

WHO ARE YOU?

I imagine everyone has asked the question: **“Who Am I?”** Even though it is said in different ways— *“Why me?” “What am I doing?” “What is the purpose of human existence?” “What is my purpose in life?” “Where did people come from?” “How are humans different than other life forms?”*—they are saying: **“Who am I?”** The question *“what is man that You should exalt him?”* is found in **Job 7:17**; and in **Psalm 4:6-8** the question is *“what is man that you are mindful of him, visit him, make him a little lower than angels, crown him with glory and honor, give him dominion over your works and put all things under his feet?”* In **Hebrews 2:6-8** it says that *“God would be mindful of man, think of and care for him and that God would remember, recognize and honor him”*—same meaning as magnify.

In **I Samuel 18:18** David asked King Saul: **“Who am I, that I should be son-in-law to the king?”** And in **II Kings 7:18** David asked God: **“Who am I and my house that you would establish the throne of my son forever?”** In **Exodus 3:11** Moses said to God at the burning bush: **“Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?”**

We are meditating on some of the Mighty Men in Bible history. We have noted Jacob, who God tapped to be the father of the twelve sons, whose tribes would one day form the original nation of Israel; and in time we will discuss Joseph, the eleventh son of Jacob. And we will look at the life of David, but in this meditation let us take a closer look at Moses to understand the circumstances which caused his surprise and hesitation—for his life illustrates what it takes to be a **Mighty Man of God**.

Moses was a central figure in biblical history. Born in Egypt during Israel's enslavement, his life was spared when all male babies were being killed. He was raised in the royal palace by Pharaoh's daughter, who unknowingly permitted his birth mother to wean him. She must have taught him religious principles because as a young man raised to someday rule in Egypt, he became curious about the Israel community.

Moses interfered in Egyptian brutality and consequently had to flee to save his own life. He wound up among friendly people and for forty years herded sheep, married and began his own family. It seemed like he was living a settled, successful life (according to those times) when on a routine day God interrupted his sheep herding career by speaking out of a burning bush. And the message was more startling—God said Moses, the run-away-murderer, was to be the emancipator of a whole nation. Not a bad achievement on the face of it—but he had to go back and challenge Egypt's Pharaoh in the land where he committed murder. You can imagine his human fear and doubt that he was the man for the job; but God isn't limited by human fear or by past or present circumstances. God knew the potential residing in Moses, and had chosen him for this assignment before his birth. That is why God spared Moses' life as a baby, and again after he committed murder trying to befriend his own people.

You can read the entire story in the **Book of Exodus**, but let me make a few comments about principles that still apply to people today. **Our birth and life are not inconsequential.** Psalm 139 says that God formed our inward parts while in our mother's womb, and that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. God's eyes saw our detailed substance before it was formed and wrote them in a book. **Therefore God knows all about you, me, all of us—and He has a plan for our lives.** Psalm 33 says that God looks down from heaven and sees **all** the sons of men; from His dwelling place God looks on **all** the inhabitants of earth; and shapes or forms their hearts individually. And in **Psalm 32** we are told that God will instruct us and teach us in the way we should go; and that He will guide us with His eye. **God will guide and teach us—all we have to do is submit to His will and trust Him to supply the means to complete the assignment.** God has many mentors and teachers in His churches, Moses had his brother Aaron as priest and spokesman. **The Bible teaches that we are workers together with God and fellow believers (1 Cor.3:9),** and the New Testament teaches body ministry (**Romans 12; 1 Cor. 12**). So we don't have to fear loneliness, or shoulder the entire burden, or give up when the going is super tough.

There was only one Moses, and there is only one you; may you have an ear to hear the call when God speaks to your heart about your assignment in His kingdom today. Remember—every person who ever lived is, or was, important to God. They were born with special gifts and abilities. They have a divine

destiny to be lived out as they mature and submit to God's revealed will for each of them. Enoch loved and walked in fellowship with God so devotedly that he never experienced death. Noah found favor with God because he was the only righteous man with a family that could fulfill God's purpose to replenish the earth after the global flood. Abraham had a persistent faith so God could commission him to be the father of a godly nation—whose posterity would maintain an unbroken chain of faith-people that would ultimately result in the Messiah's birth and life. It would also provide redemption for all mankind, instill pure faith and hope blessing to vast numbers of Jews during and following His earthly visit, and spawn the spiritual roots for the Christian faith, as well as the future rebirth of national Israel in 1948.

“These were born leaders” you say; “but what about me? I am just an average guy and I can never match what these great men from Bible history have done”. Think again, God used people with various abilities and He wants to use you. Consider Abel, who died young and had no biblical record of achievement, but he left the example of a quiet, easy going son and brother who learned what sacrificial worship God required and faithfully complied—he received God's blessing. Abraham's son, Isaac, was a quiet, meditative, peaceful and steadfast person of faith. He had God's favor, listened to God's counsel and maintained the link in the chain of faith-people who brought forth the birth of the Messiah. And he fathered Jacob, the imperfect, average guy who fathered the twelve sons whom God chose to found the Jewish nation of Israel, and preserve the links in God's heritage until the Messiah came to earth.

What about some of the Judges—going about their daily work, often raided by neighboring tribes—God tapped some of them on the shoulder and with God's help they became deliverers, and eventual Judges. Have you thought about the 8th son of Jesse? His older brothers, big and brawny, served in Saul's army; but the lad David was summoned from the sheep fold to answer God's call. He began by slaying Goliath, then went on to kill thousands of Philistines and marry the king's daughter (**1 Sam. 16--18**). From there he became a wanted man and for seven years lived off the land hiding in caves—then he became God's favorite, and enlarged the borders of Israel, establishing a kingdom for his son Solomon to make famous.

Who was the unnamed girl in captivity (**2 Kings 5**) who told her master about a prophet who could heal his leprosy? And there was a woman facing starvation that obeyed a prophet and let him eat her last meal before death—but a miracle preserved her family and the prophet throughout a severe drought (**1 Kings 17**). These and other cases illustrate the truth that God knows where every living person lives, and how He, God, can use them. In reality, there are no forgotten people or useless souls—but there are many faithful people among the masses who are targets for God's use when their time comes. Which brings up quiet but pious Mary, and her betrothed man Joseph—both of whom never accomplished great historic deeds, but look at how God used their faith and faithfulness to shelter and raise His only begotten son!

Saul, a Hebrew, Israelite, seed of Abraham and minister of the Gospel, the persecutor of new believers, who became Paul the missionary and Apostle to the Gentiles. He also became the hunted, beaten and bruised number-one-enemy of the Jewish leaders (**2 Cor. 11**)—thirty nine stripes four times, beaten with rods, stoned and left for dead, adrift at sea, cold without adequate clothing, hungry and thirsty—but never abandoned by God—and he wrote most of the New Testament. From Paul, Peter, James and John, until the present time, many heroes of faith dot the pages of history. Their stories are for another place and time.

So what is our excuse for not striving to become what the Lord wants us to be—sincere believers whose lives reflect the light and love of God's kingdom? We can study and pray to know Bible truth and stand as a steadfast witness of God's grace. When we consider the range of variously qualified people God used throughout history we will see ourselves waiting on the bench for the coach to call our name.

So, **Who are you?** you are a unique and special person. No matter God's timing, you are being carefully groomed for a special work that only you can do; even if it is simply to be available. Listen for God's voice, and be ready to answer the call. You are a **Mighty Man** in the making! Don't ever give up!

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