

# Exodus – HDRT

Exodus 3:1-12 – Scene 6: The Burning Bush		
1a	Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro = his father-in-law, = the priest of Midian.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>אָחֵר = after = far side. [NET]</li> <li></li> </ul>
1b	And he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and he came <sub>{go}</sub> to the mountain of God, = to Horeb.	
2a	And the messenger of the LORD appeared <sub>{see}</sub> to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appeared: from “to see”</li> <li>Use “messenger” as fresh gloss for angel</li> <li>Behold: invites the reader to be present in the story. [NET]</li> </ul>
2b	And he noticed <sub>{see}</sub> , and look! (x) The bush was burning with fire, (y) but the bush was not consumed.	
3	Then Moses said, (a) “I must turn aside now (b) and see <sub>v1</sub> this great sight <sub>n1</sub> , why the bush is not burned up.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
4a	When the LORD saw <sub>v1</sub> that <sub>{for}</sub> he turned aside to look <sub>v1</sub> , God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Here I am! = Behold!</li> <li>NET: The <i>preterite</i> with the <i>vav</i> is subordinated as a temporal clause to the main point of the verse.</li> </ul>
4b	And he said, “Here I am <sub>{Look}!</sub> ”	
5	Then he said, (a) “Do not come near here. (b) Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing— = it [ז] holy ground.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

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6a	<p>And he said,            “I [am] the God of your father,            = the God of Abraham,            = the God of Isaac,            = and the God of Jacob.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ נבט vs. ראה</li> <li>▪ Jesus quotes this verse as evidence for the resurrection (Matt 22:31-32).</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>
6b	<p>Then Moses hid his face,            for he was afraid to look<sub>v2</sub> at God.</p>	
7	<p>And the LORD said,            (a) “I have surely<sub>{see}</sub> seen the affliction            of my people            who are in Egypt,            (b) and I have listened to their outcry            because their taskmasters,            for I know their sufferings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Qal infinitive absolute + Qal perfect</li> <li>▪ Because = from before the face</li> <li>▪ Verbs: seen, heard, know</li> <li>▪ Look = 9x in Chapter 3</li> </ul>
8a	<p>So I have come down            (a) to snatch them            from the hand of the Egyptians,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Come down vs. bring up</li> <li>▪ Who takes initiative? C.f. Rom 5:11</li> <li>▪ Good = c.f. Gen 1 (7x)</li> </ul>
8b	<p>(b) and to bring them up            (x) from that land</p>	
8c	<p>(y) to land a good and spacious,            (y) to a land flowing            ▪ with milk            ▪ and honey,            (y) to the place of            ▪ the Canaanite and the Hittite            ▪ and the Amorite and the Perizzite            ▪ and the Hivite and the Jebusite.</p>	
9	<p>And now, look!            (a) The outcry of the children of Israel has come<sub>{go}</sub>            to me;            (b) and moreover I have seen the oppression<sub>n</sub>            with which the Egyptians are oppressing<sub>v</sub> them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>

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10	<p>So <b>now</b>, <b>look!</b></p> <p>(a) <b>Go</b><sub>{walk}</sub></p> <p>(b) and <b>I will send</b> you to Pharaoh,</p> <p>(c) <b>that you may bring out</b> my people, = the <b>children</b> of Israel, from Egypt.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First step = go! C.f. Great Commission.</li> <li>▪ NET: The verb “to send” indicates that Moses went with God’s backing, power, and authority.</li> </ul>
11	<p>But Moses said to God, “Who [<i>am</i>] I, (a) <b>that</b><sub>{for}</sub> I should <b>go</b><sub>{walk}</sub> to Pharaoh, (b) and <b>that</b><sub>{for}</sub> I should <b>bring out</b> the <b>children</b> of Israel from Egypt?”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wrong question. Not ‘who am I,’ but ‘who is God?’ or ‘who is with me?’</li> </ul>
12a 12b	<p>And he said, “<b>Certainly</b><sub>{for}</sub> I will be with you. And this [<i>will be</i>] the <b>sign</b> to you <b>that</b><sub>{for}</sub> I have <b>sent</b> you: when you have <b>brought out</b> the people from Egypt, you shall worship God on <b>this</b> mountain.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ כִּי – NET: the asseverative use here, “surely, indeed,” which is frequently found with oaths</li> <li>▪ I = emphatic</li> <li>▪ Sign = confirmation = worship at this mountain; in the meantime trust YHWH [NET]</li> <li>▪ <i>Inclusio</i>: mountain.</li> </ul>
<b>Literature Type:</b> ➤ Story		▪
<b>Main Characters:</b> ➤ Moses (3:1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He notices the burning bush and checks it out.</li> </ul> ➤ Messenger of the LORD (3:2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identified as the LORD (YHWH) and God (3:4).</li> <li>▪ YHWH does most of the speaking.</li> <li>▪ YHWH is the one who appeared to Moses and is the one with the plan.</li> </ul> ➤ We assume Moses is the main character until YHWH appears on the scene.		▪

