

## “GOD’S WILL, MY WAY”

### Exodus 2

#### *Servants’ Guide*

#### INTRODUCTION

*“Easier said than done.” How many times have we heard that worn-out, overused cliché? Like an old saddle that’s been ridden hard and hung up wet after a thousand trail rides, we’d love to replace it but just can’t find a fitting successor. Few statements, though, could be more true of Moses as he sought to fulfill God’s calling on his life.*

*Now, many of us were taught in Sunday school that Moses didn’t know God’s calling until he talked with God at the burning bush, but the biblical text suggests that he knew his calling before he even left Egypt. In fact, we’ll see in this chapter how Moses actively sought to become Israel’s leader.*

-Church Swindoll

*Moses was out of touch with God. So he fled, and crossed the desert that lay between him and the eastern frontier; threaded the mountain passes of the Sinaitic peninsula, through which in after years he was to lead his people; and at last sat wearily down by a well in the land of Midian....*

*Such experiences come to us all. We rush forward, thinking to carry all before us; we strike a few blows in vain; we are staggered with disappointment, and reel back; ...we flee from the scenes of our discomfiture to hide ourselves in chagrin. Then we are hidden in the secret of God’s presence from the pride of man. And there our vision clears: the silt drops from the current of our life, ...our self-life dies down; our spirits drink of the river of God, ...and our faith begins to grasp his arm,...and thus at last we emerge to be his hand to lead an Exodus.*

-F.B. Meyer

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share about an experience where timing was of utmost importance.
2. Examine the following verses. (Ge 12:1-3; 15:17-19; 17:7-8,19; 26:24; 35:11-12) What is the covenant or promise that Israel has received from God?

*Some things to notice about the covenant promise...*

- National: Abraham will be a father a future great nation.
  - Personal: Abraham will receive personal blessing and honor.
  - Geographical: Specific land is described.
  - Blessing: Those who bless Abraham’s nation will be blessed, those who curse will be cursed, and all will be blessed through the Messiah.
3. What is the current “state of the nation” of Israel at this point in the book of Exodus. (See Exodus 1:6-14)
    - Lineage: Abraham-Isaac-Jacob-Joseph(Gen 35:23f).
    - Joseph’s brothers are upset after hearing the interpretation of his dream and they sell him into slavery to the Midianites (Gen 37).
    - Midianites sell Joseph in Egypt to Potipher, one of Pharaoh’s officials. Joseph is imprisoned after the incident with Potipher’s wife (Gen 39).
    - He interprets Pharaoh’s dream and then is put in charge of Egypt (Gen 41).
    - Severe famine brings Jacob and the brothers to Egypt (Gen 42-46).
    - Jacob and his family are given the land of Goshen within Egypt (Gen 47).
    - Famine kills many Egyptians and Israelites in Canaan. The nation of Israel now expands within Goshen.
  4. Read Exodus 2:1-8; 24-25. How is God at work to keep his covenant? What are some lessons we can learn about God?
    - Moses is not killed by Pharaoh’s command at birth (v.22).
    - Successfully hid for three months.
    - Baby Moses didn’t drown in the Nile.
    - Perfect timing to meet Pharaoh’s daughter, who would have power to keep such a baby.
    - Compassion for baby even knowing it was a Hebrew baby.
    - Perfect proximity and position of Moses’ sister to influence the situation.
    - Moses is returned to be nursed by his real mother and she is paid too.
    - Moses becomes the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.
  
    - We see God is sovereign and works in little ways.
    - He is sensitive to the cries and hurts of his people.
    - He is faithful to that which he has promised.
    - He is sometimes slow in keeping his promises.
    - He works in unlikely and unexpected ways to accomplish his will.

5. How does Moses seem well prepared to be the leader of Israel? (Acts 7:22)
  - "Education was carried to a very great length, and, in the case of those destined for the higher professions, embraced not only the various sciences, as mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, medicine, etc., but theology, philosophy, and a knowledge of the laws. There can be no doubt that, as the adopted son of the princess, Moses would receive the highest training."<sup>1</sup>
  - Moses was well trained for military confrontations. Josephus (historian), has recorded that Moses led the Egyptian army in a riveting victory over Ethiopia.<sup>2</sup>
6. How does Moses' understand his calling in life? (Acts 7:25-26)
  - More than 2 millions Jews are living in Goshen.
  - He viewed his background and training as the reason people should follow him.
  - Saw himself as the deliverer of Israel (Acts 7:25).
7. What misunderstanding does Moses have about his calling? What thoughts of disillusionment would Moses probably be facing? (v.14, Acts 7:27-29)?
  - Moses never sought God's counsel but acted on his own assessment of the situation. (Exodus 2:12)
  - Confusion and disillusionment because everything he thought he was in life has been shattered.
  - Where do I go from here? What will I do? I'm all alone!
8. What are some lessons we can learn about timing and God's will?
  - God definitely has a plan for our life but how it plays out is often the mystery.
  - Seek God's direction step by step, never assume too much.
  - Qualifications for God and the world are so different.
  - Failure has consequence but God provides a second chance.

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<sup>1</sup> Alfred Edersheim, *Bible History: Old Testament* (reprint, Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987), p.39.

<sup>2</sup> Flavius Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, book 2, chapter 10, in *The Works of Flavius Josephus*.