



"I AM That I AM"

By Juanita Coy

Exodus 3:6 "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

Exodus 3:14 "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."

God still is who is was. And will remain who He is until the end of time! That is a promise we can count on!

The following notes help us to reaffirm the fact that God is with us and will remain with us, ready to meet our needs and design our lives.

Exodus marks the beginning of the story of Moses and his part in the exit of the Children of Israel out of Egypt's bondage. As I was studying and re-studying these verses I was and I am reminded of how God led his people through this time, and He is very capable of continuing to lead His people today, take care of us and meet our needs!

#1 In the first chapters of Exodus we learn how God provided a way for Moses to survive in the Nile River from the beginning of his life, God has his hand on Moses! Pharaoh made an order that all the boys were to be thrown into the Nile. But... God had other plans.

#2 When Moses was born, his mother saw he was a fine child and wanted him to survive, so she placed him in a basket and floated him down the Nile River. And, of course, the story goes that Pharaoh's daughter went to the Nile to bathe and saw the baby, and since he was crying (who wouldn't be?) she felt sorry for him and as luck (no, God) would have it, they found a woman to nurse the baby.

Guess who that was? Moses' mother, of course! Who would be more perfect?! Once again, God's plan was in place!

#3 Next we read that Moses has grown up and he wanted to go to where his own people were. He watched them while they were working for Pharaoh and felt a burden for them as they worked in hard labor. One day he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. He felt sorry for him and he glanced around and saw no one was looking and killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. At this time he knew his life was in danger. God was leading again! He protected Moses, and led him to Midian. There was a priest in Midian who had seven daughters, they came to draw water and fill their troughs for their father's flock. They reported to their father that a Egyptian rescued them. He wondered why they had returned so early that day, and when they told their father, he told them to invite him to eat with their family. And so the story goes that Moses met Zipporah and they were married and had a family. Once again, God was there!

The Bible says that during this "long" period the Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out for help, and God heard their groaning and he remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. "God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them." (**Ex. 2:25**)

God did not forget his people. And, he does not forget us!

God would now be known by two names: 1. A name that speaks what he is in himself, I am that I am - This explains his name Jehovah, and signifies, 1st, That he is self-existent; he has his being of himself, and has no dependence upon any other. And being self-existent he cannot but be self-sufficient, and therefore all-sufficient. He is eternal and unchangeable, always the same, yesterday to-day, and forever: he will be what he will be, and that he is faithful and true to all his promises, unchangeable in his word as in his nature.

#4 While Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law he saw an awesome sight. A bush that would not burn. This was a sign to Moses. God wanted to let Moses know that He had saw the misery of his people in Egypt and he was going to rescue them. Chapter 3, vs 7, 8 "I have seen, I have heard, I am concerned, I have come down." vs. 10 "I am sending you to Pharaoh."

God does see our needs and hears our prayers and is concerned and is coming down to meet our needs!!!

However, next we read how Moses shows his "human side," perhaps the same side that we have, and do! He asks, "Who am I that I should go?" "Suppose they ask who sent me, what is his name?" God explains in a simple way "I AM WHO I AM." He promises that he will go with Moses. He will not go alone. God is with us. We are NOT alone!

#5 God explains his plan to Moses. But again, in his own human understanding Moses questions God. "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, "The Lord did not appear to you."

God shows Moses the staff in his hand and tells him how to throw it on the ground and it would become a snake.

And, then to pick it up again and it would become a staff. Then He told him to put his hand inside his cloak and it became leprous, and again to place it inside and it became restored. That would be enough to me to take notice, especially the snake deal!!!

But Moses was still feeling inadequate. Just as we do at times, sometimes more than I care to admit! He said, "Oh Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past, nor since I have spoken to you. I am slow of speech and tongue." The Lord said, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives his sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you to speak and will teach you what to say." I would say that answers Moses and his question, we are placed with the facts in front of our eyes at times, and still we doubt. Yours truly included!

Again, Moses questioned the Lord, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it." Ok, that would probably be my thought too, there is always someone else, isn't there?

God then said, "What about your brother Aaron, I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you and his heart will be glad when he sees you. You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth, I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do." God already knew that Moses would need help, help was on its way!

He is and will be the God of the Exodus, Then, now and later!

He was and is able to help us exit out of our problems (such as the children in Israel in bondage). And is able to use us in spite of our inadequacies (such as Moses as his speech) and loves us in spite of our doubts and fears (such as Moses and the children of Israel).

Exodus 6:6-8 "I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians." (Of Satan and his Deceptions)

"I will free you from being slaves to them," ("Greater is He that is within me.")

"And I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment." (He shows us His love daily!)

"I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God." (He has adopted us as His very own children through the death of Christ on the cross.)

"Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians." His promises are real and they are true!

"And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. (He has provided for us a home in Heaven.) You can count on Him...all the way to Heaven!