

Jesus in the Old Testament-January 31

Main text: Moses and the burning bush-Genesis 3

News: Life is full of challenges. It's not necessarily bad news, it's just the truth. God can use those challenges to make you stronger. It's almost like we have to become weak before we become strong. Or, as Scripture puts it, we have to die in order to live.

In Genesis 12 God gave a promise: All the nations of the earth will be blessed through you

But God didn't say it would be easy (Gen 15:13-15)

That came true. God's people were enslaved. They were trapped and oppressed. It was brutal. They were stuck. They needed a helper!

Some of you might be thinking...I've heard this story before, I know where this is headed. I'm going to re-tell you a story you may have heard before but then I'll hopefully help you see it from a different perspective.

In Exodus 3, God tells Moses his plan

Ex. 3:13-14: ¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM.^[c] This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

God's name, Yahweh, means "The God who is."

God was saying, "I am God who is here with you."

Guess what, God saved his people?

Now let's zoom out from that story.

God saves his people and they enter a promised land. They're all pumped about following God and he gives them a way to live but then they mess up. Their sin separates them from God. Then they ask for forgiveness, God saves them, they mess up again, and this cycle gets worse and worse. Then his people lose their homeland and sent into exile.

They ask, "Who will save us? We messed up big time!"

Then God is silent for 400 years.

All of a sudden, this guy named Jesus bursts onto the scene and we find that he is the answer his people have been waiting for.

John 1:29-Behold the lamb of God, who comes to take away the sin of the world!

He comes to be present with his people and to save them from their sins, including you and me.

God was with his people and saved them in Egypt, now Jesus is present with humanity in the flesh, and makes salvation available for all of humanity.

The God who was with his people in Egypt is the God who came in the flesh as Jesus Christ, and he is with you today. We can trust he'll be with us and be good to his word because he's done it in the past. The best predictor of future behavior is the past, unless there is a change, and our God doesn't change.

So the story of Moses is a hint, a taste, of what Jesus would do.

He can save you from the most serious consequence, sin and death. He will be with you through the difficult times in life. He may not rescue you from all the hard things or at least not in the way you hope, but may you trust that he will be with you!