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Jeremiah 1:4-8 (KJV)

4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I consecrated you, and I appointed you a prophet to the nations." 6 Then I said "I don't know what to say, O Sovereign Lord, because I am young." 7 The Lord said to me, "Don't say that I am young, for wherever I send you, you will go; I Say whatever I tell you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to save you, saith the LORD."

In this passage, the Lord calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and tells him not to be afraid because God is with him and will deliver him. This shows that when God calls a person, he provides everything they need and gives them strength and protection. So, in response, we should not dismiss God's calling and trust that He will give us all we need and be with us.

God, you are God, you send us to work, you must provide us with everything we need, whether it is eloquence or money, you treat everyone fairly.

We can no longer refuse your calling after prayer, and we don't need to worry about whether we are good enough.

God's power and promises are real and you will give us all we need and be with us. We trust you to guide and protect us in our mission.

God understands our doubts and concerns, and you forgive us and tolerate our imperfections. Despite our hesitation at times, God still chooses to use us to do your work.

Therefore, we ask you, God, to grant us a firm faith so that we will not be plagued by doubt. Help us to trust our own abilities and rely on your grace and guidance.

Let us be your vehicle to communicate your love and truth through our actions and words. Protect us from evil and temptation, and let our work be a testimony to your glory.

I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

EXODUS

CHAPTER 4

Ex. 4:1 Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you?’”

Ex. 4:2 Then the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” “A staff,” he replied.

Ex. 4:3 The LORD said, “Throw it on the ground.” Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it.

Ex. 4:4 Then the LORD said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.

Ex. 4:5 “This,” said the LORD, “is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob — has appeared to you.”

Ex. 4:6 Then the LORD said, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was leprous, like snow.

Ex. 4:7 “Now put it back into your cloak,” he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

Ex. 4:8 Then the LORD said, “If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first miraculous sign, they may believe the second.

Ex. 4:9 But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground.

The water you take from the river will become blood on the

ground.”

Ex. 4:10 Moses said to the LORD, “O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

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Ex. 4:11 The LORD said to him, “Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD?”

Ex. 4:12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

Ex. 4:13 But Moses said, “O Lord, please send someone else to do it.”

Ex. 4:14 Then the LORD’s anger burned against Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? 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.

Ex. 4:15 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.

Ex. 4:16 He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him.

Ex. 4:17 But take this staff in your hand so that you can perform miraculous signs with it.”

Ex. 4:18 Then Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, “Let me go back to my own people in Egypt to see if any of them are still alive.” Jethro said, “Go, and I wish you well.”

Ex. 4:19 Now the LORD had said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, for all the men who wanted to kill you are dead.”

Ex. 4:20 So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt. And he took the staff of God in his hand.

Ex. 4:21 The LORD said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.

Ex. 4:22 Then say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son,

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Ex. 4:23 and I told you, “Let my son go, so that he may worship me.” But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.””

Ex. 4:24 At a lodging place on the way, the LORD met Moses and was about to kill him.

Ex. 4:25 But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son’s foreskin and touched Moses’ feet with it. “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me,” she said.

Ex. 4:26 So the LORD let him alone. (At that time she said “bridegroom of blood”, referring to circumcision.)

Ex. 4:27 The LORD said to Aaron, “Go into the desert to meet Moses.” So he met Moses at the mountain of God and kissed him.

Ex. 4:28 Then Moses told Aaron everything the LORD had sent him to say, and also about all the miraculous signs he had commanded him to perform.

Ex. 4:29 Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites,

Ex. 4:30 and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people,

Ex. 4:31 and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshipped.

Chapter 4 of Exodus in the Bible begins with Moses expressing his doubts and fears to God about his ability to convince the Israelites and Pharaoh to listen to him. In response, God performs several miraculous signs for Moses, including turning his staff into a snake and then back into a staff, making his hand leprous and then healing it, and turning water from the Nile into blood.

God tells Moses that if these signs do not convince the Israelites or Pharaoh to listen to him, he can perform more signs such as causing a plague of frogs, lice, or locusts. God also promises to be with Moses and his brother Aaron, who will speak on Moses' behalf to the Israelites and Pharaoh.

Moses then returns to his father-in-law Jethro to ask for permission to return to Egypt. After receiving his blessing, Moses sets out with his wife and sons, and on the way, God tries to kill Moses but relents after his wife circumcises their son.

