

### Moses Lesson 3 Article

**Ex 3:1-10** - For Moses, and Israel, and all people this is a great moment: one of the truly significant watersheds of history. It is “the fullness of time.” God is about to reveal himself as the Great Destroyer. (Exodus moves on the theme of God’s? power.) He is also to reveal himself as the Great Deliverer. And Moses is to be the human instrument of that mighty deliverance. God’s plan in calling Moses (or using men any time) is to endow him with authority. Then God will harness to his purpose the natural gifts of the man: his audacity and daring, his courage and faith, and the terrific sense of justice, so passionately strong in this man Moses.

**Ex. 3:11-22-** God will not just call the man of his choosing. That man and God’s plan must not be left to chance. God has a strategy always. Preparation must precede performance. Leave nothing to accident. That’s always the case with our God. Now for Moses must come not only what to do in Egypt/but more basic still: his relationship to the Lord in his all-important mission. Otherwise it will remain mission impossible!

*Truth for today.*—Moses’ modesty (the Bible calls him meek as later in the New Testament with Jesus) must be transformed into the power of humility through faith. So God says “I will be with you.” That should galvanize any man against any foes and any fears. It was Moses’ armor, inside and out. So can it be ours. The deliverance is to be God’s doing.<sup>1</sup>

To his great surprise Moses saw a bush burning, when he perceived no fire either from earth or heaven to kindle it, and, which was more strange, it did not consume, v. 2. It was an angel of the Lord that appeared to him; some think, a created angel, who speaks in the language of him that sent him; others, the second person, the angel of the covenant, who is himself Jehovah. It was an extraordinary manifestation of the divine presence and glory; what was visible was produced by the ministry of an angel, but he heard God in it speaking to him. 1. He saw a flame of fire; *for our God is a consuming fire*. When Israel’s deliverance out of Egypt was promised to Abraham, he saw a burning lamp, which signified the light of joy which that deliverance should cause (Gen. 15:17); but now it shines brighter, as a flame of fire, for God in that deliverance brought terror and destruction to his enemies, light and heat to his people, and displayed his glory before all. See Isa. 10:17. 2. This fire was not in a tall and stately cedar, but in a bush, *a thorny bush*, so the word signifies; for God chooses the weak and despised things of the world (such as Moses, now a poor shepherd), with them to confound the wise; he delights to beautify and crown the humble. 3. *The bush burned, and yet was not consumed*, an emblem of the church now in bondage in Egypt, burning in the brick-kilns, yet not consumed; perplexed, but not in despair; cast down, but not destroyed.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The teacher's Bible commentary*. 1972 (F. H. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs, Ed.) (55). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Henry, M. (1994). *Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: Complete and unabridged in one volume* (Ex 3:1–6). Peabody: Hendrickson.