

Exodus 2 – 4 Moses' Four Excuses & God's Answers — Teaching Outline

1. Setting & Call (Ex 3:1-4)

- **Burning-bush encounter** on Horeb; God gains Moses' attention.
 - God calls: "*Moses, Moses!*" → Moses replies: "*Here am I.*"
 - Parallel prophetic calls: Isaiah 6:8; Jeremiah 1:4-6; Jonah 1:1.
Lesson —Notice the "word of the Lord" comes to the prophets.
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2. The Mission Stated (Ex 3:7-10)

- God sees Israel's oppression, **sends Moses to Pharaoh** to lead Israel out.
 - **Key command:** "*Bring My people... out of Egypt*" (v. 10).
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3. Moses' Four Excuses & God's Four Replies

| Excuse | Passage | Moses' Concern | God's Reply | Key Lesson |
|--------------------|---------|---|--|---|
| 1 — "Who am I?" | 3:11-12 | <i>I'm a nobody; Pharaoh won't listen</i> | <i>"Certainly I will be with you ..."</i> plus a sign: Israel will worship at this mountain after deliverance | Our confidence rests in God's presence , not résumé or reputation |
| 2 — "Who are You?" | 3:13-15 | <i>Israel will ask Your Name</i> | <i>"I AM WHO I AM ... tell them 'I AM' sent you"</i> | God's self-existence & covenant faithfulness underpin the mission/There is power in God's name. |

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| 3 — “They won’t believe me.” | 4:1-9 | <i>Israel will doubt the encounter</i> | Three confirming signs 1. Rod → serpent → rod (4:2-5)2. Hand leprous → clean (4:6-7)3. Water → blood (4:9) <i>if needed</i> | Signs authenticate the message-giver , not the messenger; conviction belongs to the Holy Spirit |
| 4 — “I’m not eloquent.” | 4:10-12 | <i>Slow speech & tongue</i> (possible trauma from past failure, 2:13-14) | <i>“Who made man’s mouth? ... I will be with your mouth and teach you.”</i> | God equips the abilities He requires; limitations ≠ disqualifications |

4. The Significance of the First Two Signs

1. Rod → Serpent

- Egyptians worshiped serpent deities (e.g., *Apophis*, *Wadjet*).
- **Grabbing the serpent’s tail** shows Yahweh’s supremacy over Egypt’s gods.
- Principle: God often uses what is already “in our hand.”

2. Leprous Hand Restored

- Early records link leprosy closely with Egypt.
 - Demonstrates God’s power over diseases Egyptians feared and Israel saw as judgment.
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5. Theological & Practical Takeaways

- **Balance humility with faith:** acknowledge weakness **without** limiting God’s power.
- **Mission is God-centred:** we go **in His Name**, not our own (cf. 2 Cor 3:5-6).
- **God uses existing resources** (“What is in your hand?”) and transforms them.
- **Signs aim upward:** People’s faith must rest in **God**, not in His human agent.

- **Equipping follows calling:** God creates mouths, words, and opportunities.
 - **Reflective ministry:** Like Moses' shining face (Ex 34:29-35), any glory seen in us should redirect attention to **God, the true Light**.
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