

MOSES

A Man of Selfless Dedication

STUDY SEVEN

Who? Me, Lord?

Exodus 3:10–4:17

God has a plan, and He will carry it out. All He asks is that we be an instrument He can use.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

PERHAPS you can identify with Moses' experience. You heard the Lord say, "I want you to lead," and you sensed His mighty hand on your life. But instead of waiting on Him, you ran ahead. Before you knew it, your feet were tangled up in a string of errors, and you fell flat on your face.

Embarrassed, you brushed yourself off, and you retreated to the safety of the crowd. Your initial *intensity* gave way to *insecurity* as self-doubt and anxiety haunted you and your confidence disappeared like vapor. So, when God called again, you hesitated.

Memories of failure kept replaying in your mind, and a cloudbank of *inferiority* darkened your spirit. You heard God call, but, obviously, He was dialing the wrong number.

These reactions describe Moses in a nutshell. In his intensity, Moses ran ahead of God's plan. He retreated in insecurity after he failed, and as we'll see in this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, Moses developed such deep inferiority that when God called again, Moses resisted.

Most people shy away from stepping back into an arena of past defeat. Why endure more humiliation? The Lord had answers for Moses' self-doubt and fear; likewise, God has answers for you that will encourage you when you hear His call to try again.



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PREPARE YOUR HEART

If you struggle sometimes with self-doubt and fear, offer the tender parts of your soul to the Lord. Open your heart in prayer as you seek His mind through the Scriptures.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Moses had taken Jethro's flock to the far reaches of the desert, as far from civilization's gaze as a person could go. In the lonely shadow of Mount Sinai, God appeared to Moses in a bush ablaze with His glory, and He revealed His plan:

"I have come down to rescue [my people] from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land." (Exodus 3:8)

Then God commanded Moses: "Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt" (3:10). God said, "Go!" but Moses didn't budge. What obstacle stood in his way, according to [3:11](#)?

How did God remove this obstacle in [3:12](#)?

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Note God's confidence: "When you have brought the people out of Egypt" (Exodus 3:12, emphasis added). How could the Lord be so sure Moses would succeed?

*God said to Moses, "I know that you have knotted things up in the past. But this is My plan for you, Moses. Go! I will deliver Israel from bondage."
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



Observation: Moses' Excuses, God's Assurances

When *observing* a text, it helps to climb inside the skin of the main characters and empathize with their feelings as they speak.¹ Moses' words exuded insecurity. He couldn't take his eyes off himself. He was, after all, eighty years old. As Moses took stock, he tallied his deficits and gave God four reasons why he was not the man for the job.

"I Will Not Have All the Answers" —Exodus 3:13–22

Years earlier, Moses had no answer for the man who asked, "Who appointed you to be our prince and judge?" (Exodus 2:14). The question haunted Moses and framed his first excuse. What did Moses say to the Lord in *Exodus 3:13*?

What answer did the Lord tell Moses to give in *3:14–15*? Why was it important that Moses knew God's name?

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What message did the Lord give Moses to deliver in [Exodus 3:16–17](#)? And then, what promises did the Lord give in [3:18–22](#). (Hint: look for the word *will* in these verses.)

When Moses fretted, “I will not have all the answers,” the Lord said, in effect, “You will have all of Me!” What more could Moses want? Plenty.

“I Will Not Have All Their Respect” —Exodus 4:1–9

Moses wrung his hands over what, according to [Exodus 4:1](#)?

What three miraculous signs proved the Lord was with Moses in [Exodus 4:2–9](#)?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

When Moses moaned, “I will not have all their respect,” the Lord gave him three signs and said, “You will have all my power!” But still Moses doubted.

Have you ever tried to talk God out of a plan? It’s the most frustrating experience I know about. I’ll tell you, when God gives you His plan, there’s no alternative. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

“I Will Not Have All the Ability” —Exodus 4:10–12

What frightened Moses in [Exodus 4:10](#)?

