

Exodus 3:10–22

“Characteristics of the Church that the Lord Establishes”

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***What features mark the church that the Lord is commissioning Moses to retrieve and establish? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. Exodus 3:10–22 prepares us for the first serial reading in the morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these thirteen verses of holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit shows us that the church is marked by: the priority of the worship of the Lord, the centrality of being in covenant with the Lord, the reality of being opposed by the enemies of the Lord, and the certainty of victory in the Lord.***

**Wednesday, August 11, 2021 • Read Exodus 3:10–22**

*Questions from the Scripture text: To whom does God propose to send Moses (v10)? To do what? What question does Moses ask about this plan (v11)? What is God's answer to that question (v12a)? What does God offer as a sign (v12b)? What does Moses anticipate being asked (v13)? What answer does God give to Moses, and what answer is Moses to give to the Israelites (v14)? How does God, in v15, improve upon Moses's originally planned introduction from v13? What does God say is the Name by which He is to be remembered? To whom, specifically, is Moses to make this new introduction (v16)? What is he to say that God has already done? And what is he to say that God has now promised to do (v17)? How will the elders respond (v18a)? Then who will go to the king of Egypt (v18b)? What will they say to him (v18c)? How does God say that Pharaoh will then respond (v19)? What then will God do to Egypt (v20a)? With what ultimate result (v20b)? And what additional result will this process produce (v21)? What are the people to do, when they are finally leaving (v22)? With what result?*

Worship. Covenant. Opposition. Victory. Several themes about the church that will run through the rest of Scripture and the rest of history appear here, as the Lord begins to charge Moses with the church's formal establishment.

**Worship, vv10–12.** Once we get to Moses's active resistance of his calling, God will give Moses other signs to perform, so we might forget that there is one sign that precedes and supersedes them all: worship. The church is actually on the right track when it asks, “Who am I?” (v11), as Moses does with his own calling (v10). For, God specifically calls those who are unimpressive to highlight that all the glory is His own (cf. 1Cor 1:26–31). God responds to Moses's question about Moses with an answer about the Lord: “I will certainly be with you” (v12a).

This is why the sign that God offers for the authenticity of Moses's call is one that will strike us odd if we are not focused upon Him and His glory: “this shall be a sign ... you shall worship God on this mountain” (v12b). Part of the sign is that Moses will succeed. This is true of all prophets. Anything less than a 100% fulfillment rate invalidates all of their prophecy (cf. Deut 18:20–22; a standard that would mercifully end many purportedly prophetic ministries today).

But the bigger part of the sign is the purpose of all of this: the worship of God. It is not only Moses's calling that is all about God, but the church's own calling is all about God. This she will find out, when she arrives at the mountain, and it burns in darkness and storm and frightful trumpet and voice of words and threat of death (cf. Heb 12:18–20). When Israel stands before all of this, this will be the greatest sign that it really is God Himself Who has called them to be a church. The awesome presence of God Himself will dwarf every plague of Egypt and every deliverance of the wilderness.

Your calling too, dear believer, and the calling of the entire church as a whole, is all about the glory of God and the glory of His worship. God displays this to you in the public worship week by week, but it will be ultimately and climactically apparent when you, too, stand before Him!

**Covenant, v13–17.** Moses seems to accept his calling at first, but then there's the question of whether the children of Israel will accept it (v13). Pharaoh was the purported embodiment of Ra, and the crowded pantheon of Egypt had its priests and prophets. If he shows up claiming to be a prophet, they will require i.d., “Indeed... they will say to me” (v13). It will not suffice just to say “prophet of God.” They will demand to know which one.

Part of God's answer is that He is the only one, “I AM WHO I AM” (v14a). He is self-existent, independent of anyone or anything else. He does not draw characteristics from other things; everything else depends entirely upon Him. He is holy, completely other, the absolutely only true God. It's a way of saying that the implied question (“which God”) is the most mistaken and wicked question imaginable.

