

Study Notes and Questions for Exodus 3 and 4

Chapter 3

- Although the text doesn't say here, do we know how many years Moses had been in Midian by the time the events of chapters 3 and 4 take place?
- Moses was near Horeb at the beginning of the chapter. What is another popular biblical name for Horeb and why is that location significant?
- What was it about the burning bush that first attracted Moses' attention and why do you think God chose that particular sign?
- How did Moses react upon learning he was in the presence of God and why do you think he reacted this way?
- Study Note: **The angel of the LORD** (3:2). The Bible contains dozens of references to this person. Both the Hebrew and Greek terms could be translated as either "messenger" or "angel." It is usually clear that a supernatural being is meant. The figure is "a heavenly being sent by God to deal with man as his personal agent and spokesman. In many passages he is virtually identified with God and speaks not merely in the name of God but as God in the first person singular."
- The Lord revealed what He intended to do about Israel's suffering, and Moses' part in the plan (see 3:7–10). What five objections did Moses raise?
- How did God respond to Moses' objection of "Who am I..." and what does the Lord's response mean for any believer?
- Study Note: **The LORD** (3:15). The Hebrew is YHWH. It means "He is" or "He will be"; it is the third person form of the verb rendered "I will be" in 3:12 and "I AM" in 3:14. (When God speaks of Himself, He says "I AM." When we speak of Him, we say "He is.")

Chapter 4

- In his third objection (see 4:1), Moses attributes unbelief to Israel. To what extent do you think this was fair, and to what extent does it just show Moses' lack of faith?
- How did God disarm this third objection (see 4:2–9)?
- How would you put into your own words what the Lord said in response to the fourth excuse (see 4:11–12)?
- Even though God refused to let Moses "off the hook," He did make a concession to him. What was it (see 4:14–17)?

- What does the Lord reveal Himself and His character in the responses He gives to the objections that Moses raised?
- How would you state the main theme of these chapters?
- What is one element of these chapters that you would like to take to heart?
- What does 3:1–4:17 suggest about man's ability to refuse God or frustrate His purposes?