

From the Rabbi's Desk  
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## Insights into the Bible [1]

### A Portrait of the Hero as a Young Man (Insights into Exodus 2:11-22 and 3:1-4)



#### Exodus 2:11-22

<sup>11</sup> Some time after that, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his kinsfolk and witnessed their labors. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his kinsmen.

<sup>12</sup> He turned this way and that and, seeing no one about, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand

<sup>13</sup> When he went out the next day, he found two Hebrews fighting; so he said to the offender, "Why do you strike your fellow?" <sup>14</sup> He retorted, "Who made you chief and ruler over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Moses was frightened, and thought: Then the matter is known! <sup>15</sup> When Pharaoh learned of the matter, he sought to kill Moses; but Moses fled from Pharaoh. He arrived in the land of Midian, and sat down beside a well.

<sup>16</sup> Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock; <sup>17</sup> but shepherds came and drove them off. Moses rose to their defense, and he watered their flock. <sup>18</sup> When they returned to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come back so soon today?" <sup>19</sup> They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds; he even drew water for us and watered the flock." <sup>20</sup> He said to his daughters, "Where is he then? Why did you leave the man? Ask him in to break bread." <sup>21</sup> Moses consented to stay with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah as wife. <sup>22</sup> She bore a son whom he named Gershom, for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land."

**? Why did God choose Moses as the leader of the Children of Israel? Base your answer on Exodus 2:11-22)**

### **Exodus 3: 1-4**

<sup>1</sup> Now Moses, tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, drove the flock into the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire out of a bush. He gazed, and there was a bush all aflame, yet the bush was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> Moses said, "I must turn aside to look at this marvelous sight; why doesn't the bush burn up?" <sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him out of the bush: "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am."

**? Why did God choose Moses as the leader of the Children of Israel? Base your answer on Exodus 3:1-4)**

### **Jeremiah 1:5**

<sup>4</sup> The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup> "Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.

**? Based on the above verses, why did God choose Jeremiah as a Prophet? How is Jeremiah's "call" different from Moses'?**

**? Read the enclosed first pages of Abraham Joshua Heschel's book: *The Prophets*. How does Moses fit the prophet job description even before God approaches him?**

### **Bibliography**

Heschel, Abraham Joshua: [The Prophets](#). Jewish Publication Society. 1962