

Torah Studies

Moses Returns to Egypt Exodus 4

Exodus: *Shemot* or Names



The Scholars – Konstanty Szewczenko

Torah Studies

Meditation on God's Word

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Meditation on God's Word

- Psalm 119:97-100 (NKJV)

97 Oh, how I love Your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser
than my enemies;

For they are ever with me.

Torah Studies

Meditation on God's Word

- Psalm 119:97-100 (NKJV)

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers,
For Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients,
Because I keep Your precepts.

Moses Returns to Egypt

Exodus 4

Introduction

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- Previously in Exodus:

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Introduction

- Previously in **Exodus**:
- In **Exodus 3** we saw Moses encounter the Angel of the Lord at Horeb in the burning bush.
- God called him to get his attention, then commissioned him to go back to Egypt.
- It was now time to free the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt and take them to Canaan.

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Introduction

- What to expect in Exodus 4:

Moses Returns to Egypt

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Introduction

- What to expect in Exodus 4:
- Moses will continue his conversation with God.
- It seems a little bit more like an argument.
- Still, he will go back to Egypt, and this time around, the people seem willing to be led.

Moses Returns to Egypt

Exodus 4

Outline

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Exodus 4

Outline

- I. Moses' First Protest 4:1-9
- II. Moses' Second Protest 4:10-17
- III. Moses Goes Back to Egypt 4:18-31

I. Moses' First Protest

4:1-9

I. Moses' First Protest

4:1-9

- 4:1 Moses offers a very specific doubt, not a vague fear or skepticism.
- This may be genuine. He knows the Israelites from his own bad experience.

I. Moses' First Protest

4:1-9

- 4:2-5 a serpent In Egypt, the snake was a potent symbol.
- It was tied to royalty and divine power.

I. Moses' First Protest

4:1-9

An upright cobra was the symbol of the Egyptian goddess Wadjet.

Picture: King Tut Sarcophagus



I. Moses' First Protest

4:1-9

- 4:6-8 leprous The Bible uses the same word to describe a lot of different illnesses or disorders.
- This sounds like vitiligo, the pigment condition.
- It need not be the bacterial infection connected with Hansen's Disease.

I. Moses' First Protest

4:1-9

- 4:9 This third sign of blood from Nile water is a preview of the first plague.
- Notice God's teaching method.
- He gives one sign after another, all with a goal of strengthening Moses' – and later Israel's – faith.

I. Moses' First Protest

4:1-9

- God gives us all that we need to overcome our doubt.

I. Moses' First Protest

4:1-9

- God gives us all that we need to overcome our doubt.
- That is, He gives us enough evidence to trust Him.
- Then, we still have to exercise that faith or trust.

I. Moses' First Protest

4:1-9

- God gives us all that we need to overcome our doubt.
- If we want, we can always raise another objection.
- And Moses will do just that.

II. Moses' Second Protest

4:10-17

II. Moses' Second Protest

4:10-17

- 4:10 Moses says he is and has been, “heavy of mouth and heavy of tongue.”
- But is that true?

II. Moses' Second Protest

4:10-17

- Acts 7:22

And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.

II. Moses' Second Protest

4:10-17

- 4:11-12 God is supreme over all of our abilities – and our inabilities.
- Moses' ability – natural or developed – is still less important than God's desire to use him.
- All of us end up being good at some things and bad at others.

II. Moses' Second Protest

4:10-17



God has made me as He has made me for his own purposes. I may have impediments. I may have genetic disorders, genetic weaknesses, and yet, God has a purpose in it all ...

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

II. Moses' Second Protest

4:10-17



... I've even come to accept that God has a purpose in my being bald, whatever that purpose may be.

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

II. Moses' Second Protest

4:10-17

- 4:13 Please send someone else.
- Here is the real issue. Moses doesn't want to go.
- God is angry, but he still puts up with Moses' gripe.

II. Moses' Second Protest

4:10-17

- 4:14-17 Aaron ... he is coming out to meet you.
- This is our first introduction to Aaron.
- He and their sister Miriam were both older than Moses.
- God will have an important job for Aaron too.

II. Moses' Second Protest

4:10-17

- God's plan always requires that we serve Him with others.

II. Moses' Second Protest

4:10-17

- God's plan always requires that we serve Him with others.
- He is going to save a whole nation out of Egypt and plant them in their own land.
- Jesus gathered a group of disciples.
- The apostles and their teams planted churches.
- Teamwork is part of God's plan.

