

## **Exodus 3:10-4:17**

### ***“Not Me, Lord”***

October 11, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

The book, *The Most Reluctant Convert*, details C. S. Lewis' journey from atheism to faith in Christ.

**Lewis: “You must picture me alone in that room in Magdalen, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England. I didn't then see what is now the most shining and obvious thing; the Divine humility which will accept a convert even on such terms. The Prodigal Son at least walked home on his own feet. But who can duly adore that Love which will open the high gates to a prodigal who is brought in kicking, struggling, resentful, and darting his eyes in every direction for a chance of escape?”**

**Exodus 3:7** - “I've surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I've come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians.”

**v. 3:10** - Come now, therefore, and I'll send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

**Acts 7:22** - Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians.

**Acts 7:22b-25** - Moses was powerful in speech and action. When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites. He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. Moses thought his people would realize that God had sent him to rescue them, but they didn't.

**Jeremiah 9:23-24** - “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, nor the strong man in his strength, nor the wealthy man in his riches. But let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, who exercises loving devotion, justice and righteousness on the earth.”

**Mark Twain:** *“There are no accidents, all things have a deep and calculated purpose; sometimes the methods employed by Providence (God) seem strange and incongruous, but*

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### **Objection #1 - "Who am I?"**

**v. 3:11** - But Moses said to God, “Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?”

**v. 3:12** - So He said, “I will certainly be with you.”

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### **Objection #2 - "Who are You?"**

**v. 3:13-14** - Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What *is* His name?’ what shall I say to them?” <sup>14</sup> And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

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Julie Ackerman Link: I've long wondered why God would call Himself by such a name, but slowly I'm learning its significance. A sentence needs only two things to be complete: a subject and a verb. So when God says His name is “I AM,” it conveys the concept that He's complete in Himself. He's subject and verb. He's everything we could possibly need.

Jesus put flesh on God's bare-boned answer to Moses' question, “Who are You?” Jesus... told His disciples, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” He also said, “I am the bread of life,” “I am the light of the world,” “I am the good shepherd,” and “I am the resurrection and the life.” In Revelation, Jesus declared, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” And He said, “Before Abraham was, I AM.”

### **Hebrews 13: 8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.**

**v. 3:18** - Then they'll heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, ‘The LORD God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.’

**v. 3:19-22** - But I'm sure that the king of Egypt won't let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. So I'll stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I'll do in its midst; and after that he'll let you go. And I'll give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you'll not go empty-handed. But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you'll put *them* on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.

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### **Objection #3 - "They won't believe me."**

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**v. 4:1** - Then Moses answered and said, “But suppose they won't believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, ‘The Lord hasn't appeared to you.’”

**v. 4:2-5** - Then the LORD said to him, “What's that in your hand?” “A staff,” he replied. <sup>3</sup>The LORD said, “Throw it on the ground.” Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. <sup>5</sup>“This,” said the LORD, “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.”

**v. 4:6** - Then the LORD said, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous—as white as snow. “Now put it back into your cloak,” he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

**v. 4:8-9** - Then the LORD said, “If they don't believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second. <sup>9</sup>But if they don't believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground.”

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### **Objection #4 - "I'm not eloquent."**

**v. 4:10** - Then Moses said to the Lord, “O my Lord, I'm not eloquent, neither before nor since You've spoken to Your servant; but I'm slow of speech and slow of tongue.”

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**Acts 7** - Moses was powerful in speech and action.

**v. 4:11-12** - So the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? <sup>12</sup> Now therefore, go, and I’ll be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.”

**v. 4:14-17** - So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and He said: “Isn’t Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he’s also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he’ll be glad in his heart. Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I’ll be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I’ll teach you what you shall do. So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs.”

**Psalm 90** - "Lord, You have been our dwelling place in every generation... May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us and establish the works of our hands."

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<sup>10</sup> Come now, therefore, and I'll send *you* to Pharaoh that *you* may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” <sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” <sup>12</sup> So He said, “I will certainly be with you. <sup>13</sup> Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What *is* His name?’ what shall I say to them?” <sup>14</sup> And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

<sup>18</sup> Then they'll heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, ‘The LORD God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.’

4:1 - Then Moses answered and said, “But suppose they won't believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, ‘The Lord hasn't appeared to you.’ ” <sup>2</sup> Then the LORD said to him, “What's that in your hand?” “A staff,” he replied. <sup>3</sup> The LORD said, “Throw it on the ground.” Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. <sup>5</sup> “This,” said the LORD, “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.” <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous—as white as snow. “Now put it back into your cloak,” he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh. <sup>8</sup> Then the LORD said, “If they don't believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second. <sup>9</sup> But if they don't believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground.” <sup>10</sup> Then Moses said to the Lord, “O my Lord, I'm not eloquent, neither before nor since You've spoken to Your servant; but I'm slow of speech and slow of tongue.” <sup>11</sup> So the Lord said to him, “Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? <sup>12</sup> Now therefore, go, and I'll be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.”

God used Moses' \_\_\_\_\_ to prepare him.

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(40 years living on the backside of the desert tending sheep)

**Mark Twain:** *"There are no accidents, all things have a deep and calculated purpose; sometimes the methods employed by Providence (God) seem strange and incongruous, but we have only to be patient and wait for the result: then we recognize that no others would have answered the purpose, and we are rebuked and humbled."*

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