

# 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 לִרְאוֹת וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו אֱלֹהִים מִתּוֹךְ הַסִּנֶּה וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי) vayar 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** (הִנְנִי, 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

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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לָרָא וְתִקְרָא	יְהוָה	כִּי	סָר	לָרָא וְתִקְרָא	וַיִּקְרָא
saw	And when the LORD	H3588	that he turned aside	saw	called
H7200	H3068		H5493	H7200	H7121
אֵלַי יוֹ	אֱלֹהֵי יִם	מִתּוֹךְ	הַסִּבָּה	וַיֹּאמֶר	מֹשֶׁה
H413	God	unto him out of the midst	of the bush	And he said	Moses
	H430	H8432	H5572	H559	H4872
מֹשֶׁה	וַיֹּאמֶר	הִנְנִי:			
Moses	And he said	H2009			
H4872	H559				

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.