freedom, and dignity.
- *Believer Connection:* God's promises to today's believer include His provision (Philippians 4:19), His presence (Matthew 28:20), and fulfillment of His purposes in your life (Romans 8:28). It may feel distant now, but God's promises are as true as they were for Moses. Key Truth: *God's promises require you to leave where you've been to step into the land He's called you to.*

"A land flowing with milk and honey isn't just about abundance; it's about divine provision that restores what life has stolen. Today, your 'milk and honey' might look like peace in chaos, opportunity in uncertainty, or fulfillment after seasons of emptiness. The question is, will you trust God enough to leave the comfort of what's familiar to step into the promise He's prepared?"

The phrase "a land flowing with milk and honey" in the Bible is rich with historical and cultural significance, especially in the context of the ancient Near East. Here's what it symbolized:

1. **Abundance and Prosperity:**
 - Milk and honey were symbols of agricultural fertility and abundance. Milk represented livestock thriving in fertile pastures, while honey (likely from dates or bees) symbolized the sweetness and richness of the land. Together, they painted a picture of a land capable of sustaining life abundantly.
2. **Contrast to Egypt and the Wilderness:**
 - For the Israelites, who had endured slavery in Egypt and were about to face the harshness of the wilderness, the promise of a land flowing with milk and honey was a stark contrast. Egypt was a place of toil and scarcity for them, while the wilderness was barren and inhospitable. The promised land represented rest, provision, and freedom.
3. **Covenantal Fulfillment:**

- The phrase also carried spiritual weight. It was a reminder of God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—a tangible sign of His faithfulness to bring their descendants into a land of blessing and inheritance.
4. A Land of Self-Sustenance:
 - Unlike Egypt, where survival depended on the Nile River and its irrigation systems, the promised land relied on rain from heaven (Deuteronomy 11:10-12). This meant the Israelites would depend on God's provision rather than human systems.
 5. Symbol of Restoration and Hope:
 - For a people who had been oppressed and displaced, the imagery of milk and honey was deeply restorative. It spoke to the restoration of dignity, identity, and the ability to thrive rather than merely survive.

For today's believer, this historical context reminds us that God's promises are not just about material abundance but about holistic restoration—spiritual, emotional, and physical. It's a call to trust in His provision and step into the fullness of His plans, even when the journey requires leaving behind the familiar.

Family, it's decision time. God's not just speaking to be heard, He's speaking to be obeyed. What we've seen in Exodus 3 is a God who calls ordinary people into extraordinary assignments. Moses didn't feel ready. He didn't feel qualified. But here's the thing about God's call: it's not about how you *feel*; it's about *who He is*. And He's already proven Himself. He's shown up in your story before. He's made ways, opened doors, healed, provided, and delivered. The same God who brought you through yesterday is calling you today to *go and do*.

But here's where the tension is—we want God's plan to fit our preferences. We want His call to feel comfortable. But purpose will always stretch you! Truly walking in obedience to God means stepping out of what's easy and stepping into what's necessary. Moses wanted the background, but God put him in the forefront because His mission required it. And now I'm asking you, are you willing to step up? Are you willing to stop hesitating, stop hiding, and step boldly into the thing God is asking of you?

It's one thing to sit in here and nod your head in agreement. But what happens when you walk out those doors? What happens when the real test comes? God isn't asking for passive agreement; He's calling for active obedience. There are people waiting on the other side of your "yes." There are lives that depend on you saying, "God, I trust You enough to move, even when it's uncomfortable."

This is your confirmation. That thing you've been wrestling with, that assignment you've been trying to avoid—that is where God is pointing you. Stop waiting for perfect conditions. Stop waiting until you feel qualified. God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called. And if He's calling, that means He's already put in you *everything* you need to accomplish the mission.

Family, it's not just time to hear His voice; it's time to go and *do*. Don't delay. Don't procrastinate. Don't play small when God is calling you to make a big impact. The God who

called Moses at the burning bush is the same God calling you right now. He's already gone before you. All He's waiting for is your obedience.

It's time to stop standing still and start moving forward. Go and do what God is telling you to do. Not when it's convenient. Not when it feels easy. But now. Because if God called you to it, He's *already* made provision for it. It's time to trust Him, step out, and watch Him work through you in ways you never thought possible. This is your moment. Step into it. And watch how God gets the glory!