

# 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? (וְאֵמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־)**—(בְּאֶלְמָנָה מֵאֲנָכִי כִּי אֶלְךָ אֶל־פְּרָעָה וְכִי אָזְכִּיא אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרָיִם—Moses' first objection: personal inadequacy. **Who am I?** (מֵאֲנָכִי)—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).

## Related Passages

## Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

## **Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth**

## Study Questions

1. How does Moses' humility ('Who am I?') challenge both self-reliant pride and excuse-making false humility in your response to God's call?
2. When has God used a 'wilderness season' to break your self-sufficiency and prepare you for greater kingdom work?

## Interlinear Text

אֵל נִכְיָמִים אֵל מֶשֶׁה וְאֵל אָמָר  
said And Moses H413 unto God H4310 H595 H3588 H1980 H413  
H550 H4872 H420

|                     |              |                                      |        |                     |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| פָּרָעָה            | אָזֶץ יְהוָה | אֶת                                  | בְּנֵי | יִשְׂרָאֵל          |
| <b>unto Pharaoh</b> | H3588        | <b>and that I should bring forth</b> | H853   | <b>the children</b> |

מִצְרַיִם:  
**out of Egypt**  
H4714

## Additional Cross-References

**1 Samuel 18:18** (References Israel): And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king?

**Exodus 6:12** (References Moses): And Moses spake before the LORD, saying, Behold, the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me; how then shall Pharaoh hear me, who am of uncircumcised lips?

**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?

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