But another part of God's answer is His voluntarily entering into a relationship in which He binds Himself to this people forever and ever. “I AM has sent me to you” (v14b) is a formal introduction and establishment of this relationship. He expands this introduction in v15, giving “Yahweh” (“LORD”) as His memorial name, the name by which they are to address Him in this formal covenant relationship. Indeed, He gives as His full title, “Yahweh God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” This is the God Who has seen that the time is right to gather them to Himself (v16–17). By saying that He has now sent Moses to them, He is also implying “the God of you” (!).

And the God of you, if you are a Christian. It is a marvel of grace that the God Who describes Himself to us by the completeness and uniqueness of His self-existence would so join Himself to us in covenant as to take a title in which He identifies Himself with us entirely and eternally. He is ours, and we are His. Entirely. Eternally. That's covenant.

**Opposition, v18–19.** Yahweh being the only true God does not mean that His people will be unopposed. In fact, it means entirely the opposite. Though the elders will initially accept Moses and his God (v18, a fact that seems to get lost in how repeatedly they subsequently rebel), the king of Egypt will not (v19).

Christians today seem to think that an indicator of belonging to God, or walking with God, will be how much the world sees this and accepts them. But from the beginning of the church, throughout the rest of Scripture, and throughout history, the fact that believers belong to God has been a cause of their being rejected by the world, not accepted. We should expect to be opposed, even to be slaughtered all day long (cf. John 15:18–25; Rom 8:35–36; 2Tim 3:12).

**Victory, v20–22.** Ultimately, God raises up opposition to His church that He might give them inexplicable victory that must be explained only by His redemption. In this case, He will “strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst” (v20). And this victory will be seen in the favor of neighbors (v21) and in the bridal shower in which they are given both luxuries and necessities as they are sent away to covenant with Yahweh (v22). Though believers love not their lives even unto death, they are already super-conquerors (cf. Rom 8:37–39) who ultimately overcome by the blood of the Lamb (cf. Rev 12:10–11).

How does the priority of worship show up in your life? In your church's life? In what circumstances do you need to operate more as someone who is in covenant with God? How are you experiencing opposition for belong to the Lord Jesus? How are you keeping mindful of His ultimate victory?

*Sample prayer: O Yahweh, You alone are true God! Forgive us for when we make our salvation about what we want or how we feel, rather than wanting You and Your glory, and enjoying You and Your glory. Thank You for reminding us of how this world will oppose You and us, so that we would cling to Your love in Jesus, and Your blood shed for us in Jesus, and Your sure victory in Jesus. Grant that we would do so, we ask in His Name, AMEN!*

Suggested songs: ARP2 “Why Do Gentile Nations Rage?” or TPH483 “Loved with Everlasting Love”

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription.** Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Exodus 3 verses 10 through 22, these are God's words. Come there therefore and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people. The children of Israel out of Egypt. But Moses said to God who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and then I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt.

So he said I will certainly be with you and this so be assigned to you that I have sent you. When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain. Then Moses said to God indeed when I came when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, the God of your fathers has sent me to you and they say to me, what is his name?

What shall I say to them? And God said to Moses I am who I am. And he said thus you shall say to the children of Israel I am. Has sent me to you more over God said to Moses thus, you shall say to the children of Israel. Yahweh God of your fathers.

God of Abraham God of Isaac to the God of Jacob. I sent me to you. This is my name forever. This is my memorial to all generations. Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them. Yahweh the God of your fathers. God of Abraham God of Isaac and God have Jacob appeared to me.

Saying I have surely visited you and seen what has done to you in Egypt and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites in the Hittites. At the right prepared height and the headlights and the Jebusites to a land flowing with milk and honey.

Then they will heed your voice and you shall come you and the elders of Israel to the king of Egypt and you shall say to him Yahweh God of the Hebrews. Has met with us. And now, please let us go three days journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to Yahweh our God.

But I am sure that the King of Egypt will not let you go no not even by a mighty hand. So, I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders, which I will do in its midst and after that, he will let you go. And I will give this people favor in the side of the Egyptians.

It shall be when you go. Hey, you shall not go handed. But every woman shall ask of her neighbor. Namely of her who dwells near her house articles of silver articles of gold and clothing and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters so yourself plunder.

