

Script – Moses Sees a Burning Bush

Narrator: For many years, Moses lived in a land called Midian. He took care of sheep that belonged to his wife's father Jethro. One day, Moses saw a bush on fire. He had seen other bushes catch fire when the hot sun beat down upon them and usually the bush burned quickly.

Moses: [to himself] This is strange. The bush is on fire, but the bush is not burning up.

Narrator: Moses walked closer to this strange bush to see why it didn't burn up. The LORD called to him out of the burning bush.

God: Moses. [pause] Moses.

Moses: I am here.

God: Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.

[Moses takes off his shoes]

God: I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. [pause]

Narrator: Moses was afraid. He covered his face.

God: 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. [pause] So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.

Moses: Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?

God: 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.

Moses: 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?

God: I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.' [pause] Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation. Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob-- appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land flowing with milk and

honey. The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God. But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go. And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians.

Moses: What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?

God: What is that in your hand?

Moses: A staff.

God: Throw it on the ground.

Narrator: Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it.\

God: Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.

Narrator: Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.

God: This is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has appeared to you. [pause] Put your hand inside your cloak.

Narrator: Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was leprous, like snow.

God: Now put it back into your cloak.

Narrator: Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

God: If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first miraculous sign, they may believe the second.

Moses: O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.

God: Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.

Moses: O Lord, please send someone else to do it.

Narrator: Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses.

God: What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and his heart will be glad when he sees you. You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it.

[scene change as Moses leaves the burning bush and returns to his father-in-law]

Moses: Let me go back to my own people in Egypt to see if any of them are still alive.

Jethro: Go, and I wish you well.

Narrator: So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt. And he took the staff of God in his hand. They met Aaron on the desert. Moses told Aaron everything the LORD had sent him to say, and also about all the miraculous signs he had commanded him to perform. In Egypt Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

The End