

# Exodus 4:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

## Analysis

**And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue** (וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־יְהוָה בִּי אֲדֹנָי לֹא אִישׁ דְּבָרִים אָנֹכִי גַם מִתְּמֹל) —Moses' second objection: inadequate speech. **Not eloquent... slow of speech, and of a slow tongue** (לֹא אִישׁ דְּבָרִים... "not a man of words... heavy of mouth and heavy of tongue"). This may indicate a speech impediment, trauma from his Egyptian life, or simply lack of rhetorical training for his new mission. Acts 7:22 says Moses was "mighty in words"—perhaps his 40 years in Midian cost him oratorical polish. God's response (vv. 11-12) teaches that He creates abilities and compensates for disabilities. Moses learned that God's power perfects through weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

## Historical Context

Egyptian court culture prized eloquence—scribes, administrators, and officials needed rhetorical skill. Moses perhaps felt inadequate returning to that context after 40 years as shepherd. Or perhaps he had actual speech difficulty (cf. 6:12, 30 where Moses mentions "uncircumcised lips"). Regardless, God used Moses' perceived weakness to showcase divine enablement—the message's power came from God, not human eloquence (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).



**Exodus 6:12** (References Lord): 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?

**Acts 7:22** (References Moses): And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

**Exodus 4:1** (References Lord): 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.

**2 Corinthians 11:6** (Parallel theme): But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.

**2 Corinthians 10:10** (Parallel theme): For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.

**Job 12:2** (Parallel theme): No doubt but ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you.