

(Exod. 3:1) - In the Scriptures, Moses is often a type of Christ and always a servant of Christ. In the New Testament, he is often used to represent the Old Covenant Law because it was through Moses that God gave the Law to Israel. But we must always remember two things about Moses: (1) He was a sinner saved by grace, not by works of the Law, but by the finished work of Christ to accomplish righteousness as his Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer; and (2) He was a true believer, born again by the Spirit, and brought to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for all salvation, forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life (*John 1:45; Luke 24:27,44-47; John 5:39-47; Rom. 10:4-10*). Through God's providence, Moses was born a Hebrew but came to be raised as a prince in the house of Pharaoh. Here, he is a humble shepherd and a type of Christ, the royal Son of God and Prince of peace Who came to earth to shepherd His people. Christ is our Shepherd to die for our sins, gather us unto Himself, and bring us to glory. In these verses, Moses is drawn to this "*mountain of God*" to meet God in a burning bush. As Moses led his sheep to the "*mountain of God*," Christ leads His sheep to where God dwells as a just God and a Savior. God revealed Himself to Moses in the burning bush. It is in and by Christ on Mount Calvary that God reveals Himself in the glory of His justice and grace as Christ accomplished redemption for His people by His blood to bring forth righteousness by which they are all justified before God.

(Exod. 3:2) - "*The Angel of the LORD*" here is a preincarnate appearance of Christ Himself. The word "*LORD*" is the same word that we have come to pronounce as "*Jehovah*." This identifies God as the one true God of the covenant, the Son of God, and Who is identified in *Exodus 3:6* as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God Who saves sinners by His grace. God's promises are insured in and by Christ (*2 Cor. 1:20*). So, Christ appeared to Moses "*in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush*." Fire symbolizes God's judgment against sin and God's way of purification from sin - "*For our God is a consuming fire*" (*Heb. 12:29*). This means God is a just God, and He must punish all sin with the consuming fire of His justice unto death - "*For the wages of sin is death*" (*Rom. 6:23a*).

Notice, "*the bush burned with fire, AND THE BUSH WAS NOT CONSUMED*" - This pictures Christ on the cross when, as Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer of His people, He was truly burned with the fire of God's judgment for our sins imputed to Him and was not consumed! And though He truly died for our sins, in doing so He satisfied the justice of God and brought forth an everlasting righteousness of infinite value by which all of God's people have been justified. Therefore, He was raised from the dead. By His death, He removed the sting of death and conquered the grave (*1 Cor. 15:55-57*).

(Exod. 3:3-6) - Moses's question - Why is the bush not burnt? Here is a miracle that we can liken to the miracle of Christ's resurrection. Though the bush was burning, it was not consumed. Though Christ truly died, why was He not totally consumed? HE STILL LIVES (*Luke 24:1-7*)! This question has often perplexed those who hear the Gospel of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (*ex. Acts 17:18,31-32*). Why is Christ not in the grave? How is this possible, and what does His resurrection mean? It means that all the sins of His people have been purged, that righteousness has been established, and that eternal life will be given to all for whom He died and arose again. Notice God called Moses by name - "*Moses, Moses*." Christ knows His sheep by name because their names were written in the Lamb's book of life before the foundation of the world. God has an elect people whom He chose in Christ.

Notice also God revealing Himself to Moses. In order for any sinner to know God, God must reveal Himself. By nature and by his own efforts, man cannot find nor will he seek the true and living God (*Eccl. 3:10-11; Rom. 3:10-12; 1 Cor. 2:14*). God reveals Himself to His

chosen people as the God of all grace Who saves sinners by His grace through the Lord Jesus Christ (*Matt. 11:25-27; 2 Cor. 4:6*). God does this when it pleases Him to do so (*Gal. 1:15-16*). Here, He was pleased to reveal Himself to Moses, first, as the one true, holy, and living God - *“Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.”* There is none like God and none to be compared with God. He is unique and separate from all else. The putting off of Moses’s shoes is an act of God bringing Moses to take his proper place as a servant before God.

Next, God revealed Himself as the covenant God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This establishes Him as the God of promise and reaches back to the first promise of His grace in the salvation of His chosen people through Christ. This includes the promises God made to Abraham concerning his physical seed in giving the land of promise to Israel and Abraham’s spiritual seed in sending the Messiah to save God’s elect, Jew and Gentile. Because of the glory of the divine Majesty now present, and conscious of his own sinfulness and unworthiness, *“Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.”*

(Exod. 3:7-9) - God took the initiative to deliver the Hebrews according to His promise. It was not due to any qualifications in them or conditions they would meet. It was all of God’s unconditional promise made to Abraham and in line with His promise to send Christ into the world to save His people from their sins. The Hebrews were in a pitiful state, and they were helpless to deliver themselves. This is a great picture of our salvation. We are sinners and totally unable to save ourselves from our sins, totally unable to work righteousness by which God could justify us, and totally unable to give ourselves spiritual and eternal life. But just as God promised this nation that He would freely and unconditionally *“bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey,”* God has promised that He would bring His chosen people out of the bondage of sin and bring us into the land of salvation with all its benefits and blessings by the Lord Jesus Christ (*2 Cor. 1:20; Eph. 1:3*).

(Exod. 3:10-12) - God appointed Moses to be the mediator between Him and the Hebrews in Egypt and, later on, in the establishment of the covenant at Sinai. Moses saw himself as unqualified and unable, but God equipped Moses for the task. God assured him of success in delivering His people from bondage because none of it was conditioned on Moses. It was all of God - *“I will be with thee.”* Moses would go to Pharaoh, the most powerful king on earth, not in his own strength but in God’s power. Next, God gave Moses a promise in a *“token”* (a sign) - *“When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.”* God would bring them back to this mountain (Horeb, i.e. Sinai) and establish His covenant with the nation through Moses, God’s appointed mediator.

Here, Moses is a type of Christ Who is the *“one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”* (*1 Tim. 2:5*). As Moses was sent down to Egypt to deliver his people, Christ, the eternal Son of God, was sent down to earth, made in the likeness of men but without sin. The physical, Egyptian bondage of the Hebrew children is typical of the spiritual bondage of God’s elect under the law and under their sins. Christ was sent by the Father to be made under the law to redeem His people who were under the law (*Gal. 4:4-6*). As their Surety and Substitute, having the debt of all their sins imputed to Him, Christ died for them and redeemed them from the law and from their sins by His death in their place. And, as stated, even though He died, He was not consumed. He was raised from the dead because of the righteousness He established to justify them before God. He ascended unto glory and is seated at His Father’s right hand ever living to be their one true Mediator, insuring for them all grace here and all glory hereafter.