The Calling of Moses

EX 3:1 Now Moses was keeping the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the farthest end of the wilderness, and came to the mountain of God, unto Horeb. ^{2b}And he looked, and, behold, (the) a bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

^{4b}God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said: 'Moses, Moses.' And he said: 'Here am I.' 5And He said: 'Draw not nigh hither; put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.' 6Moreover He said: 'I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. 9And [God said] 'now, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto Me; moreover I have seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. 10Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth My people the children of Israel out of Egypt.'

¹¹And Moses said unto God: 'Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?' ¹²And He said: 'Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be the token unto thee, that I have sent thee: when thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.'

¹³And Moses said unto God: 'Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them: The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me: What is His name? what shall I say unto them?' ¹⁴And God

The Calling of Moses

J

[Gap in J: Moses Was Out with His Flock]

EX 3:2aAnd the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: 3And Moses said: 'I will turn aside now, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.' 4aAnd (when) the Lord saw that he turned aside to see. ⁷And the Lord said: 'I have surely seen the affliction of My people that are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their pains; 8 and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

¹⁶Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them: The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, hath appeared unto me, saying: I have surely remembered you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt. ¹⁷And I have said: I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite.

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The Calling of Moses

spoke unto Moses, and said unto him: 'I am the Lord; 3and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name YHWH I made Me not known to them. ⁴And I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their sojournings, wherein sojourned. thev moreover 5And I have heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered My covenant. 6Wherefore say unto the children of Israel: I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with

outstretched

Notes

The Calling of Moses

Separating the Texts

This is a key location in the E and P texts because God reveals his name to Moses here. Up to this point, theses texts have used the word "God." After this point, they will use both God and the Lord (=YHWH).

Both E and P say that this is the event when the Lord revealed his name to Moses, though P says it in summary form (Ex. 6:2) while E tells a story about it: (Ex. 3:13-15).

As we have seen, J has used this name throughout, and she believed it was revealed before the flood (Gen. 4:26).

It becomes more difficult to separate the texts after this point, because use of "the Lord" is no longer enough to assign a passage to the J text.

Note that Moses' father-in-law is named Jethro in E and Reuel in J. Reuel means shepherd of El.

E Text

Moses receives the ten commandments on Mt. Sinai in J and P and on Mt. Horeb in E and D. The E text is anticipating the E revelation on Mt. Horeb when it says that Moses "EX 3:1came to the mountain of God, unto Horeb" and adds "EX 3:12when thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain."

But when they come to the mountain, the received text does not mention Horeb, presumably because a redactor removed it to eliminate the contradiction.

J Text

In one sign that Exodus 3:17 is from the J text, J uses very similar language a bit earlier: "EX 3:8 and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite." Other texts do not use the phrase "of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite."

"Three days' journey" is used repeatedly in the J text

" quoting older text "

(added by redactor)

{ problematic }

[used more than once]