

## **THE CALL OF ABRAM**

### **(GENESIS 12:1FF)**

Abram was a son of Terah, who lived in the city of Ur in Babylonia. He was a wealthy person with many domestic animals and slaves as well; married to a beautiful but barren woman named Sarai.

God's appearance to Abraham marked the beginning of a series of great changes around him despite his elderly age of 75. He was eventually renamed Abraham and his wife, Sarai, became known as Sarah.

He left his native land, his relatives and the father's home and went to a strange land and he was shown. Besides, he abandoned his traditional beliefs in many gods (the gods of the moon, stars and the sun) and started worshipping God. Most importantly, he was blessed with a son named Isaac.

### **REASONS FOR THE CALL OF ABRAHAM**

#### **(The relationship between the call of Abraham and the fall of Man in Genesis)**

God wanted to reconcile with the sinful human beings for Genesis 3-11, man had created a barrier between themselves and God through constant sinning.

God wanted to bring salvation to mankind. He hated to see them remain in their fallen state associated with suffering.

Besides, God intended to use Abram as a means of restoring His image on mankind following their fall which had seen them lose it all.

God wanted to re-establish monotheism among human beings through Abraham who instantly abandoned his traditional gods and started worshipping Him upon being called. In Genesis 3, man had worshipped an earthly creature, the snake.

God wanted to enter into a new covenant relationship with Abraham purposely to begin afresh with human beings since they had earlier on betrayed him.

God wanted to show His love for the fallen man through Abraham. They had lost His love by disobeying His commands. Therefore, He intended to prove that He still loved them.

God wanted establish a model nation whose would people would be His own. Own. He proved this by promising Abraham many descendants who later become known as the Is realities , His chosen and ... people.

God wanted to restore man's obedience and faith, which they had lost by eating the forbidden fruit Abraham proved this by descendants who later became known as the Israelites. His, chosen and his people.

God wanted to restore man's obedience and faith, which they had lost by eating the forbidden fruits Abraham proved this by responding to His call with obedience and faith.

It was also purposely to prove that God could use anybody irrespective of his or her background. He used Abraham who worshipped many gods begin the salvation process of mankind .

God intend to remove and save Abraham from sinfulness as he went on to command him to give his native land for a strange place he was to be shown.

He wanted to bless mankind once again because .He had withdrawn His blessings from the first farmer beings after their acts of disobedience .Evidently , He promised to bless Abraham with many descendants among others.

God wanted to restore harmony in human relationship with Him and among human beings for from Genesis 3-11,there has been disharmony .

The call of Abraham was an act of forgiveness. God intended to show that He had forgiven the sinful man and was now willing to start all again with them.

By calling Abraham, God wanted to establish His kingdom permanently here on earth. This would bring Him closer to the people.

## **ABRAHAM'S RESPONSE TO GOD'S CALL (Abraham as a man of faith)**

Abraham responded positively to God's call despite his lack of knowledge of the being calling him.

Abraham responded with utmost trust and confidence in God that all would be well even though he had no any experience with Him.

Abraham willingly left his native land and went to a strange land which he was shown despite his elderly age of 75 without being mindful of his personal comfort ( Genesis 12:4fd).

Abraham believed in God's promises though most of them seemed impossible to fulfill particularly that of having a son and many descendants when his wife was barren and both were already over aged ( Genesis 15:5)

Abraham abandoned the worshiping of his traditional Gods and started worshipping God . this was a remarkable change since he took on a belief totally new .

Abraham changed his name and that of his wife .He was originally called Abram and his wife was known to be Sarai but this changed to Abraham and Sarah respectively after meeting God ( Genesis 17.5 and 15 )

Abraham circumcised himself and all his male descendants as of his covenant with God without any question even though he was already 99 years ( Genesis 17:23-27)

Abraham also built an alter which he used for worshiping god in several places including Bethel and Ai (Genesis 12:7-9)

Abraham offered sacrifice to God in places like Bethel and Scheme This showed his obedience, faith and trust in God .

