



PRIMARY SOURCE READING 3

Exodus

Interpreting the Source

Moses was one of the great leaders in Israelite history. Jewish, Christian, and Muslim scriptures mention him frequently. In this passage, God tells Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and into freedom.

Guided Reading

As you read this passage, pay attention to how Moses reacts in God's presence. Then answer the questions that follow.



Reader's Dictionary

consumed: destroyed

oppress: to hold down or to abuse

Exodus 3:1–12

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law . . . and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up."

When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him from out of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey. . . . So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

He said, "I will be with you; And this shall be the sign for you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

Source: *The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version*. Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989.

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Exodus (continued)

Document-Based Questions

Directions: Answer the questions below in the spaces provided.

1. What was unusual about the burning bush?

2. What does Moses do when God speaks to him?

3. What does God tell Moses?

4. **Critical Thinking** What can you infer from this reading about the relationship of Israel's God with His people?