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In Moses' mind, the weight of the mission hung on the thin thread of his speaking ability, which he considered a disability. What reminder did the Lord give Moses in [Exodus 4:11–12](#)?

When Moses complained, “I will not have the ability,” the Lord assured him, “You will have all you need!” What Moses needed most, however, was faith.

*God said to Moses, “I Myself will be with your mouth” (Exodus 4:12 NASB).
That’s divine speech therapy! —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*

“I’m Not as Qualified as All the Others” —Exodus 4:13–17

Having run out of excuses, Moses desperately pleaded: “Lord, please! Send anyone else” (Exodus 4:13). Moses' fear sounded like lack of faith . . . and felt like a slap in God's face.

How did God respond in [Exodus 4:14–17](#)? What tone do you observe?

*God’s plan was not a multiple-choice arrangement. It was not even an invitation.
It was a call. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



Interpretation: The Name of the Lord

After four hundred years of not hearing from God, it was understandable that the Israelites would demand proof that it was their God who had spoken to Moses.

God revealed Himself in unmistakable terms: “I AM WHO I AM” (Exodus 3:14). More than just a name, the term “I AM” actually reveals God's nature. He is eternally existent—beyond time. More than that, He is infinitely supreme and intimately close. By saying, “I AM has sent me to you,” Moses was telling the Israelites (and himself) who God is and how He was personally present with His people.

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Then, God told Moses to say: “Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you” (Exodus 3:15). The patriarchs called God *Yahweh*, but they didn’t really understand its meaning until Moses (6:2–3). Read the footnote of *Exodus 3:14–15* in your Bible to find the meaning of *Yahweh* and its linguistic connection to “I AM.” Write down what you discover about God’s name.

When God called Moses, Moses objected, “*Who am I?*” (3:11, emphasis added). God shifted the focus by revealing who *He* was. What point was the Lord making to Moses?

The only self-existent being in the universe had dispatched Moses. “I AM has sent me to you” (Exodus 3:14). Moses represented God. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Correlation: Jesus and the Name of God

In ancient times, a person’s name communicated the *essence* of his or her identity, a person’s nature. So, when Jesus told the Pharisees, “You don’t know who I am,” He was saying that they didn’t know His true nature (John 8:19).

The Pharisees pressed Jesus to clarify. “Who are you?” they demanded” (8:25). Jesus answered with the name of God in Exodus 3:14:

“I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!” (John 8:58)

What truth about Himself was Jesus declaring?

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The Pharisees heard the message loud and clear, and they immediately “picked up stones to throw at him” (John 8:59). They attacked Jesus because He claimed to be God. As Jesus’ followers, we will be persecuted too. How do Peter’s words in *1 Peter 4:14* encourage you?

You “bear the name of Christ” (1 Peter 4:14), meaning, you belong to the One who is the “I AM” and who sends you, like Moses, to do His will. You may object, “Who am I?” But who does Jesus say you are?



Application: Responding to the Call

Perhaps through your study, you have seen a little bit of Moses in yourself. In what ways can you identify with his experience of intensity, insecurity, and inferiority? Which of his four excuses have you made to the Lord at times?

How does the Lord encourage you through His answers to Moses?

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The Lord doesn't expect you to have all the answers, all the respect, all the ability, and all the qualifications. Your mission doesn't depend on who you are but on *who He is*. He is the ever-present, all-powerful I AM. What does the Lord expect from you?

God removed every obstacle in Moses' path to doing His will, and God will remove your obstacles as well. Moses left the bush still weak but ablaze with the presence of God. Go with Him today, certain of *His call*, confident in *His power*, and at peace with *His plan*.



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, I admit that my problem really isn't my lack of knowledge or skill but my lack of faith. I am weak in faith, but in that weakness, I lean on You. Strengthen my faith with a clearer vision of You. You are my Redeemer, Sustainer, and the ever-present, all-powerful I AM. In Jesus' name, amen.

ENDNOTE

1. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)"

For the 2024–2025 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 1975, 2024 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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