Abraham pleaded with God through prayer to spare the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:16ff)

Abraham left his slave wife, Hagar and her son Ishmael upon god's promises to him about them (Genesis 21:9-21)

Abraham willingly accepted to offer his son as sacrifice to God who tested him purposely to know his obedience and whether he honored him ( Genesis 22:1ff).

**Ways in which Christians show their faith in God today:**

- Fellowshiping
- Praising and worshiping Him.
- Fasting especially during the lent season
- Giving offertory and the tithe (1/10)
- Attending church services
- Taking Holy Communion
- Praying to God
- Going for missionary Journeys
- Repentance

**GOD 'S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM**

**(Genesis 12:2-3, 15:1ff, 17ff and 18: ff)**

God made number promises to Abraham after positive response to His call including the following.

God promised Abraham many descendants that they would be as many as the stars in heaven and as the sand on earth that would be kings.

God promised to bless Abraham and make his name famous so that would be a source of blessing to many .

He also promised Abraham that He would bless him and curse whoever would curse him.

God promised Abraham divine protection for He would shield him from any danger and give him a great reward .

God promised Abraham that his descendants would be strangers in foreign land where they would be slaves and treated cruelly for four hundred years .

However, he promised Abraham that he would punish the nation that would enslave his descendants that at the time of their liberation, they would take great wealth with them.

Besides, God promised Abraham that he would live to a ripe old age, die in peace and would be buried.

God promised Abraham that he would be the ancestor of many nations in the world. It was for this that He renamed him as Abraham.

God declared that He would keep His promise to Abraham and his descendants in future generations as an everlasting covenant.

God promised Abraham that He would give him and his descendants the land in which he was a foreigner. The whole land of Canaan would belong to his descendants forever.

God promised Abraham a son even though he was so elderly, His wife, Sarah would bear for him a son to be named Isaac.

Besides, God declared that Abraham's son, Ishmael would be a father to twelve princes and he would make a great nation out of his descendants.

### **How the promises were fulfilled in the later history.**

- Abraham was given many descendants who became known as Israel
- God gave him a son named Isaac despite his old age.
- God protected Abraham like during the destruction of the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah
- Abraham's name remained famous among his descendants.
- Israelites were enslaved in Egypt and treated cruelly.
- He punished the Egyptian for treating Israel
- God rescued the Israelites free from slavery
- Israel conquered and possessed the Canaan land
- Abraham lived for more years up to old age
- Israel became God's own people and he remained their God
- Through Abraham the whole world became blessed.

- He is presented as a great grandfather of Jesus Christ who brought the God news of salvation.

### **GOD 'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM (GEN 15:1FF)**

A covenant is a bidding agreement which is either between two people or a group of people .

However, a covenant made between unequal parties, that is between God and man is called a severing covenant . Therefore, God's covenant with Abraham which is often referred to as the Abraham Covenant was a sovereign type.

In this covenant, God took the initiative to make a fresh start with human beings through the person of Abraham whom He brought closer through a convenient relationship.

He commanded Abraham to present to him a cow, a goat and a ram each of which had to be three years old and a dove and a pigeon.

Abraham cut the animals into half and placed each opposite the other on two rows but he did not cut the birds .

The Lord appeared to Abraham when he was in deep sleep and made a number of promises including making his descendants strangers in a foreign land where they would be treated cruel but that He would later set them free.

In the evening hours, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch suddenly appeared and passed between the halves of the animal. The smoking fire-post and the flaming torch showed the presence of God and His acceptance of Abraham's sacrifices.

#### **The nature/ characteristics of the Abrahamic covenant**

God's Covenant with Abraham was sovereign in nature for He was the superior being and Abraham the inferior being .

It involved promises for God declared to Abraham that he would be a stranger in a foreign land where they would be treated cruelly but that He would later set them free (Genesis 15:13)

This covenant involved trust. Abraham trusted in God, who became pleased with him and accepted him (Genesis 15:6)

The Covenant was characterized by faith. Abraham believed in the promises that God made to him like having many descendants among others.

