

Week 24
160/205

Transforming Daily
“... to deliver them ...”
Exodus 3:8

This phrase out of the book of Exodus in the Old Testament sounds like it could be out of any book of the gospels in the New Testament. The background is about the encounter of God with Moses when God calls Moses to deliver the Israelites from Egypt. The children of Israel were in Egypt due to a famine in their land and God’s masterful planning to bring Joseph to Egypt at that time. As a result, Egypt and the children of Israel benefitted and prospered. However, when Joseph died, and the Pharaohs changed throughout the years, the new Pharaohs forgot Joseph and seeing how vast in number the children of Israel had become, feared a hostile takeover, and in turn, burdened the Israelites beyond measure.

Moses running from his own problems (killed an Egyptian) is on the backside of nowhere. God appears to Moses and commissions him to free the Israelites from their overburdening. Of course Moses is reluctant, but God assures him that He will be with him, and through His power Moses is to lead the children of Israel to the promise land. Ultimately Moses obeys and leads the children of Israel out of bondage.

Traditionally this historic event is used to typify the storyline of the deliverance of sinners by the Savior, Jesus Christ. That’s why this phrase in Exodus sounds like it’s from the New Testament. Both events are a demonstration of God’s deliverance. In the previous verses before verse eight of chapter three, God tells Moses that He has seen and heard what the children of Israel were experiencing, and is moved to compassion. Why? God is a personal God. He personally cares for His people. He is not far off as some might imagine. Therefore, He came down from heaven in this situation and spoke to Moses from a burning bush that was not consumed. In the New Testament, He came down from heaven as an infant, Emanuel, “God with us,” Jesus Christ, to deliver His people from their sin.

Do you have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ? Is your fellowship with Him fresh, growing and new every day? Are you sharing your faith as we are commanded, commissioned, and privileged to do? Remember God came down not just to deliver you, but also to deliver them.