

Exodus 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And 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?

Analysis

And 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? (וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־יְהוָה וְיֵאמָר מִי אֲנֹכִי כִי אֵלֶךְ אֶל־פַּרְעֹה וְכִי אוֹצִיא אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרָיִם)—Moses' first objection: personal inadequacy. **Who am I?** (מִי אֲנֹכִי, mi anokhi)—Moses' humility contrasts with his earlier presumption (2:12). Forty years in the wilderness broke his self-confidence. **That I should go unto Pharaoh**—Moses fled as fugitive murderer (2:15); how can he return? **Bring forth... Israel**—Moses earlier tried self-appointed deliverance (2:12); it failed miserably. Now he doubts God-appointed mission. True humility recognizes inadequacy but trusts God's sufficiency. False humility uses inadequacy as excuse for disobedience. God's response (v. 12) shifts focus from Moses' identity to divine presence.

Historical Context

Moses' question 'Who am I?' reflects radical transformation from the prince who acted presumptuously (2:12) to the shepherd who doubts his adequacy. Midian's wilderness humbled Moses necessarily—leaders must be broken of self-reliance before God can use them. Moses learns what Paul later wrote: 'When I am weak, then am I strong' (2 Corinthians 12:10).

2 Corinthians 3:5 (References God): Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

Jeremiah 1:6 (References God): Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

2 Corinthians 2:16 (Parallel theme): To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?

1 Kings 3:7 (References God): And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

1 Kings 3:9 (Parallel theme): Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

2 Samuel 7:18 (References God): Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?