III. Moses Goes Back to Egypt

4:18-31

III. Moses Goes Back to Egypt

4:18-31

- 4:18 Moses shows Jethro respect by asking permission.
- Obedience to God is more important, but it's a nice detail.

III. Moses Goes Back to Egypt

4:18-31

- 4:19 All the men who were seeking your life are dead.
- This would include the Pharaoh (2:15) who would have been Moses' adopted grandfather or uncle.
- The current Pharaoh might be his cousin.

III. Moses Goes Back to Egypt

4:18-31

- 4:20 the staff of God
- This started out as Moses' own staff in v. 2.
- Isn't it amazing how God uses whatever we have?

III. Moses Goes Back to Egypt

4:18-31

- 4:21 I will harden his heart ...
- More on this later as we will see.
- 4:23 If you refuse ... I will kill your firstborn son.
- More on this as well. There is still a lot ahead of us in the book of Exodus.

III. Moses Goes Back to Egypt

4:18-31

- 4:24-26 This is a strange story, but it highlights the importance of God's covenant and its symbols.

III. Moses Goes Back to Egypt

4:18-31

- Genesis 17:12-14

12 He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, 13 both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised ...

III. Moses Goes Back to Egypt

4:18-31

- Genesis 17:12-14

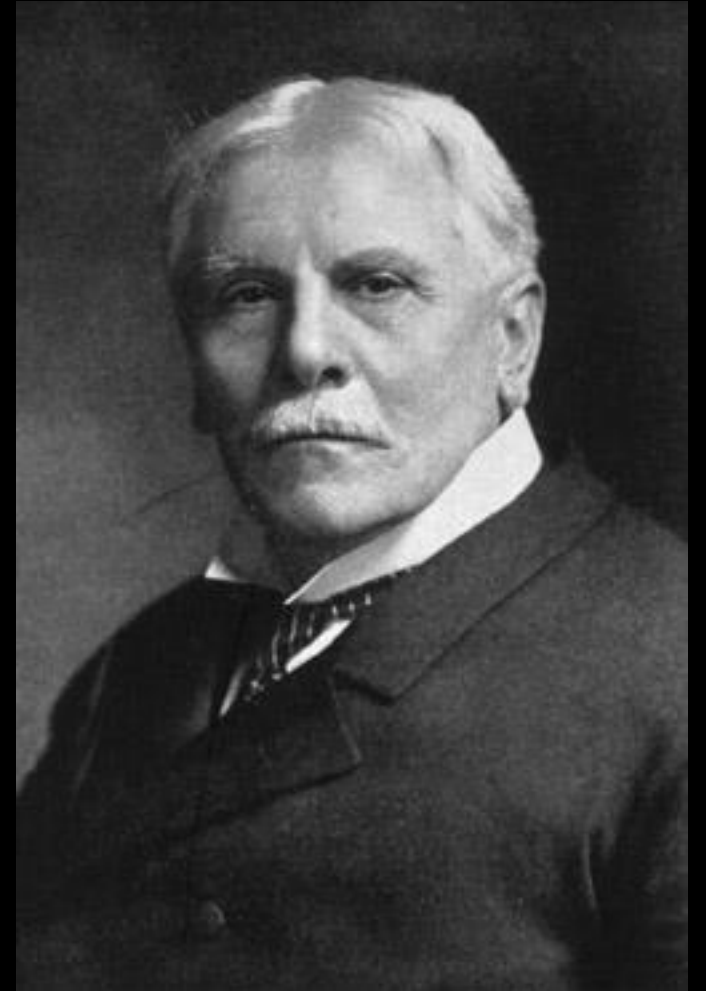
... So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. 14 Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.

III. Moses Goes Back to Egypt

4:18-31

Moses was forgetful of the foundation sign of Israel's covenant with God. On the eve of delivering Israel, he was reminded that without circumcision an Israelite was cut off from the covenant.

*– C. I. Scofield (1843 – 1921),
American Pastor, Theologian*



III. Moses Goes Back to Egypt

4:18-31

- 4:27-31 God speaks to Aaron.
- They meet after some 40 years – plus they didn't even grow up in the same house.
- Together they go to the leaders of Israel.
- The people believed and worshiped.

III. Moses Goes Back to Egypt

4:18-31

- All doubts and disclaimers aside, God requires us to exercise an active faith.

III. Moses Goes Back to Egypt

4:18-31

- All doubts and disclaimers aside, God requires us to exercise an active faith.
- There will always be uncertainties.
- We simply need to move forward anyway.

