

THE CALL OF MOSES 3

MOSES ASKS GOD'S NAME AND LEARNS GOD'S PLANS

Moses continues to put forward reasons why he shouldn't go to Egypt

The Name of God

Exod 3:13-14

13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (NIV)

God doesn't have a name as such. There is only one of Him. Like British stamps, they were the first and so never carry the name of the country. He is the first and the last.

At one time ,Moses would have replied **I am** when asked who was going to get them out of the place. Now if asked he would again have to say **I Am** but it would have an entirely different meaning.

Two names God would now be known by:--

1. A name that denotes what he is in himself (v. 14): "I Am that I Am."

The greatest and best man in the world must say, By the grace of God I am what I am
but God just **is**

He is eternal and unchangeable, and always the same, yesterday, to-day, and for ever; He will be what He will be and what He is; see Rev. 1:8.

God is faithful and true to all his promises, unchangeable in his word as well as in his nature, and not a man that he should lie and Moses can say that I AM has sent him.

2. He is further directed to make use of another name of God more familiar and intelligible:

The Lord God of your fathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) hath sent me unto you (v. 15):

Elijah used the same name at Mount Carmel when challenging the prophets of Baal.

1 King 18:36-38

36 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "**O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel**, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.

37 Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

(NIV)

We need to remember that the God that we serve is the God of Smith Wigglesworth and the God of Azusa Street and the God of the Welsh Revival. He is still the same. We mustn't forget that.

GOD SETS OUT HIS PLANS BEFORE MOSES

Then we see The Lord setting out in great detail the plans he had for Moses and the Israelite slaves.

Now wouldn't it be just so good if The Lord always set out before us all his plans for us in detail - or would it?

Knowing the future. It's what so many people want. Hence there is hardly a paper or magazine without a horoscope. As if the stars could really have any effect on what goes on except that people may act in response to a horoscope and act in a way that they would not normally have done.

Should we really expect the Lord to fill us in about every little decision that we make or does He expect us to use our *sanctified common sense* when dealing with many issues? I believe he wants us to use the latter often and I believe it's ok to make mistakes at times. Our worth to God is not dependent on getting things right every time without fail. His love for us is not dependent on our performance plus other people's opinions of us.

WE ARE DEEPLY LOVED BY GOD, COMPLETELY FORGIVEN, FULLY PLEASING, TOTALLY ACCEPTED AND COMPLETE IN CHRIST (From The Search for Significance by Robert McGee).

We want to know the future so that we can avoid making mistakes because there is a tendency to believe that, if we make mistakes, the Lord will not be pleased with us and then our self worth will take a nose dive. God knows we will make mistakes and sometimes I believe He lets it happen so that we'll learn. He doesn't want our self-worth to be dependent on others seeing that we always get it right He wants our self worth to be based on the fact that we are deeply loved by God, completely forgiven as set out above.

I believe that we are walking in God's plan right now. We might not be right in the middle of it but in it we are in His plan.

On the other hand, there are instances where others in the scripture asked and received guidance. Similarly, where we perceive a matter is of considerable importance and our decision may well impact others, taking the matter to the Lord and to others for guidance is a very important thing to do. Here are some examples of that from scripture:-

1 Sam 23:4

4 Once again David inquired of the LORD, and the LORD answered him, "Go down to Keilah, for I am going to give the Philistines into your hand." (NIV)

1 Sam 23:11

11 Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me to him? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD, God of Israel, tell your servant." And the LORD said, "He will." (NIV)

1 Sam 30:8

8 and David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?" "Pursue them," he answered. "You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue." (NIV)

These were big issues. A mistake here and there could result in serious consequences for many people.

Walking in God's Plan

Here are good general rules for walking in God's plan every day:-

Prov 3:5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (NIV)

Prov 16:3

3 Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. (NIV)

Ps 32:8

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. (NIV)

Isa 48:17

17 This is what the LORD says-- your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. (NIV)

Ps 25:9

9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. (NIV)

Now I know there are times when I sense the Lord speaking to me on certain issues but other times I know that He lets me make a decision based on my assessment of the situation as a Christian walking in God's plan.

In fact, should we expect The Lord to speak to us in every situation where we have to make a decision? Lets look at some situations and ask if it would be appropriate to ask God for guidance.

Look at the following:-

1 The alarm goes off at home and we now say “Lord which side of the bed do I get out of today, the right, the left or shall I slide down the bed and slip out the bottom”.

2 I have light brown socks and dark brown socks, do I need a word from God to decide which ones I should wear I do I just use common sense. There is every chance that the Kingdom of God is not likely to suffer a major blow if I happen to put on the light ones and not the dark.

In both situations I feel the Lord would be happy for us simply to decide for ourselves but if we really do want to pray about such things I don't feel that the Lord will be offended.

Some would say we need to pray about anything which could otherwise cause us anxiety and quote the following:-

Phil 4:6-7

6 **Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(NIV)

Actually, I do believe that God wants us to use the wisdom He has given to us in the everyday situations in life. As a Patent Attorney, part of my work was to help to train up assistants who worked for me so that they could eventually qualify as Patent Attorneys too. There is much to learn and training of that kind takes a long time. In the early stages of training I never objected to them coming to me and saying “I've got a difficult problem here. What should I do”. In the early days, what they see as a difficult problem results from their lack of knowledge and experience. They might say “**Should I call this thing for cleaning windows a device for cleaning windows or apparatus for cleaning windows?**” I would tell them

what I thought and they learned for another time. However, if one of my partners came in and asked me that question, I would think “Goodness me, they ought to know the answer to that themselves. Like me, they’ve been in the job for many years”.

Likewise, I’m sure that it gives The Lord a great deal of joy when He sees that we are growing in the faith and are putting into practice the things He is teaching us. **For example you don’t need to pray about getting up in the morning to pray, you just set the alarm and then GET UP!**