

God manifested Himself. When we see Christ in His glory and majesty, we feel ourselves to be nothing in His presence.

Vv. 7-9.—Moses, humbled and prostrate, was prepared to welcome the sweet accents of grace. God knew all Israel's grievous oppression. He felt with them. Jesus is afflicted in all our afflictions. He carries our sorrows. Yea, He carries us also. God came down to deliver His people from Egypt. Jesus came to earth to redeem sinners. God came to His people when they sorely needed His help. He did not come because they deserved His help. But He saw them weak, helpless, crushed to the earth. Their helplessness was their plea, and drew out His compassion. Jesus comes not to the strong, but to the weak.

V. 10.—God now calls Moses to a great work for which He had undergone a special training. As a shepherd he had learned how to lead the Lord's scattered flock through the wilderness. He was first qualified, and then called to this public official work. So with David's call, Paul's call, Luther's call to public work for Christ.

Here are God's holiness and God's compassion. How sweetly at the burning bush were mercy and truth seen to embrace one another.

FOURTH SABBATH.

SUBJECT:—*Doubts removed, Ex. 4 1-9 27-32. Golden Text, John 3 2.*

V. 1.—Moses evinces timidity arising from unbelief. He did not fully trust God's promise, Ex. 3 18. Timidity always springs from looking to self and not to Christ. All doubts of God's faithfulness are sinful.

Vv. 2-9.—In Moses' weakness, God's grace is manifested. He grants him three signal, clear, and decisive signs. The rod was probably his shepherd's crook—a staff usually with a curved head, from 3 to 4 feet long. Moses fled from the serpent. So men are overcome by Satan. But when commissioned by God he touched the serpent's tail it became a rod. The serpent, Satan, though of great power, is under the control of Christ. He overcomes and crushes Satan. The rod may typify the Gospel of Jesus. The rod of Moses was the symbol of protection and guidance to Israel, but of judgment and destruction to their enemies. So with the Gospel of God. It is the Saviour of life unto life, or of death unto death. The marvellous change in Moses' hands showed how God can put away the uncleanness,

leprosy of sin by His grace, as well as His sovereign power to inflict judgments and chastisements, and grant gracious deliverances when He pleases. The clean hand placed in the bosom became leprous, and the leprous hand placed there became clean. Leprosy is the well known type of sin.

The third sign was one to be held *in reserve*. God has power in reserve, greater than we can imagine. On this we should ever fall back. There were to be *three* signs. There is thus a limit to the use of gracious means. The object of these signs was to remove unbelief. So with all the signs, miracles, prophetic utterances, manifestations of God's power. Where one may fail to remove prejudice and unbelief, another may succeed.

Vv. 27-30.—The usual Arab salutation was a kiss on either side of the face. The wilderness and the mount of God was a good place for the meeting of brothers. Moses' difficulty was that he was slow of speech. Though mighty in words, strong, doubtless, and energetic like Paul, he had not readiness nor attractiveness. God removed this difficulty, not by making him fluent in speech, but by giving him Aaron as a co-labourer who was free of speech. God has his own way of removing our difficulties. Each brother has to use his own gift. The gift of the one supplemented the defect of the other. All gifts are not bestowed in one. Their fellowship in work was thus mutually encouraging, helpful and delightful. All brethren in Jesus should be true yoke-fellows in His service. Every one has some gift which should be consecrated to Jesus.

V. 31.—The doubts of Moses were removed. His faith was strengthened. The people believed in God. They learned to be thankful to God who had looked upon them in their affliction. Let these results be secured in us. Moses typified the great Deliver Jesus. He came to a down-trodden people to redeem and save them. He came with signs and miracles attending His Messiahship. He is able to save to the uttermost. Let us believe, honour and serve Him.

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