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Conclusion

Moses Returns to Egypt

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- Trust

Conclusion

Moses Returns to Egypt

Exodus 4

Conclusion

- Trust
- God doesn't promise us absolute certainty.
- He does promise to be faithful to His word.
- Faith and trust are required on our side.

Moses Returns to Egypt

Exodus 4

- Teamwork

Conclusion

Moses Returns to Egypt

Exodus 4

Conclusion

- Teamwork
- God expects us to work together with others in order to accomplish His will.
- He builds churches, ministry teams and communities.
- He then asks us to worship and work together.

Moses Returns to Egypt

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- Active Faith

Conclusion

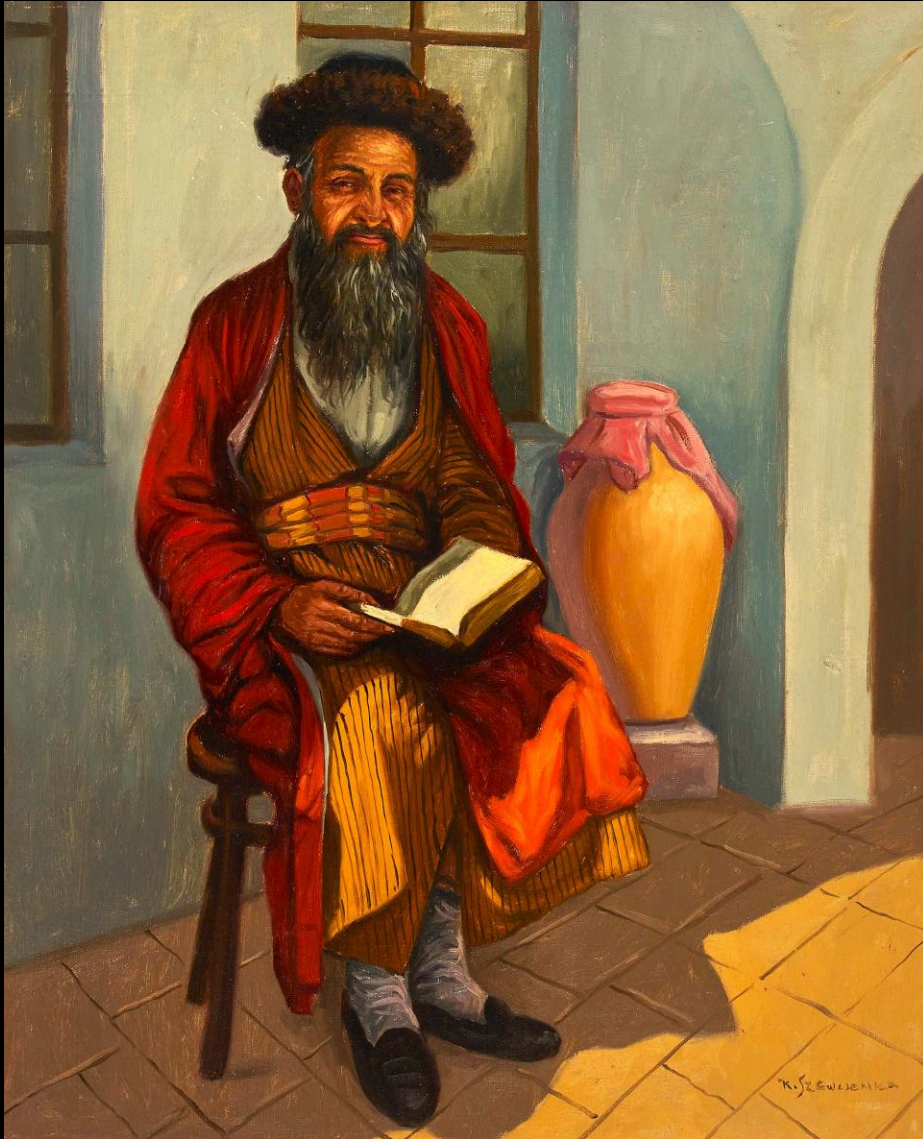
Moses Returns to Egypt

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Conclusion

- Active Faith
- This is the result of our trust in Him.
- He gives us things to do.
- We move forward with them.
- As we act, we will have to rely on God's word and rely on one another.

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Deliverance Begins in Egypt

Exodus 5 – 6

Quiet Prayer – Konstanty Szewczenko