

I AM THE LORD

Exodus 3:1-6 and 6:1-8

“I AM the God of your father - the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” (3:6)

.....

In the previous reading, we saw Moses ‘turning aside’ to see the burning bush, and, in doing so, meeting with the Angel of the Lord.

There, in that desert place, the Angel of the Lord, speaking to him, declared, *“I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.”* Moses was struck with awe and *“hid his face for he was afraid to look upon God.”* (Exodus 3:6) This happened at the time the Israelites were suffering as slaves in Egypt. Then follows words to Moses, that:

- I have SEEN the oppression of My people in Egypt;
- I have HEARD their cry;
- I KNOW their sorrows;
- I will ACT and DELIVER them. (Exodus 3:7-8)

As God so revealed His heart to Moses, Moses was then called by God to be His instrument in bringing His people out of bondage. Moses responded with a question as to who he should say sent him to them. God’s reply was, *“...I AM WHO I AM... Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you”,* adding, *“...This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.”* (Exodus 3:14-15)

Following this, Moses obeyed God and confronted Pharaoh, which resulted in even harsher treatment for the Israelites. Moses found this very discouraging so he spoke his concerns to the Lord. God answered Moses by giving assurance that what He had said, He would do, followed by the words:-

“I AM THE LORD” (Exodus 6:2)

God continued to say in 6:3, *“I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not known to them.”* This is of great significance. The name ‘El Shaddai’, meaning God Almighty had been

used previously but now, to Moses He spoke of Himself as 'YAHWEH', the redemptive name of God.

Revelation flooded the heart of Moses that Almighty God was a God of mercy, a God of redeeming love, a God in constant watch over His people, a God of compassion, of protection, a God who sees, hears, knows and acts on behalf of His people.

By faith, Moses 'saw' the invisible God, now understanding Him to be, in awareness and action, constantly and intimately involved in the lives of His people and trusted that He was able to bring His good purposes to pass, sustaining and keeping them in it.

In the transforming power and strength of this revelation, Moses went forth; he went forth inspired to single-minded dedication to be obedient to God's purposes, to give himself utterly to God's will in serving His people, and to speak God's word exactly as it was given; his whole being had been captured and willingly surrendered to the Almighty God of grace and redemptive love.

God did act in bringing His people OUT OF the bondage of slavery in Egypt and INTO the land He was giving them, a land flowing with 'milk and honey', a good land, a land of abundance; and never abandoned them in the unthankful and rampant rebellion that caused their journey to be long and difficult.

These revelations are for us too. This is OUR God; this is OUR Redeemer. All that He was for His people then, He is for us and we can go forward in our journey in the trust and certain assurance that comes through 'beholding' and believing.

Christ, the Son of God, God the Son, became flesh to reveal to mankind the Father;

"God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...." (Hebrews 1:1-3)

Here we have a clear and beautiful unfolding of Christ, the eternal Son, the living Word, who is the final revelation of the Father, the One who has brought the believer OUT OF the bondage of slavery to sin and INTO true life in Him.

Moses consistently drew aside to spend time communicating with God, and, as he did, God continued to give increased revelation of Himself. Moses came from the presence of God with the word of truth embraced with faith and he went forward to be a living witness to God's truth in word and the action of obedience with his heart full of reverence and worship. *"...he (Moses) endured as seeing Him who is invisible".* (Hebrews 11:27)

As we, too, draw aside to spend time with Him, He will bring us into an ever increasing 'knowing' of Himself, that we also may be living witnesses to His word in enduring faith and action.

Prayer:

Dear Father, by Your enabling grace, may this be so in my life. Amen.