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<p><b>Other Characters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Jethro (3:1): owns the flock and is Moses' father-in-law.</li> <li>➤ Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (3:6): the LORD is their God.</li> <li>➤ My people (3:7) / Children of Israel (3:9, 11): God hears their outcry.</li> <li>➤ Task masters (3:7) / Egyptians (3:8, 9) / Pharoah (3:10, 11): they are oppressing the Israelites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<p><b>Story Obstacles</b> (<i>new story tensions in this scene</i>):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Obstacle: Moses sees a burning bush (3:2). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Tension increases</b> [Moses]: Why isn't the bush burning up?</li> </ul> </li> <li>(2) Obstacle: God calls to Moses from the bush (3:4). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Tension increases</b> [Moses]: What does God want?</li> </ul> </li> <li>(3) Obstacle: YHWH warns Moses to keep his distance (3:5). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Tension simmers</b> [Moses]: Moses hides his face (3:6) and presumably takes off his sandals.</li> </ul> </li> <li>(4) Obstacle: YHWH sees the affliction and hears the outcry of his people (3:7). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Tension increases</b> [Moses]: What will God do for my people?</li> </ul> </li> <li>(5) <b>Resolution:</b> YHWH has come down to snatch his people and bring them up to the good land (3:8). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Tension simmers</b> [Moses]: How will God rescue them? What about the people already living in Canaan?</li> <li>➤ YHWH shows the intensity of his concern by repeating that he sees and hears his people (3:9).</li> </ul> </li> <li>(6) Obstacle: YHWH orders Moses to go to Pharoah and deliver his people (3:10). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Tension increases</b> [Moses]: God wants me to do what? (See Obstacle #2.)</li> <li>➤ <b>Tension increases</b> [YHWH]: Will Moses obey?</li> </ul> </li> <li>(7) Obstacle: Moses argues, "I'm not able" (3:11).</li> <li>(8) <b>Resolution:</b> YHWH promises to be with Moses (3:12).</li> <li>(9) <b>Resolution:</b> YHWH gives Moses a confirming sign—the people will worship him (i.e. God) on this mountain (3:12). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Tension simmers</b> [YHWH]: Will Moses trust me and go?</li> <li>➤ <b>Tension simmers</b> [Moses]: Can I trust and obey YHWH?</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>☐ Foreshadowing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The land of destination is inhabited by Canaanites and various other tribes. There may be conflict in the future.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Plot Summary</b> (<i>obstacles + resolution</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ YHWH sees the affliction and hears the outcry of his people,           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ so he is sending Moses to deliver them.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Will Moses trust YHWH and go?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>What is the main point of this scene?</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme</b> (<i>to original audience</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ YHWH plans to send Moses to deliver his people           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ from the affliction and oppression of the Egyptians,</li> <li>▪ but Moses is reluctant</li> <li>▪ even with YHWH's presence and the confirming sign.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>This is the author's main point to his ancient audience.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Theological Statement</b> (<i>for all audiences</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ God goes with us (Matthew 28:20) and will enable us to complete his calling (Matthew 28:18-19).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>This is a general statement based on the Theme that works for any audience.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Old Testament passages many need filtering by the New Testament.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Big Idea</b> (<i>for our audience</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Embrace God's call to teach (<i>for Bible students</i>).</li> <li>➤ Trust God to be with you in Tanzania (<i>for those going on a mission trip</i>).</li> <li>➤ Trust God to enable you to raise godly children in our dark culture (<i>for new parents</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>These are examples of Big Ideas for a few specific audiences.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>The Big Idea should be based on the Theological Statement.</i></li> </ul>

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