

Exodus 3:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

Analysis

And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I, וַיַּרְא יְהוָה כִּי סָר לְרוֹאֹת וַיַּכְאֵלֵל הָאֱלֹהִים מִתְוֹךְ הַסְּבָדָה וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה מֹשֶׁה (מֹשֶׁה מֹשֶׁה) יְהוָה קָרָא לְרִאּוֹת וַיַּכְאֵלֵל אֱלֹהִים מִתְוֹךְ הַסְּבָדָה וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה מֹשֶׁה (מֹשֶׁה מֹשֶׁה) I YHWH ki sar lir'ot vayikra elav Elohim mitokh hasneh vayomer Mosheh Mosheh vayomer hineni)—**When the LORD saw that he turned aside**—God waits for Moses' response before speaking. The double name **Moses, Moses** (מֹשֶׁה מֹשֶׁה) signals urgent, intimate divine address (cf. Abraham, Abraham, Genesis 22:11; Samuel, Samuel, 1 Samuel 3:10). **Here am I** (הִנֵּנִי, hineni) is the classic response of readiness to obey (Genesis 22:1, Isaiah 6:8). Moses has journeyed from impulsive self-confidence (2:12) to humble availability. The text shifts from "angel of the LORD" (v. 2) to "the LORD" and "God" (v. 4), revealing that the messenger and the message are one—this is YHWH Himself speaking.

Historical Context

The double name calling emphasizes solemnity and affection in Hebrew narrative. God's speaking from the bush confirms this is no vision but direct divine revelation. Moses' response "hineni" would later be required of prophets (Isaiah 6:8) and saints (1 Samuel 3:4-10), showing readiness to hear and obey. This moment marks Moses' transition from shepherd to prophet.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's waiting until Moses 'turned aside' teach about the importance of responsive attentiveness to receive His call?
2. What does Moses' simple 'Here am I' teach about the humility and readiness required to receive divine commissioning?

Interlinear Text

לְרָא וֹת		וְיָהּוּ הָ	כִּי	רָא	וֹת	לְרָא וֹת	וְיָהּוּ
saw		And when the LORD	H3588	that he turned aside		saw	called
H7200		H3068		H5493		H7200	H7121
וְיָהּוּ אֱלֹהִים אֵלָיו		מִתְּוֹךְ		בְּסִגְבָּה	וְיָהּוּ אָמַר	מֹשֶׁה	
H413	God	unto him out of the midst	H8432	of the bush	And he said	Moses	
H430				H5572	H559	H4872	
מֹשֶׁה וְיָהּוּ אָמַר מֹשֶׁה		הָנָנִים					
Moses	And he said	H2009					
H4872		H559					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 33:16 (Parallel theme): And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren.

Acts 9:4 (Parallel theme): And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

Genesis 22:1 (References God): And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

Genesis 22:11 (References Lord): And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

Genesis 46:2 (References God): And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I.

1 Samuel 3:8 (References Lord): And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

1 Samuel 3:6 (References Lord): And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

1 Samuel 3:4 (References Lord): That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

Psalms 62:11 (References God): God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.

Acts 10:3 (References God): He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.