

Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes

Third Quarter 2025: Exodus

Lesson 2 “The Burning Bush”

Read for this week’s study

Exodus 18:3, 4; Exodus 3:1–22; Genesis 22:11, 15–18; Exodus 6:3; Joel 2:32; Exodus 4:1–31; Genesis 17:10, 11.

Memory Text

“And the LORD said: ‘I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey’” (Exodus 3:7, 8, NKJV).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. The Burning Bush
- III. The Angel of the Lord
- IV. The Name of the Lord
- V. Four Excuses
- VI. The Circumcision
- VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration

Facilitator: Jon Paulien

1. Our lesson for this week focuses on the call of Moses at the burning bush. But first let’s consider a general question: If God calls us in a certain direction, is it always the best path for us? How would you know that God is calling you? (Sabbath Afternoon’s Lesson)
2. After Moses fled to Midian, he had a relatively easy life. He went from being a general in Pharaoh’s army to being a general of highly unintelligent sheep. He married, had two sons, Gershom and Eliezer (Exod 18:3-4), and became part of the extended family of Jethro, the priest of Midian. What would you say was accomplished during those quiet forty years? Read Exodus 3:1-6. What is the

significance of God introducing Himself as “the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?” (Sunday’s Lesson)

3. Moses needed 80 years before God deemed him ready for his task. What can we learn from that? (Sunday’s Lesson)
4. Read Exodus 3:7-12. How did God explain to Moses why He wanted to intervene on behalf of the Israelites enslaved in Egypt? What sign did God give to Moses that this call was genuine? Why is genuine humility critical for anyone who wants to follow the Lord? (Monday’s Lesson)
5. Read Exodus 3:13-22. Why did Moses want to know God’s name, and what is the significance of God’s name? (Tuesday’s Lesson)
6. Read Exodus 4:1-17. What set of signs did God give to Moses to perform in order to strengthen his position as God’s messenger? At what point does humility become stubbornness? (Wednesday’s Lesson)
7. Read Exodus 4:18-31. How do we understand this strange story, and what lesson can we take from it? What does it say about God that He was about to kill the messenger? (Thursday’s Lesson)
8. One major accomplishment during the 40 years of exile in Midian: the writing of Genesis. How important is the book of Genesis to the history of Israel and our understanding of the plan of salvation? (Friday’s Lesson)

Further Study with Ellen White

We know that in sadness and grief we feel very frail, but we know that Jesus is right by our side to sympathize with us, and He will help us. We can commune with our best Friend; He is right by our side. We need not go into the heavens to bring Him down, for He is right by us to help us. {CTr 42.4}

Not a sigh is breathed, not a pain felt, not a grief pierces the soul, but the throb vibrates to the Father’s heart. {AG 189.5}

God is ever seeking to instruct finite men that they may exercise faith in Him and trust themselves wholly in His hands. Every drop of rain or flake of snow, every spire of grass, every leaf and flower and shrub, testifies of God. These little things so common around us, teach the lesson that nothing is beneath the notice of the infinite God, nothing too small for His attention (GCB Feb. 18, 1897). {3BC 1141.3}

Before honor is humility. To fill a high place before men, Heaven chooses the worker who, like John the Baptist, takes a lowly place before God. The most childlike disciple is the most efficient in labor for God. The heavenly intelligences can co-operate with him who is seeking, not to exalt self, but to save souls. He who feels most deeply his need of divine aid will plead for it;

and the Holy Spirit will give unto him glimpses of Jesus that will strengthen and uplift the soul. {DA 436.3}

The enemy cannot overcome the humble learner of Christ, the one who walks prayerfully before the Lord. Christ interposes Himself as a shelter, a retreat, from the assaults of the wicked one. The promise is given, “When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.” . . . {ML 316.2}

In the creation of man was manifest the agency of a personal God. When God had made man in His image, the human form was perfect in all its arrangements, but it was without life. Then a personal, self-existing God breathed into that form the breath of life, and man became a living, intelligent being. All parts of the human organism were set in action. The heart, the arteries, the veins, the tongue, the hands, the feet, the senses, the faculties of the mind, all began their work, and all were placed under law. Man became a living soul. Through Christ the Word, a personal God created man and endowed him with intelligence and power. {MH 415.1}

The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of obligation merely—because he is required to do so—will never enter into the joy of obedience. He does not obey. When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they cut across human inclination, we may know that the life is not a Christian life. True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right—because right doing is pleasing to God. {COL 97.3}

But when we give ourselves wholly to God and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. He would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavors. Not once should we even think of failure. We are to co-operate with One who knows no failure. {COL 363.1}

The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. God desires from all His creatures the service of love—service that springs from an appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience; and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service. {PP 34.3}

The government of God is not, as Satan would make it appear, founded upon a blind submission, an unreasoning control. It appeals to the intellect and the conscience. “Come now, and let us reason together” is the Creator’s invitation to the beings He has made. Isaiah 1:18. God does not force the will of His creatures. He cannot accept an homage that is not willingly and intelligently given. A mere forced submission would prevent all real development of mind or character; it would make man a mere automaton. Such is not the purpose of the Creator. He desires that man, the crowning work of His creative power, shall reach the highest possible

development. He sets before us the height of blessing to which He desires to bring us through His grace. He invites us to give ourselves to Him, that He may work His will in us. It remains for us to choose whether we will be set free from the bondage of sin, to share the glorious liberty of the sons of God. {SC 43.4}