The Egyptians. For the reading of God's inspired and in Aaron Ward.

The Lord here. Having established his holiness before Moses the angel of Yahweh who we read here is God and Yahweh. Has appeared as a flame in the midst of the bush. And speaks to him from the midst of the bush. And now he says come now therefore. I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people.

The children of Israel out of Egypt. And. And God is telling Moses that. Moses is going to retrieve the

Israelites to establish them as a church. Do we know this not only because of what he subsequently does but because of the sign that he gives? It's a very interesting sign.

Usually a sign is something that you have beforehand. This is a sign that only comes true after the whole thing is completed.

When Moses asks, who am I that I should go to Pharaoh. I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt. Lord says, I will certainly be with you. This will be assigned to you that I have sent you. When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve that his workshop God on this mountain.

So the first thing we see is the church is being established. Is the priority of worship. The church is being called out of Egypt in order to worship. When Moses goes to Pharaoh says, you always says let my people go that they may worship me. This is what we have been saved for this is what the Lord gathers us into his church for.

This is what the church exists for. His worship. Note that this mountain, which is called Horeb in verse 1 is also the mountain of God or Sinai this is the very mountain along which the Ten Commandments will be given. The second place we see the importance or the significance of covenant.

God has made promises. And to Abraham Isaac and Jacob and he identifies himself with them the God of Abraham the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now, he created all men everyone has to obey him everyone has to worship him. So when he calls himself God of Abraham God of Isaac and God Jacob, he doesn't say that he's not other people's God.

These he's acknowledging or telling us about. How He has entered into a special relationship a special arrangement, he's joined himself to them. In fact, it's not just he doesn't just call himself. God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob but he says that. Moses is to go to the king of Egypt and verse 18, he says you shall say to him.

Y'all lay God of the Hebrews has met with us. And in addition to identifying himself with the people he gives. The covenant name. Moses says whom shall I say?

When I come to the children of Israel say to them, the God of your father says sent me to you and they say to me, what is his name what shall I say to them? And he says I am who I am in other words. God is not defined by anything in his creation.

God has all existence in himself he doesn't depend on anything in his creation everything else depends upon him everything else is defined by him, this is why it's so amazing that right after saying I am who I am and he says, here's the name to call me and to remember me by forever.

Call me Yahweh. Right after saying that he turns around he says, I'm the God of Abraham and vice versa of Jacob. I'm the God of the Hebrews. So you see the way the Lord has identified himself with his people bound them to himself and found himself to them, so he has bound himself to us as covenant gives us much encouragement because he's the one who decided to create this relationship to identify himself with us he's the one who has bound himself and us up together in the Lord Jesus Christ.

And therefore we know that this covenant can't be broken and that God will give us every blessing that he promised and therefore also we are convinced and convicted that we must do everything that he commands just like when we are baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit trying God and every one of you has been baptized into the name of the triune God, that means that you not only are you baptized?

Into his name, but you must keep all that he has commanded and. He will be with you. Even. Until the end of the age so we see the church exists for worship the church exists in covenant the church exists despite opposition, one of the things that I think we could sometimes miss because the children of Israel are so rebellious and so unbelieving and so wicked as that they actually at first believe Moses.

And so he says,

Verse 18, then they will heed your voice and it's true he goes to the elders of the Israelites first and they actually heed Moses and then they go to Pharaoh and it doesn't go so well and we quickly find out how strong this white's faith is and it's. Um, and they're mostly a disaster really for the rest of the Old Testament.

But although the Israelite elders at first heed Moses God tells Moses in advance that Pharaoh will not. Right? See says verse 19, but I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go. No, not even by a mighty hand. God does not lie to us sugarcoat or whitewash what it's like to be one of his people says, yes, we are set apart by him for his worship we're gathered to him to be his worshipers.

He binds himself to us. He binds us to himself that all sounds wonderful. And then he says, Through many

tribulations you must enter the kingdom of God. And in this world, you will have trouble and that the world that hated Christ is gonna hate us to and that everyone who lives who desires to live a godly life in Christ.

