

Scriptural Background: Exo 3

"13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you." Exo 3:13–14

God repeatedly reveals Himself in and with fire in the Bible (Gen 15:17, Exo 13:21). Indeed, He is said to be a consuming fire (Deu 4:24, Heb 12:29). Here, in Exodus 3, Moses meets that Fire, and a voice from out of the burning bush declares, "I AM WHO I AM." This is God Himself! Years later, a young carpenter-turned-itinerant-preacher from Nazareth declared to a group of religious leaders, "Truly, truly, before Abraham was, *I am,*" and they picked up stones to stone Him. The issue was not that he said "am" instead of "was." The reason was because they rightly understood what He was claiming: in Jesus, God Himself—the voice from the burning bush—had taken up residence in human form. In Him, and only through faith in Him, can we stand before God without being consumed as well.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we praise You, the great I AM. Give us eyes to see You and understanding of who You are. Thank You for taking the fire of divine judgment against sin that I might enter Your holy presence without fear. Help me to approach the throne of God with boldness befitting Your finished work. Amen.