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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2221 ~ Moses at the Burning Bush.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

People trained in archaeology have found so many places listed in the Bible and proven their historical existence. But one place that's remained a mystery, is a place called Horeb or 'Mountain of God'. Later, it was called 'Mt Sinai' and it was the place where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and His Holy Law. After Elijah had fled from Queen Jezebel to Horeb in 1 Kings, Chapter 19, this place isn't mentioned again in the Scriptures and its specific location has never been established with complete certainty.

In today's *Bible Adventure*, Moses has taken his father-in-law's flock of sheep from Midian to Horeb while looking for food for them.

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Moses had been faithfully caring for his father-in-law's flock of sheep for many years.. But while at Horeb, little did he expect to meet the living God there and be changed in many ways! We can ask: was Moses' 40 years in the wilderness a waste of time? Although Moses was no longer an Egyptian prince living in luxury, Moses as a shepherd learnt what it was like to survive in the harsh wilderness through which he would need to lead the Israelites on their way to Canaan.

We can become impatient with the length of preparation time needed to learn a new ministry. We'd rather just get on with the task and try to cope with each problem as it comes along. If Moses had to wait 40 years before he received his appointed task, we definitely shouldn't complain about how and where God chooses to train us for what He wants us to do!

As Moses was watching the sheep, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of the burning bush. The angel was both a messenger of the Lord and also a revelation of the Lord. God called out to Moses not to come any closer to the bush but instead, to take off his sandals because he was standing on holy ground. The ground itself hadn't changed but its use had, for it had been made holy by God's presence in that place. To be 'holy' means to be set apart, or consecrated for a divine purpose. We set apart church buildings and people ready to serve the Lord. But God expects all believers to set themselves apart for His abiding presence and serve Him through the power and leading of the Holy Spirit. In 1 Peter, Chapter 1, the Lord says: “.. be holy, because I am holy.”

Despite God's miraculous calling, Moses turned out to be extremely reluctant to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. He immediately thought of problems that might arise if he were to go back to Egypt. But God promised to be with Moses. This is the only answer that any of us need when God calls us to live faithfully for Him despite our circumstances. In Romans, Chapter 8, it says: “If God is for us, who can be against us?”

It doesn't matter what our human qualifications are. If they're very great but God isn't with us, we achieve nothing of eternal value for our efforts. But if they're small and God is guiding and strengthening us, we're able to do whatever God wants us to do.

When God leads Christians to a new ministry, they can be unsure whether to step out in faith or wait for more confirmation first. They may be looking for a spectacular sign from God, and not understanding the process God is taking them through. When these people don't get a sign of confirmation, they're then filled with doubt. The very act of becoming a Christian is referred to in Scriptures as being '*called*' out of darkness and into the light.

The Holy Spirit does this calling in a number of ways: For some people, just hearing the Gospel preached gives them the understanding of what God wants them to do. For others, it might be another Christian's example or a great need that they see Jesus asking them to take care of through His forgiveness, love, power and strength. Once a commitment to follow Jesus is made, many adjustments from worldly ways to God's ways need to take place. This is a lifetime process of growing towards the likeness of His Son Jesus Christ. As we study the Bible, our obedience to God should increase as we desire to live to please Him.

At the right time God's call to you for ministry can come through a variety of channels: you may feel compelled by the great need of those who haven't yet heard the gospel; or it might be your experience of God already using you in a different type service for Him, or simply an intense desire to serve God by caring for others in a certain way. There's a variety of ways God uses to call us into ministry, but most aren't accompanied by a miraculous sign like a burning bush. We have to trust God in the beginning of a new ministry and believe what He's sending us to do will be accomplished in the name and authority of Jesus, our Redeemer and Lord.

In the Old Testament, God is revealed by a number of different names and each one shows a particular quality or activity of God. Moses wanted to know what name he should use to tell the Israelites that God had sent him to deliver them from slavery in Egypt. Moses was concerned that the Israelites wouldn't believe him. But God said: "I AM has sent you." In the Hebrew language, the name 'I AM' is quite similar to 'Yahweh', meaning "He is." The Israelites would have recognised that name. This was no new God that was sending Moses, but the God of their ancestors Who had always existed.

‘I AM’ describes the Creator of the universe, in whom resides infinite power, knowledge, wisdom, justice and compassion. ‘I AM’ is not a passive, distant God but He’s a living and constant presence. This same God who was with Moses long ago continues to be with us today. He’s promised never to leave us or forsake us. God then gave Moses instructions on what he should say to the Israelites and to Pharaoh. God told Moses that Pharaoh wouldn’t let the Israelites go for a 3-day journey into the wilderness to worship Him with sacrifices. But Moses wasn’t to be discouraged by this, because God would use wonders to make Pharaoh finally release the Israelites and give them their freedom.

God also told Moses that when the time came to leave Egypt, the Egyptian people would be so pleased to see them leave that they would give the Israelites anything they asked for. This would fulfil God’s prophecy to Abraham that his descendants would come out of Egypt with great possessions, and be some form of compensation for the many years of suffering that the Israelites had endured in Egypt.

Moses kept bringing up problems of God’s plan to God. But Moses had to learn the lesson to trust God and not his own abilities. Without faith, it’s impossible to please God, much less abide in Him and serve Him all of our days. God never calls us to a task without also giving us everything we need to do it. God gave Moses 2 signs that He was with him: one was his shepherd’s staff turning into a snake and back into a staff again, while the other was his hand turning diseased and being made whole again. Each time Moses complained of some imagined difficulty, God provided him with the means and encouragement to overcome it.

God was very patient with Moses. God's signs were not circus tricks but demonstrations of Moses' new position as God's spokesperson. These were both a warning to the Egyptians and an encouragement to the Israelites. However, God knew these 2 signs wouldn't convince the Israelites to trust Moses, and so He gave Moses a 3rd one. Moses was to take a small amount of water from the Nile River and pour it out on the dry land, where it would turn to blood. This sign would remind the people of the many Israelite baby boys thrown into the Nile River by Pharaoh.

Moses next protested that he couldn't speak very well. God told Moses that He would help Moses to say the right words. Whatever inability Moses thought he had, God would overcome it. When Moses couldn't think of any more excuses, he revealed his true heart by asking God to send someone else. God is patient and slow to get angry but Moses wasn't willing to trust in God's enabling. We need to remember that Moses wrote all this about himself. This proves that Moses was a humble and honest man.

In the end God grew angry with Moses' unwillingness to trust Him and appointed his older brother Aaron to be with him and do the speaking.

If you're not ready to leave this world when Jesus Christ returns for His true church, now is the time to prepare. Confess that you are a sinner; believe that Jesus Christ is really who He says He is – the holy and mighty Son of God – and that by dying on the cross of Calvary, He took upon Himself your sins and He paid the price for your redemption; accept God's provided free gift of pardon from judgment of sin that Christ's death purchased for you; then forsake the sins of your past and follow Him through the power of His Holy Spirit.

The moment you do that, you become part of God's family and you change your eternal destiny! You now belong to Christ! Seek Jesus' authority and Lordship of your life today!

In Psalm 86, Verse 15, it says: "But you, O Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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