

The Burning Bush

Exodus 3:1 – 4:17

by Don Falkos

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Moses was tending sheep near Mount Sinai when he saw a bush that was engulfed in flames, but it wasn't burning up. As he came closer, God called to him from the burning bush, "Moses! Take off your sandals; you are standing on holy ground." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have chosen you to lead my people, the Israelites, out of bondage in Egypt and back to the land of Canaan."

Moses protested, "The people of Israel will ask, 'Who sent you?' What should I tell them?"

"I am who I am. Say to them, 'I am has sent me.' I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The people of Israel will accept what you say, but Pharaoh will not. So I will impose many hardships on the Egyptians. Then at last he will let you go."

Again Moses protested, "What if they don't believe me?"

So the Lord gave Moses two miraculous signs to perform. He threw his staff to the ground and it became a snake; when he picked it up, it was a staff again. Moses' hand became leprous; then it became healthy again.

The Lord said, "Show the people these signs. If they still do not believe you, pour water from the Nile River on the ground and it will turn to blood."

Moses pleaded, "Lord, I'm not good at talking. I get tongue-tied, and my words get all tangled up."

"Moses, who made your mouth? I will give you the right words to say."

"Lord, I just don't want to go. Please, send someone else."

Then the Lord became angry, "Your brother, Aaron, speaks well. Take him with you. He will speak to the people."