God revealed His identity to Abraham during this covenant as the God who had led him out of his home land into another one (Genesis 15:7)

The covenant involved offering of sacrifices for Abraham presented to God animals like a cow, a goat and ram and birds like a dove and pigeon (Genesis 15: 9-20)

The covenant was sealed using blood as Abraham cut the animals he had brought into halves before presenting them to God.

It involved obedience for Abraham was required to obey God and was also obliged to do what was right.

It involved the sign of circumcision. God instructed Abraham to circumcise him and all his male descendants to show that he had made a covenant with Him and to help identify them as His people (Genesis 17:10-14)

It involved changes in names. Abram was renamed to mean the ancestor of many nations and his wife, Sarai became known as Sarah, which meant a mother of nations (Genesis 12 and 15).

The Abraham covenant was characterized by God's presence and revelation. He revealed Himself in a smoky fire-pot and a flaming torch that passed across the sacrifice

The covenant involved the worshiping of God. Abraham abandoned his traditional visible gods and began worshiping the Almighty God whom he bowed down before.

The Covenant was also conditional. God ordered Abraham to circumcise all his male descendants if they were to remain His people ( Genesis 17:10-14)

It was characterized by God's Holiness symbolized by the smoking fire-pot and the flaming torch that passed in between the halves of the sacrificial animals.

### **The importance of Abraham to the Jews**

Abraham was the founder of the Jewish nation for all of them were the descendant that God had them.

Abraham pioneered monotheism in Israel. Quite often the Jews were later urged to copy the example of their ancestor, Abraham by worshiping God only order to prove their obedience

The Israelites were the divine elect of God because of Abraham's obedience, faith and trust in god during His call. Therefore, they became the special and chosen people of God through Abraham.

Abraham's building of an altar during his relationship with God later become an important aspect of Israel's religion.

Abraham began the worship of God based on offering sacrifices during his call. This was an important religious practice among the people of Israel.

Through Abraham, the Israelites came to realize that God could call anyone, at anytime irrespective of background. Abraham was a sinner, but God used him to bring about salvation to the entire humanity.

Abraham's life in the wilderness and movement to a strange land laid the foundation of the Jewish life in the wilderness and their movement to and from Egypt.

The Jewish custom of circumcision of all the male children began with Abraham. Therefore by following this custom, the Israelites belonged to the covenant which had made with Abraham.

Abraham's faith in God laid a foundation of faith to which the Israelites were later urged to observe particularly by the prophets God had sent to them .



The call of Abraham laid the foundation to the call of Moses. God had promised Abraham that He could raise someone to set His people free from slavery .

Through Abraham , the Jews came to be saved and liberated from their Egyptian slavery. This was a promise God had made to Abraham.

God 's covenant with Abraham gave meaning to the later covenants which God made with the people of Israel like that at the foot of Mount Sinai.

The people of Israel later enjoyed the blessing that God had promised to Abraham like their continued multiplication.

Through Abraham, Israel become a theocratic nation for god remained their father and they remained His people throughout their history.

### **Importance of Abraham in the New Testament.**

Abraham remained an important figure in the New Testament. Quite often reference is given to him as a person who enjoyed close relationship with his personality forms the some of the teachings.

Jesus Christ is presented as messiah and a descendant of Abraham from the line for king David who has won God's favor ( Mathew:1:1-17).

Jesus referred to Abraham as person seated in the kingdom of his father together with Isaac and Jacob ( Luke 13:28-29) and Mathew8:11-12)

In the parable of the rich fool , Lazarus is presented seated next to Abraham at the Heavenly banquet.

The Jews referred to and knew themselves as the descendants of Abraham who had never been a slave to anybody ( John 8:33)

Jesus declared to the Jews that their Father , Abraham rejoiced to see the time of this coming and went on to say that he was born before him ( John 8:48-58).

Abraham is presented as a person whom God made a covenant with and made promises as well Luke 1:68-79)

St. James gave reference to Abraham who was put right with God after putting his faith into action by accepting to offer his own son Isaac ( James 2:20-22).

Paul also praised Abraham's faith in his letter to the Hebrews. He observed that it was faith that made Abraham to obey when God called him to go out to a strange land (Hebrews 11:8-19).

