



“The Burning Bush”

By Pastor Bob Turner

Exodus 3

History – Last week we heard about how Moses, In Exodus 2, had a passion in his heart to save his people. We read in verses 11 & 12 how that passion turned ugly and Moses killed someone.

We find out that Moses then ran away & SETTLED in the land of Midian.

Moses’ life is made up of 3 - “40 year” segments:

Moses spent 40 years in Egypt

Then he spent 40 years trying to get the “Egypt” out of him

He then spent his final 40 years trying to get his people out of Egypt.

Now let’s go to Exodus Chapter 3...

V. 1 – Moses was doing his “everyday duties” as a lowly shepherd.

Running from his past, and trying to forget it himself. But you can’t avoid your heart’s passion, you can run from people, but you can’t hide from yourself, from what is in your heart, and you can’t hide from God.

V. 2 – **“Angel of the Lord”** – Most scholars believe he is Jesus pre-carnate.

This was not an encounter with a messenger, but with God Himself!!

“burning bush” – Fire is a sign of joy.

Gen. 15:17 – Abraham saw a burning lamp, signifying the joy which the deliverance should bring to the people.

Acts 7:35 – This was a thorn bush

Read Isaiah 10:17

Did you know that this was a thorn bush? Why would God pick that?

1 Cor. 1:25, 27 – God loves to use the unexpected, the weak, the little.

The only burning bush ever found in scripture, & God chose a thorn bush!

You see, now more than ever... God can use you!!

No matter your past,
Moses had a past too!

“burning... not consumed” – In Exodus 2:11 we saw a picture of a passion to save people, but we saw that passion, that fire, consume Moses. He lashed out. He tries to save people his way, by force, in secret... by his own power.

We've seen some passions for God, and people consume others, haven't we?

- Abortion clinics bombed, doctors killed
- Wars and death in God's name

- Witch hunts for Jesus, innocence killed
- David Koresh, cults, etc

It's awesome to have a passion for God, and God's work... but we have to understand that the passion inside of us must be carried out according to God's word... So that it will not consume you!

Romans 12:21 – Do not be overcome by evil, overcome evil with good.

A holy passion burns, but it does not consume or destroy.

God has the same passion as Moses... to save people. But that passion, that fire does not consume Him. He has a better way. Isn't it easy to do it our way, instead of God's?

THE TRUTH HURTS

It's easier to debate and argue Christianity with the lost, than to spend time actually praying for them – specifically and by name!

Zech 4:6 – Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit.

Burning, but not consumed - What a picture of God's people at that time, & now. The church...

Disappointed, but not dismayed. Struck down, but not destroyed!

Psalm 30:5, 11

Jeremiah 31:13

John 16:20

Moses could have ignored this burning bush, or neglected it, but he would have missed the greatest calling for his life, his life's purpose!

God would have still delivered His people, but Moses would have missed the blessing of God using him, and allowing him to be involved in God's work.

Sometimes God will allow you to get to a simple place, to humble you and show you your life's biggest revelation. Will you answer Him? Will you say "Yes Lord?"



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