

Sh'mot (Exodus)

Exodus 1:1-6:1

Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

Matthew 22:23-33; 41-46

Acts 3:12-15

Hebrew 11:23-26

What is in Your Hand?

Many generations have lived and died since the time of Joseph. To the Hebrews, Caanan is a distant place that is talked about on occasion, but Egypt has become home in their minds. The stories of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are ancient history. Joseph saving Egypt from ruin? It is not doing them much good now. At least not in their minds. God? Well, it does not look like He is too involved in the lives of the Hebrews. Then one night it all changed. The sound of a baby cry in Goshen was very common, but this cry was unique. For those who had ears to hear it could be interpreted, "Pack your bags, it is time to go home!"

Moses, a type and shadow of the One prophesied in Genesis 3 was now alive and well, even growing up in the very house he would one day judge. The only problem with the picture is the man who will be called to deliver the people needs some time tending sheep to truly be ready for the call.

Moses had probably sat at the base of the mountain many times during his years as a shepherd. Little did he realize how much future events on the mountain would change generations to come including the one you and I are living out right now.

The account of the burning bush is very familiar to us all. There is a detail many read over which I would like to expound on. In Chapter 4 Verse 2 Yah asks Moshe a question, "What is that in your hand?" Now, from my experience, when Yah asks a question, He is not looking for information. He is normally looking for our response. Moshe answers right away and says it is a staff. In the next verses we read what Yah instructs Moshe to do with the staff, part of which is to throw it down whereas it becomes a snake.

I, for one, am not real crazy about snakes. I do not even like the sight of them. Even the ones which are not venomous, I just do not like them. I think my feeling toward serpents would have been a good one for Eve to have, but that is another subject.

What is the connection between the staff and the serpent? In Moshe's day the staff was where your life was recorded in carvings. It was his autobiography. He would have carved images for various important times in his life. Probably none stuck out more to the eyes of Moshe was the carving of the day he killed the Egyptian. To Moshe it was a symbol of his failure. He who was once called to be the deliverer was forever a failure. What his staff represented was the day he had messed up so bad, his future was over, the same as if a venomous snake had bitten him.

When Moshe saw the staff turn into a snake it says he recoiled from it. I do not believe he he tried to flee because he was afraid of the snake, but rather he understood what it represented.

Moshe thought his actions years ago had brought death to his calling. This was not the case. His actions had sent him to a place to make him into the man he needed to be, a man who would rely on YH VH and not on himself.

Over the years I have met many people who think something in their past means that Yah can no longer use them. Maybe you are one of them. If that is the case, I have a question for you, "What is that in your hand?" Let's take a lesson from Moshe. Throw down the image that we may have of failures past. See that image for what it is, a death which keeps us from living our destiny. The staff of Moshe was in a way born again as the old things had passed away and all things had become new. So I ask again, "What is that in your hand?"