Jesus will be persecuted. These are some of the ways that Jesus and John 15 and the Apostle Paul. And then to Timothy in second of three, these are some of the ways of Scripture encourages us. We are as it is for his sake that we.

The that we are slaughtered all day long, we are counter killed all day long we are counted as sheep for the slaughter there's another one Romans 8:35 and 36 from yesterday's family workshop right in the middle of one of the most encouraging passages in the Bible. He says for your sake we are killed all day long, we're accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

So the Lord tells us the truth about what is going to come and we should remember what he has said and cling to him knowing that it's coming Moses and the children of Israel should not have been surprised when Pharaoh said nope, well not let you go. Why? Because the Lord had told them first 19, I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go no not even by a mighty hand.

And so the Lord tells him that that he's going to really have to reveal the greatness of his hands. So, I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders, which I will do in its next. And after that you he will let you go. So the church is always been opposed, right?

Yes. Zika have. Yes. Can you get the first person? Um,

Then we just see in the beginning of Luke 22 Lord stay morning how the chief priests and the scribes and the sinfulness their sinfulness and Judas is synchronous and Satan himself all cooperated together to oppose the Lord Jesus which will eventually end in Jesus being crucified in the gospel of Luke.

Let us not be surprised when the world will then Gentile nations rage and kings and peoples plotting vein against the Lord and his anointed and against you if you belong to him which is part of what covenant means it means you belong to it and his enemies attack you too, but he doesn't end by telling him about the opposition that he will face he ends by telling him the victory that he will give him after that he will let you go he says at the end of verse 20 and then he says and I will give this people favor inside of the Egyptians to me, when you go you should not go empty handed every woman shall ask of her neighbor namely of her who dwells near her house articles of silver articles of gold and clothing and you shall book them on your sons and your daughters and so you shall plunder the Egyptians looks impossible with sounds impossible here next to three doesn't it but it does ultimately happen, they do plunder the Egyptians just this way and the Lord is told us.

That we are heirs of heaven and earth and indeed of a new heaven and new earth because we are joint inheritors with the Lord Jesus Christ, we're already more than conquerors because we have the love of God and the love of the Lord Jesus but we are also after suffering for a little while together with him we will inherit together with him and we will be glorified together with him.

And so this holds true as well so right at the beginning of the establishing of the Church in the Bible you see these four things that will be true of the church throughout the rest of the Bible and has been true throughout the rest of history and will be true for you and the church in your lifetime a that the church is all about worship be that the churches and covenant with God he has banned himself to it and he's been the church to himself.

See that the church will face opposition from the world and the flesh and the devil and D finally the victory is guaranteed and victory of. Of a complete victory and a lucrative isn't the right word a. Profitable really isn't the right word either. But a victory that comes with an abundance of blessing not just merely scraped out or eat out victory.

We overcome. By the blood of the lamb and the word of the Lord even by not loving our lives even unto death. Remember what Jesus told the Apostles and Luke 21 after telling them that they were going to be killed. He says not a hair of your head should be lost.

So do not worry. About the opposition because the victory is guaranteed.

Our Father in heaven we ask that you would help us.

Help us to love you and to obey you in our own personal lives help us as a family as a household to. Love and obey you and to understand each of us what we're supposed to be like as a person and to understand as a household what our household is to be like from what your word says.

We thank you for telling us about your church and the Bible we pray that you would help us to believe and practice in your church according to what your word says we pray for our own congregation that it would be all about worshiping you that this is your highest priority that we would.

Be encouraged and confident that you have banded yourself to us in covenant that we would be diligently committed because you have bound us to yourself and government. We pray Lord that you would help us to not be surprised or fret when we see the opposition. The opposition even that comes from.

The world and the flesh and the devil within the church. But help us to remember that your word has warned us and that you tell us ahead of time so that we will not be surprised when it comes. Who praise you for how your word proves true? And we thank you finally that we may know already that victory belongs to your people and inheritance belongs to your people.

And we pray that you would make us willing to suffer with Christ for a little while. Knowing that we will be glorified together with him and we will inherit together with him. Glorify him and each of our lives glorify him and this family's life we ask. In his name.

Amen.