When Moses and Aaron arrive in Egypt, they meet with the Israelite elders and perform the signs that God had given to Moses. The people believe that God has sent Moses to deliver them, and they worship him.

Moses and Aaron then go to Pharaoh and demand that he let the Israelites go. However, Pharaoh refuses, and instead, he makes the Israelites work even harder. The chapter ends with the Israelites blaming Moses and Aaron for making their lives even more difficult.

The key verses Chapter 4 of Exodus in the Bible

Exodus chapter 4 continues the story of Moses and his call to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Here are some key verses from Exodus chapter 4:

1. "Moses answered, 'What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The Lord did not appear to you?'" (Exodus 4:1): This verse shows how Moses expresses his doubts and concerns to God about his ability to convince the Israelites to follow him.
2. "Then the Lord said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' 'A staff,' he replied" (Exodus 4:2): This verse shows how God demonstrates his power to Moses by turning his staff into a snake and then back into a staff.
3. "But Moses said to the Lord, 'O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue'" (Exodus 4:10): This verse shows how Moses expresses his fear of public speaking to God.
4. "The Lord said to him, 'Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say'" (Exodus 4:11-12): This verse shows how God reassures Moses that he will provide the words he needs to speak to the Israelites.
5. "Then Moses set out with his wife and sons and took the staff of God in his hand. The Lord said to Moses, 'When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go'" (Exodus 4:20-21): This verse shows how Moses sets out on his mission to deliver the Israelites from slavery, but also how God warns him that Pharaoh's heart will be hardened and he will not let the Israelites go easily.

Here's a reflection on Exodus chapter 4:

Exodus chapter 4 continues the narrative of Moses' encounter with God and his commissioning to deliver the Israelites from Egypt. In this chapter, Moses expresses his doubts and concerns, and God provides reassurance and miraculous signs to confirm His presence and power.

One of the central themes in this chapter is the faithfulness and patience of God in response to human doubts and insecurities. Moses, feeling inadequate and lacking eloquence, questions his ability to speak before Pharaoh and lead the Israelites. In response, God reassures Moses by reminding him of His presence and promise to be with him. God declares that He will provide the words and teach Moses what to say, emphasizing that it is His power, not Moses' own abilities, that will bring about the liberation of the Israelites.

To further reassure Moses, God provides him with miraculous signs. He turns Moses' staff into a snake and back again, demonstrating His authority and power over creation. God also afflicts Moses' hand with leprosy and then heals it, illustrating His ability to bring both affliction and healing. These signs serve as a visible confirmation of God's presence and enable Moses to perform miracles before the Israelites and Pharaoh.

Another important theme in this chapter is the need for obedience and trust in God's instructions. Despite the signs and reassurances, Moses continues to express his reluctance and asks God to send someone else in his place. In response, God's anger is kindled, but He still provides a solution by allowing Moses' brother, Aaron, to accompany him as a spokesperson. This interaction reveals the importance of obedience and trust in fulfilling God's purposes, even in the face of doubt and hesitation.

Reflecting on Exodus chapter 4, we can draw several lessons for our own lives. Firstly, it reminds us of God's faithfulness and patience in responding to our doubts and insecurities. Like Moses, we may feel inadequate or ill-equipped for the tasks God has called us to. However, God assures us of His presence, promises, and power, empowering us to step forward in obedience and trust.

Secondly, this chapter underscores the importance of relying on God's strength rather than our own. Moses' doubts about his speaking ability highlight the tendency to depend on our own capabilities, but God reminds us that it is through His power and guidance that we can accomplish His purposes. It encourages us to surrender our weaknesses and limitations to God, allowing Him to work through us.

Furthermore, Exodus chapter 4 teaches us the significance of obedience and trust in responding to God's call. Despite Moses' initial hesitation, God patiently guides him and provides a solution to address his concerns. It reminds us that God equips and enables us for the tasks He assigns, and our obedience and trust in following His instructions are crucial.

In conclusion, Exodus chapter 4 portrays God's faithfulness, patience, and miraculous provision in response to Moses' doubts and concerns. It emphasizes the need for reliance on God's strength, obedience to His instructions, and trust in His promises. By reflecting on these lessons, we can find encouragement to step forward in faith, even when faced with doubts or insecurities, knowing that God is with us, equipping us, and working through us for His purposes.