St. Paul in his letters to the Galatians and the Romans said that God accepted Abraham because of his faith.

St. Paul also referred to Abraham as "The father of all races" in his letter to the Roman. He noted that he was put right with God by his deeds (Romans 4:1-2)

Besides, he said that Abraham believed in God because of his faith in him and it was this faith that made God to accept him as righteous person (Galatians 3.6).

St Paul went on to say that all people of faith are the true children of Abraham for they manifest in themselves what he did.

He showed that salvation is inherited from Abraham by giving the example of Abraham's wife, Sarah, who portrayed faith and Hagar who portrayed the Law.

Stephen in his last speech referred to Abraham as person whom the glory of God appeared before left his native land (Acts 7:2-15)

**End of the book of Genesis**

## **THE BOOK OF EXODUS**

The word Exodus means “departure” or going out in large numbers.

It refers to the mass movement of the children of Israel from Egypt where they had been enslaved back to the land that had been promised to Abraham their ancestor.

During their stay in Egypt, the Israelites were oppressed and found themselves in deep troubles. However, despite of this, the Israelites became more numerous. This threatened the Egyptians and forced them into hard labour.

It was a difficult period, characterized with hopelessness and torture.

### **Circumstances that led to the birth of Moses.**

Moses was born to a father from the Levi tribe while the people of Israel were in Egypt. His name meant “pulled out of water” as given by the king’s daughter who later adopted him. Therefore, Moses grew up among the Egyptians particularly in the kin’s palace.

- The people of Israel were in a foreign land particularly in Egypt
- The whole region including Egypt and Canaan had been hit by famine.
- The people continued to multiply while in Egypt.
- The Egyptian king felt threatened by the ever growing number of the Israelite.
- The king of Egypt feared that the Israelite may join their enemies in order to fight them and escape.
- The Israelites had been subjected to hard labour .
- The Egyptians treated foreigners with suspicion and cruelty
- The Egyptian King had embarked on a building project.
- The Egyptians king had ordered for the killing of the male children at birth by hiring the services of midwives .
- However, the midwives feared God disobeyed the king’s order.
- The Egyptian had issued a command to all his people to throw male children n of the Israelites into the River Nile.

## **THE CALL OF MOSES**

### **(Exodus 3-4)**

God called Moses while in the Midian land at the Plain of the holy mountain of Sinai where he had taken refuge after killing an Egyptian slave master. Moses found a priest named Jethro who had seven daughter in the Midian land. He was also shepherd.

The event that followed saw Moses marry a daughter of Jethro named Zipporah. He also became shepherd of his father-in-law.

God called Moses while he was taking care of the flock of his father-in-law in the plain of Sinai, the holy mountain.

God's revelation to Moses was an ordinary one. He saw a burning bush but the grass was not being eaten up. This was a strange experience as Moses himself described.

However, this strange experience brought Moses to the understanding that he was in the presence of God who introduced himself as being the God of his ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

God called Moses twice by his name as he moved closer to see the burning bush which was not being consumed. This showed the presence of God.

The voice of God from the middle of the bush commanded Moses not to move any closer. Therefore, he had to stand still.

Besides, God commanded Moses to take off sandals because he was standing on a holy ground. This showed the historical nature of God.

God identified himself to Moses as being the God his ancestors, being Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This showed the historical nature of God.

Moses covered his face because he was afraid to look at God. This showed the unworthiness of Moses before God and his respect for him as well.

God revealed to Moses that he had seen how cruelly his people were being treated in Egypt. This meant he knew everything that was going on thus He all knowing by nature.

Besides, God told Moses that had heard His people cry out to be rescued from their slaves - drivers .This proved God's desire for justice in human relationship.

God told Moses that he knew all about the suffering of his people to which He said had now come down to liberate and take them to a spacious, rich and fertile land .This showed that God is all knowing by nature.

God revealed to Moses the intention of calling him .He was sending him to the king of Egypt so that he could lead his people out his country .This showed that God was determined to liberate his people from their misery.

However, Moses' first response to God's command was that of an objection. He refused to go back to Egypt to rescue the people of Israel from their oppressors.

