



On The Move

*Burning Bushes
and Ordinary Time*

EXODUS 3:1-4 (NIV)

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not 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.”

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EXODUS 3:5-8 (NIV)

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

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 and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

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EXODUS 3:9-12 (NIV)

And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

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On
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- **God moves towards us.**
- **We move towards God.**
- **We move with God.**

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EXODUS 3:1 (NIV)

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

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God moves towards us.

EXODUS 3:2 (NIV)

There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

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“The burning bush was, after all, a most ordinary object that became extraordinary because it was on fire with divine activity.”

RUTH HAYLEY BARTON

“Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership” (2008, p. 64)

We move towards God.

EXODUS 3:3 (NIV)

So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

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On
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God move towards us and we move towards God.

EXODUS 3:4-5 (NIV)

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.”

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”

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On
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Conjunctions
Hebrew: *waw*

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On
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- And the LORD saw...
- And He called...
- And He said...

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On
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“Here I am”

Hebrew: הִנֵּנִי (hinēnī)

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EXODUS 3:6 (NIV)

Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

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EXODUS 3:7-9 (NIV)

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 and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.

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On
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- He saw,
- and He heard,
- and He knew,
- and He came down,
- and He will bring up,
- and now He is ready to act.

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On
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We move with God.

EXODUS 3:10 (NIV)

"So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

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ACTS 1:8 (NIV)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

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EXODUS 3:11 (NIV)

But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

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- **Gideon's hesitation (Judges 6:14–15)**
- **David's astonishment (2 Samuel 7:18; 1 Chronicles 29:14)**
- **Jeremiah's reluctance (Jeremiah 1:6)**

EXODUS 3:12a (NIV)

And God said, “I will be with you.”

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MATTHEW 28:20 (NIV)

“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”

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EXODUS 3:12b (NIV)

“...And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

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On
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Move

- **God moves towards us.**
- **We move towards God.**
- **We move with God.**

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On
The
Move

- **We move within the story.**
- **We move through wilderness spaces.**
- **We move with memory and hope.**
- **We move in ordinary time.**
- **We move together.**