

# THE BURNING BUSH AND THE CHURCH

## INTRODUCTION

- I. The life of Moses, who died at the age of 120, can be divided into 3 time periods.
  - A. The 1<sup>st</sup> 40 years were spent in **Egypt**, from his birth, and rearing in the house of the king's daughter. Exo. 2:1-10
  - B. The 2<sup>nd</sup> 40 years were spent in **Exile**, where he went to Midian following his conflict in Egypt. Exo. 2:11-25
    1. There was his **Encounter** with an Egyptian. vs. 11-14
    2. There was his **Encounter** at a well. vs. 15-25
    3. There was the **Encounter** at the burning bush. Exo. 3:1-8
  - C. Then the 3<sup>rd</sup> 40 years were spent in **Error** with the Israelites in the wilderness, as they all disobeyed God and were confined there for that wicked generation to die out before entering Canaan.
    1. The people murmured and committed idolatry and fornication and were not allowed to receive rest in the promised land.
    2. Moses disobeyed in the matter of striking the rock, and was not allowed to enter into Canaan, and was replaced by Joshua.
- II. Though the Bible doesn't STATE that the burning bush was a type of the church, there ARE some striking resemblances centered around the bush.

## DISCUSSION

### I. 1<sup>st</sup>, the matter of the HOLY GROUND.

- A. Moses was to take off his shoes, for he was standing on "holy ground" in the presence of God. Exo. 3:1-5
  1. Here, God proclaimed the **message** to deliver His people from Egyptian bondage.
    - a. God foretold 5 things that would happen. Exo. 3:16-22
    - b. God gave signs that he would be with Moses. Exo.; 4:1-17
  2. Moses then went to Pharaoh, and eventually led Israel across the Red Sea for the wilderness wanderings.
- B. The "church" today is holy ground, as we are in the presence of God. Heb. 12:22-23; Jude 24
  1. Those who come into the church need to "take off" their sinful ways of walking to be in God's presence.
  2. Just as God was at the burning bush where the ground was holy because of God's presence, God's presence is with us today when we do His will. 1 Cor; 3:16-17
  3. The church is described as a **place** of holiness. Eph. 5:27
    - a. We are to **proclaim** a message of holiness. Matt.28: 18-20; 1 Thess. 1:4-10
    - b. We are to offer **praise** in worship to God. Psalms. 29:2
    - c. We are to **practice** holiness in living as God's children. 2 Cor. 7:1; Tit., 2:3; 1 Pet. 3:15-16

### II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, the matter of the BURNING BUSH.

- A. A burning bush in the desert would be considered of no value except for God's presence.
- B. The church today is considered of no value in the desert of sorrow and sin, but it represents the presence of God.

1. As God's voice there charged Moses with a responsibility, His voice today charges the church to make known His will.\
2. God's voice charges us to make known the unsearchable riches of Christ. Eph. 3:8; 1 Pet. 3:15; 1 Tim. 3:14-15

C. The fire did not consume the bush Moses viewed. Exo. 3:12-13

1. Moses turned to **see** bush, then **heard** God's voice.
2. The church today is under fire, but even so the world needs to **see** the church, and **hear** the gospel.

#### **CONCLUSION**

I. God was **in** the burning bush, and is in His church today as it proclaims **His** will, and it should be a place of reverence and proclamation of truth.

II. What we learn from the burning bush is for our learning.

A. We learn that we must obey the gospel to enter into the church. Rom. 6:17-18; 1 Cor. 12:13

B. We learn that we are to glorify God in holy living before the lost and dying world.

C. If you have not entered the church, we invite you to make it known right now.

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(This is a re-make of a sermon from year's past, and I know not where the ideas originated at that time).