Moses reasoned that he was no body to go and face the Egyptian king and take his people out of his country .This was excuse based on human weaknesses as he took himself to be too inferior before the king.

None the less God assured Moses that he would be within in the course rescuing the people of his country .This signified the omnipresence of God.

Besides, God told Moses that he would worship him on the same mountain upon bringing Israel out of Egypt as a proof that it was Him who had sent him.

Despite , God's assurance to Moses , he was still hesitant to go back to Egypt as he raised the second objection .He reasoned that he people of Israel would ask for the name of God.

God disclosed His name to Moses as being " I am who I am " However , this name was rather confusing and it probably accounted for Moses' further objection to the task being given.

Besides, God went to identify himself as the Lord and the God of Israel's ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He gave reference to the future generations of Israel who would call that name forever.

God instructed Moses to go to the leaders of Israel and tell them that the God of their ancestors had appeared to him. This showed the historical nature of God.

God further declared His intention of rescuing Israel from the land they were being treated cruelly. He would take them to the rich and fertile land of the Canaanites, Hittites, the that the Amorites and the Jebusites among others.

God went to assure Moses that His people would listen to what he would say to them. Therefore, He ordered Moses to go with the leaders of Israel to the king of Egypt and tell him that he had revealed himself to them.

Besides, Moses was commanded to request the Egyptian king to allow the people of Israel to leave for the desert where they would offer to the Lord.

However, God revealed to Moses that the king of Egypt would not allow the people of Israel leave unless he would be forced to do so.

Nevertheless, God assured Moses that He would make the Egyptians to respect him so that his people would not go empty when leave.

Despite God's continued assurance to Moses, he still doubted Him thus he raised the third objection. He wondered what he would do in case the Israelites would not believe in him and fail to listen to what would say.

At this point, the Lord gave Moses the power to perform miracles by asking him to throw down the stick he was holding and it turned into a snake. This was to prove to the Israelites what it was God himself who had appeared to him.

In spite of the miraculous power, Moses still pleaded with God to send someone else instead of him justifying it that he was a poor speaker, slow and hesitant.

Moses' continued refusal to take up the responsibility being to him angered God, who commanded him to go back to Egypt.

God promised that He would help Moses to speak and tell him what to say to His people and to the Egyptian king.

To further convince Moses, God Assured Moses that his brother, Aaron would speak to the people on his behalf, for his role would be only to tell him what to say.

Besides, God promised to help both and Aaron to speak and guide them in what to do while in Egypt.

God assured Moses that all those who wanted to have him killed had already died. Therefore, his was safe from any danger.

Moses was finally convinced and he returned to Jethro's home before he eventually left for Egypt together with his family.

### **JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RESPONSE OF MOSES TO GOD'S CALL**

Moses responded to God's call in two ways. His first or initial response was that objection as he tried to resist taking up the task given to him. However, he accepted and took up the task that God had given after a long encounter with him.

#### **Reasons for Moses objection to god's call or his negative response**

Moses was a fugitive after having killed an Egyptian slave-driver. Therefore, being a criminal, he knew that going back to Egypt would put his life in danger.

Moses was also afraid that everyone had known that he killed an Egyptian before escaping to Midian land (Exodus 2:13-14)

The Egyptian king had tried to have Moses killed for his crime of killing an Egyptian before he escaped to the Midian land. Therefore, it was possible that he could have feared prosecution and execution (Exodus 2:15-16)

Besides, Moses was aware of the Military strength of the Egyptian forces, which he knew that he could not face them single-handedly above all without any arm.

God appeared to Moses in a very strange and mysterious way. He saw that the bush was on fire but it was not being burnt. This was rather a puzzling experience that could have left Moses in a state of dilemma.

Moses grew up among the Egyptians who worshipped many gods. This meant that he was not certain of the god appearing to him and he proved his ignorance by asking the name of the God sending him to the Israelites.

Besides, God's vision had taken such a long time the people were now not used to hearing about.

Moses knew that he a sinner before God after having killed an Egyptian. Therefore, he could have feared to work with God because of his sinfulness.

