

# Exodus 4:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.

## Analysis

**And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee** (וַיַּעַן מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֶר וְהֵן לֹא־יֵאֱמִינוּ לִי וְלֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ בְקוֹלִי כִּי יֹאמְרוּ לֹא־נִרְאָה אֵלֶיךָ יְהוָה)—Moses' first objection: credibility. **They will not believe me** (לֹא־יֵאֱמִינוּ לִי)—Moses projects his own doubts onto Israel. After 40 years in Midian, he's forgotten Israel's desperation (2:23-25). **The LORD hath not appeared unto thee**—Moses fears they'll think him delusional or fraudulent. This objection reveals Moses' insecurity, a dramatic shift from his youthful overconfidence (2:12). God patiently responds with three authenticating signs (vv. 2-9), demonstrating that He equips those He calls.

## Historical Context

Moses' concern was legitimate—false prophets and failed deliverers likely arose during 400 years of bondage. Israel had reason to be skeptical of would-be saviors. Yet God's response shows He provides validation for genuine calls. The signs Moses receives are supernatural credentials that will authenticate his divine commission before Pharaoh and Israel.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does Moses' fear of disbelief reflect your own hesitations when God calls you to difficult tasks?
2. What 'signs' or confirmations has God given you to authenticate His calling in your life?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּעַן	מֹשֶׁה	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וְהֵן	לֹא	וַיֹּאמְרוּ יֵנוּ	לִי
answered	And Moses	and said	H2005	H3808	But behold they will not believe	H0
H6030	H4872	H559			H539	
וְלֹא	וְשָׁמַע ו	בְּקוֹלִי	כִּי	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	לֹא	נִרְאָה
H3808	me nor hearken	unto my voice	H3588	and said	H3808	hath not appeared
	H8085	H6963		H559		H7200
אֵל יְיָ	יְהוָה:					
H413	The LORD					
	H3068					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 3:18** (References Lord): And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

