### Exodus

## Chapter 4

1Then Moses asked:  
  
 ‘But, what if they don’t listen to me and do what I tell them to do? Or, what if they say, God hasn’t appeared to you… What should I tell them then?’  
  
2So the Lord asked him:  
  
 ‘What do you have in your hand?’  
  
And he replied:  
  
 ‘My walking stick.’  
  
3Then [the Lord] said:  
  
 ‘Throw it on the ground.’  
  
Well, when he threw it on the ground it became a snake, and Moses ran from it.  
  
4And after that, the Lord told Moses:  
  
 ‘Now, reach out and grab it by the tail.’  
  
So [Moses] reached out and grabbed it by the tail, 5and it became a walking stick in his hand once again. [And God continued]:  
  
 ‘That’s why they’ll believe you when you say that the God of your ancestors has appeared to you… The God of AbraHam, and of IsaAc, and of Jacob.’  
  
6Then the Lord told him:  
  
 ‘Now, put your hand inside [your robe and touch] your chest.’  
  
So, he reached inside and touched his chest; and when he brought his hand out, it was [as white] as snow!  
  
7Then [the Lord] said:  
  
 ‘Now, put your hand back in and touch your chest once more.’  
  
So, he reached in and touched his chest, and when he brought it out, its color had returned to the regular shade of his flesh!  
  
8[Then the Lord said]:  
  
 ‘So, if the first sign doesn’t make them listen to you and believe, the second sign will. 9But if they still won’t listen to you or believe after these two signs, then draw some water from the river and pour it out on the dry ground… And the river water will turn into blood.’  
  
10Then Moses said to the Lord:  
  
 ‘I beg you Lord; I’ve not been good at this in the past, and I’ve not become any better at it since You’ve started talking to your servant… I’m a poor speaker and I talk slowly!’  
  
11And the Lord asked Moses:  
  
 ‘Who gave man his mouth? Who made both those who can hear and the deaf, as well as those who can see and the blind? Wasn’t it Me… God?  
  
 12‘Now, go on, and I’ll open your mouth and tell you what to say!’  
  
13But Moses continued:  
  
 ‘I beg you Lord, send someone who is more capable!’  
  
14Well, this made the Lord very angry with Moses, so He said:  
  
 ‘Look; isn’t Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he’ll speak for you… Look, he’s coming to meet you, and when he sees you, he’ll be jumping for joy.  
  
 15‘Then you must talk to him and put My words into his mouth, and I’ll open both of your mouths and tell you what to say. 16Let him speak to the people for you… He will serve as your mouth and you will be the things of God to him.  
  
 17‘So now, take this walking stick that turned into a snake in your hands and work miracles with it!’  
  
18Well thereafter, Moses returned to His Excellence (his father-in-law), and said:  
  
 ‘I’m going to visit my brother in Egypt to see if he’s still living.’  
  
And His Excellence said to Moses:  
  
 ‘Go in health.’  
  
  
Well, after some time, the king of Egypt [possibly Kamose] died. 19And the Lord said to Moses (while he was still in MidiAn):  
  
 ‘Now go… Leave for Egypt, because those who wanted to kill you, are dead.’  
  
20So Moses took his wife and children, mounted them on his animals, and returned to Egypt. Moses also carried along the walking stick [through which he’d received power] from God.  
  
21And the Lord said to Moses:  
  
 ‘When you return to Egypt, consider all the miracles that I’ve given to you, then you must perform these things before PharaOh.  
  
 ‘However, I’ll make him hard-hearted and he will still refuse to send the people away. 22So you must tell PharaOh:  
  
 ‘This is what Jehovah has said:  
  
 ‘IsraEl is My firstborn, 23and I’ve told you to send My people away so they can serve Me; however, if you won’t send them away, {Look!} I’ll destroy all your firstborn!’  
  
  
  
24Well, [during their journey], a messenger of Jehovah met them along the way at an inn, and he wanted to kill [Moses’ son]. 25But SepPhoran grabbed a [sharp] stone and cut off her son’s foreskin.  
  
Then she fell at his feet and said:  
  
 ‘See… The blood of my son’s circumcision is flowing!’  
  
26So because she said, ‘The blood of my son’s circumcision is flowing,’ he left.  
  
  
27Then the Lord told Aaron:  
  
 ‘Now, go into the desert to meet Moses.’  
  
So, he went and met him at the Mountain of God, and they kissed each other. 28And thereafter, Moses told Aaron everything that the Lord had said, why he was being sent, and about all the things that he’d been instructed to do.  
  
29So Moses and Aaron went and gathered the elders of the children of IsraEl, 30and Aaron told them everything that God had said to Moses; then he performed the miracles before the people… 31And the people believed and were happy, because God was visiting the children of IsraEl and He had seen how they were being oppressed.  
  
So, the people all bowed to their faces before him.