Moses reasoned that he was nobody to go and confront the Egyptian king about the liberation of the Israelites from their misery (Exodus 3:11)

Moses claimed ignorance of the name of the God calling and sending him to liberate to the Israelites from their slavery conditions.

The name "I am who I am" as God disclosed to Moses was strange and difficult for him to interpret and explain to Israelites (Exodus 3:14)

Besides, God revealed to Moses that the Egyptian king would not allow the Israelites to leave unless he was forced to do so. This presented a huge task ahead of Moses thus this could have created fear to him.

Moses had the feeling Israelites would not believe in him and listen to what he would tell them. He wondered what he was going to tell them if they would deny that he had not appeared to him. (Exodus 4:1).

Moses argued that he was a poor speaker, slow and hesitant. This implied that it would be such an uphill task for him to convince the Egyptian king about the release of the Israelites (Exodus 4:10)



Moses was tied by his marriage to Zipporah, the daughter of Jethro, which unfortunately God did not mention during their encounter.

### **Reason for Moses' Acceptance of or Positive Response to his Call**

After a long encounter with God, Moses Finally agreed to go back to Egypt and reduce the Israelites from their misery .This was probably because of the following reasons.

God identified himself to Moses as the God of his ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Moses response to this identity by converging his face because of fearing to look at God suggests that he recognized him ( Exodus 3:5).

Moses shared the same feeling with about the cruel and harsh treatment of the Israelites .He had killed an Egyptian for having killed a fellow Hebrew before taking refuge. Therefore, when God revealed the He wanted his people out such misery , it complemented His earlier effort (Exodus 2:11-12 and 3:7 -10)

God had also assured Moses he decided to bring the people of Israel out Egypt, there they were being treated cruelly and take them to the rich and fertile land ( Exodus 3:17)

Besides, God assured Moses that the Israelites would listen to what he was going to tell them considering it was about their liberation (Exodus 3:18)

God used a command language to send Moses to the leaders of Israel and the king of Egypt; "Then you must go with the leaders of Israel ...." Therefore he, could have feared to disobey the recommends of God (Exodus 3:18)

God promised Moses that he would use His power and punish the Egyptians by doing terrifying things in order for them to let go the Israelites ( Exodus 3:20)

God assured Moses that He would make the Egyptians respect him so his people would not leave empty -handed (Exodus 3:21)

Moses realized that God has become angry with him when he raised the fourth objection. Therefore, it is possible that he could have feared to keep on annoying God (Exodus 4:14).

Besides, God promised to help both Moses and Aaron to speak and guide him answers for all his excuses that he could not argue any longer.

God assured Moses that all those who wanted to have him killed had already died. Therefore, his life was safe from any danger.

### **REASONS FOR THE CALL OF MOSES.**

God wanted Moses to go and liberate the people of Israel from their bondage in Egypt where they were being treated cruelly.

He wanted Moses and the people of Israel to worship Him after they had been set free from their slave master (Exodus 3:12).

God intended to fulfill the promises. He had made to Israel's ancestor, Abraham that he would have many descendants who would be slaves in the foreign land but would rise someone to set them free.

God wanted to prove His holiness He commanded Moses to remove his sandals because he was standing on a holy ground.

God wanted to demonstrate His omnipotence both to the Israelites and the Egyptians. He gave Moses the power to perform miracles and promised to use his power on the Egyptians.

God wanted to show his love for people of Israel. Because of love for them, He decided to bring them out of Egypt, where they were being treated that He had now heard them cry out showed His desire for fairness in human relationship.

God intended to show that He could use any body irrespective of his or her background for His purpose. He appeared to Moses who was sinner he had killed an Egyptian to use him to rescue His people from their slavery.

He wanted to prove His omnipresence for He promised Moses that he would be with him while in Egypt and that the people would worship him where he was being called after leaving Egypt.

The call of Moses was intended to show the universal nature of God. His control was not only on the people of Israel but also on the Egyptians whom He promised to punish for having treated His people harshly.

