

# God's Surprise Visits

## Exodus 3:1-6

### **Exodus 3:1-6 (NASB)**

**<sup>1</sup> Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.**

**<sup>2</sup> The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.**

**<sup>3</sup> So Moses said, "I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up."**

**<sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."**

**<sup>5</sup> Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."**

**<sup>6</sup> He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.**

I recall a time when I was faced with a particularly difficult decision. The timing, the circumstances—everything about the opportunity in front of me seemed wrong. Choosing to pursue the prospect didn't really make sense at all. Though I simply wanted to turn it down, I understood the importance of praying first. As I spent time with the Lord, He gave me a clear vision of what He expected next from my life. I accepted that seemingly illogical, ill-timed offer and reaped great blessing for my obedience.

As Christians, we expect the Holy Spirit to direct our thoughts through prayer and Scripture. But sometimes He may choose to intervene more directly in a person's life, as He did with me that day.

God has been visiting people since the beginning, when He walked with Adam and Eve in the garden ([Genesis 3:8](#)).

### **Genesis 3:8 (NASB)**

**<sup>8</sup> "They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden."**

The way He reveals Himself is different in each instance. Moses saw a burning bush ([Exodus 3:2](#)), whereas Samuel heard a voice at night ([1 Samuel 3:1-14](#)).

### **Exodus 3:2 (NASB)**

**<sup>2</sup> "The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed."**

**1 Samuel 3:1-14 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>“Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD before Eli. And word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent.

<sup>2</sup>It happened at that time as Eli was lying down in his place (now his eyesight had begun to grow dim *and* he could not see *well*),

<sup>3</sup>and the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God *was*,

<sup>4</sup>that the LORD called Samuel; and he said, “Here I am.”

<sup>5</sup>Then he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, lie down again.” So, he went and lay down.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD called yet again, “Samuel!” So, Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he answered, “I did not call, my son, lie down again.”

<sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor had the word of the LORD yet been revealed to him.

<sup>8</sup>So the LORD called Samuel again for the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli discerned that the LORD was calling the boy.

<sup>9</sup>And Eli said to Samuel, “Go lie down, and it shall be if He calls you, that you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening.’” So, Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Then the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for Your servant is listening.”

<sup>11</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.”

<sup>12</sup>“In that day I will carry out against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.”

<sup>13</sup>“For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them.”

<sup>14</sup>“Therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.”

Yet each was clearly a divine encounter.

When the Lord visits someone, He comes for a purpose. Joshua received specific—and unusual—instructions for defeating Jericho ([Joshua 5:13-6:5](#)).

**Joshua 5:13-15 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup>“Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?”

<sup>14</sup>He said, “No; rather I indeed come now *as* captain of the host of the LORD.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, “What has my lord to say to his servant?”

<sup>15</sup> The captain of the LORD'S host said to Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so."

**Joshua 6:1-5 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> "Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king *and* the valiant warriors."

<sup>3</sup> "You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days."

<sup>4</sup> "Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets."

<sup>5</sup> "It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead."

Saul of Tarsus was called into ministry ([Acts 9](#)).

**Acts 9:1-9 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> "Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,

<sup>2</sup> and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;

<sup>4</sup> and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

<sup>5</sup> And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He *said*, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,

<sup>6</sup> but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do."

<sup>7</sup> The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

<sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.

<sup>9</sup> And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank."

Others were warned of danger through dreams ([Matthew 2:12-13](#)).

**Matthew 2:12-13 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> "And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

<sup>13</sup> Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him."

God's personal calls are rare and unexpected. We cannot pray or fast to make Him come. He simply makes His presence known in a believer's life when He chooses. So be prepared with an open heart and willing spirit if He visits you.