

THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

**A Journey Through the
Old Testament**

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction,
so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.

Exodus 4

18 Then Moses went back to his father-in-law Jethro and said to him,
“Please let me return to my brothers in Egypt to see if they are still alive.”
“Go in peace,” Jethro replied.

Exodus 4

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

20 So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey, and headed back to Egypt.

And he took the staff of God in his hand.

Zechariah 9

9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

**See, your king comes to you, righteous
and victorious,**

**lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

Exodus 4

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And he took the staff of God in his hand.

Exodus 4

21 The LORD instructed Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders that I have put within your power. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.

22 Then tell Pharaoh that this is what the LORD says: ‘Israel is My firstborn son, 23 and I told you to let My son go so that he may worship Me. But since you have refused to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son!’ ”

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Hosea 1

1 When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and **out of Egypt I called My son.**

2 But the more I called Israel,
the farther they departed from Me.

Matthew 2

14 So he got up, took the Child and His mother by night, and withdrew to Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod.

This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

“Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

Exodus 4

24 On the way to Egypt, at a place where Moses and his family had stopped for the night, the LORD confronted him and was about to kill him.

25 But Moses' wife, Zipporah, took a flint knife and circumcised her son. She touched his feet with the foreskin and said, "Now you are a bridegroom of blood to me."

26 (When she said "a bridegroom of blood," she was referring to the circumcision.) After that, the LORD left him alone.

Exodus 4

27 Meanwhile, the LORD had said to Aaron,
“Go and meet Moses in the wilderness.”

14 Then the anger of the LORD burned against
Moses, and He said, “Is not Aaron the Levite
your brother?

I know that he can speak well,
and **he is now on his way to meet you.**

Exodus 4

27 Meanwhile, the LORD had said to Aaron, "Go and meet Moses in the wilderness."

So he went and met Moses at the mountain of God and kissed him.

28 And Moses told Aaron everything the LORD had sent him to say, and all the signs He had commanded him to perform.

Exodus 4

29 Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the Israelites, 30 and Aaron relayed everything the LORD had said to Moses.

And Moses performed the signs before the people, 31 and they believed.

And when they heard that the LORD had attended to the Israelites and had seen their affliction, they bowed down and worshiped.

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The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully. – Richard Dawkins

Lamentations 2

1 How the Lord has covered the Daughter of Zion with the cloud of His anger!

**He has cast the glory of Israel from heaven to earth.
He has abandoned His footstool in the day of His anger.**

**2 Without pity the Lord has swallowed up
all the dwellings of Jacob.**

**In His wrath He has demolished
the fortified cities of the Daughter of Judah.
He brought to the ground and defiled
her kingdom and its princes.**

Lamentations 2

**11 My eyes fail from weeping; I am churning within.
My heart is poured out in grief
over the destruction of the daughter of my people,
because children and infants
faint in the streets of the city.**

**12 They cry out to their mothers:
“Where is the grain and wine?”
as they faint like the wounded
in the streets of the city,
as their lives fade away
in the arms of their mothers.**

Lamentations 2

**17 The LORD has done what He planned;
He has accomplished His decree,
which He ordained in days of old;
He has overthrown you without pity.
He has let the enemy gloat over you
and exalted the horn of your foes.**

Lamentations 2

**19 Arise, cry out in the night
from the first watch of the night.**

**Pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord.
Lift up your hands to Him for the lives of your children
who are fainting from hunger
on the corner of every street.**

**20 Look, O LORD, and consider:
Whom have You ever treated like this?
Should women eat their offspring,
the infants they have nurtured?
Should priests and prophets be killed
in the sanctuary of the Lord?**

Lamentations 2

**21 Both young and old lie together
in the dust of the streets.**

**My young men and maidens
have fallen by the sword.**

**You have slain them in the day of Your anger;
You have slaughtered them without compassion.**

**22 You summoned my attackers on every side,
as for the day of an appointed feast.**

**In the day of the LORD's anger
no one escaped or survived;
my enemy has destroyed
those I nurtured and reared.**

First, there are several clear scriptural truths that can help us to better understand the God of the OT.

Second, when we really understand Him, we will love Him more than ever, and want to serve Him more than ever.

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