God intended to prove that Israel was His first born. He chose and made them His own people (Exodus 4:22-23)

The call of Moses was intended to prove Israel as a theocratic nation. He kept on referring to them as His chosen people that He had decided to take them to a rich and fertile land .

God wanted to show that He was a historical God for He identified himself to Moses as being the God of His ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

By calling Moses, God was pursuing His salvation plan for humanity which He had started in Abraham

### **LESSONS CHRISTIANS LEARN FROM MOSES' CALL**

- Christian should be ready to meet God any where
- Christian should serve god with holiness
- Christian should worship only God.
- Christians should help those in misery out of their situations
- Christian should repent of their sins
- Christians should treat each other with fairness.
- Christians are called upon to love each other
- Christians should seek clarification for the task
- Christina should fulfill their promises.
- Christians respond positively to God's call.
- Christians are urged to trust in the Lord
- Christians should pray for protection from God
- Christian should be merciful to one another.
- Christians should help each other in their work
- Christians should remain calm when serving God.

## **FEATURES OR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BURNING BUSH**

It involved the presence of God symbolized by the fire that burnt the bush and the voice that Moses heard coming from the middle of it.

God called Moses by name twice probably because He wanted him to urgently be aware of His presence and respond as fast as possible.

It was characterized by God's holiness for He commanded Moses to remove his sandals because he was standing on the holy ground.

God revealed His identity to Moses as being God of his ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Besides, God disclosed his name to Moses as being "I am who I am" probably to mean that he could only be judged by his action at a time.

God gave Moses instructions during his call. He had to go back to Egypt and rescue the people of Israel from their slavery.

God expressed His concern for the misery of the Israelites for he had seen how cruelly they were being treated that they cried out for help .

It involved Moses' objection to God call by giving excuses like his inability to speak and the possibility of the people of Isreal not knowing God's name.

It was characterized by God's love for the people of Israel. Because of His love, he wanted His people out of their misery.

The burning bush event involved promises. God promised to be with Moses and punish the Egyptians among others.

Moses was given an extraordinary power to perform miracles to prove to the Israelites God had appeared to him.

God became angry with Moses because of this continues objection to His commands and instructions about rescuing the Israelites .

God gave Moses his own brother, Aaron help speak on his behalf to the Israelites and to the Egyptians king.

## **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BURNING BUSH EVENT TO THE JEWS**

Moses became the leader of the people of Israel. Therefore, in the event, his life changed completely from being a shepherd to becoming the leader of God's chosen people.

It led to the freedom of the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt thus their long misery also came to an end.

It showed God's omnipotence to the people of Israel as he promised to punish the Egyptians and went to give Moses the power of performing miracles.

It showed the theocratic nature of Israel as justified by the fact that God told Moses that He had seen how cruelly by His people were being treated.

It fulfilled the promises God had made to Abraham. He had promised that His descendants would be slave in a foreign land but that would raise someone to set them free.

It marked the beginning God's revelation to the people of Israel through his chosen persons. From then on, he continued revealing himself to the people.

It proved to the Israelites that God was a historical God for He identified himself to Moses as being the God of his ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

It proved the holiness of God to the people of Israel for he commanded Moses to remove his sandals because he was standing on the holy ground.

It gave birth to a new form of worship among the Israelites which was based on one true God.

Therefore, the Israelites had to drop the worshiping of any other gods.

The Israelites came to realize that they are chosen people of God for he called them his people.

The Israelites came to realize that God could use anyone for His purpose, for He decided to use Moses who was a criminal to bring about their freedom.

The Israelites realized that God as being a personal God for He identified himself to Moses as being the God of their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

It marked the beginning of the struggle between evil forces and the divine power of God among the people of Israel.

The event marked a new phase of renewed relationship between Israel and God who constantly referred to this particular event in their late history.

The Israelites came to realize that their liberation from Egyptian slavery was a workmanship of God. It was Him who initiated their liberation by calling and sending Moses to them.

It marked the beginning of the exodus events in the history of Israel for they left Egypt and started their movement through the wilderness to the Promised Land.

**NEXT: The Passover Feast (Exodus 11-12) S.5 2020**