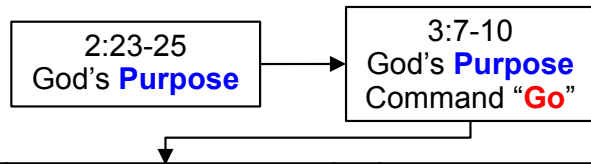


For Discussion 3:21-4:9

- What three predictions did God make in 3:16-22, showing that he knows the hearts of people?
- Did the Israelites lie when they “borrowed” from the Egyptians?
- How do Moses’ third and fourth utterances differ from his first two?
- What verb dominates Moses’ third utterance and the Lord’s response, in 4:1-9?
- How does giving signs to the people fit into the broader pattern of theophanies?
- What danger or obstacle to the people’s departure from Egypt does each of the signs address, and how does each sign reassure them?

Theme	First Cycle, 1:1-4:18	Second Cycle, 4:19-40:38
Entering Egypt	1:1-7, Eleven tribes go to Egypt & multiply	4:19-31, Moses returns to Egypt with his family
Oppression	1:8-22, Pharaoh oppresses Israel	5:1-23, Oppression increases
Leaders raised up	2:1-4, Moses born	6:1-27, Moses & Aaron appointed
Moses & Pharaoh	2:5-10, Moses as a son	6:28-13:16, Moses as a deliverer
Travel to Horeb	2:11-15, Moses flees to Midian	13:17-17:7, Israel from Egypt to Sinai
Conflict	2:16-17, Moses overcomes shepherds	17:8-16, Moses overcomes Amalek
Moses and Jethro	2:18-22, Moses’ Midianite family	18:1-27, Moses’ Midianite family
Encounter with God at Horeb	2:23-4:18, Moses to “serve God upon this mountain,” 3:12	19:1-40:38, At Horeb, Israel enters covenant with God



Mode	Question, Positive	Statement, Negative
Focus	God Said ...	The LORD Said ...
Moses	3:11-12 Moses: Who am I? God: I will be with you.	4:10-12 Moses: I cannot speak The LORD: Go, I will be with your mouth
The People	3:13-15 Moses: (They will ask) What is his name? God: The LORD God of your fathers	4:1-9 Moses: They will not believe The LORD: Three signs
3:16-22 Go + God's Purpose		

Mode: Request
4:13-17
Moses: Send Someone Else
The LORD (angry): Aaron

3:21-22, Enriching Israel

Descriptions of the Enrichment

Gen 15:13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; 14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward **shall they come out with great substance.**

Exo 11:2 Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man ~~borrow~~ ask of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, **jewels of silver, and jewels of gold.** 3 And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians.

Exo 12:35 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they ~~borrowed~~ asked of the Egyptians **jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment:** 36 And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they ~~lent~~ gave unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians.

Psa 105:37 He brought them forth also with **silver and gold:** and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.

Spoil: Military Metaphors in the Exodus

Exo 13:18 But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up **harnessed** [in military array] out of the land of Egypt.

Exo 14:14 The LORD shall **fight** for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

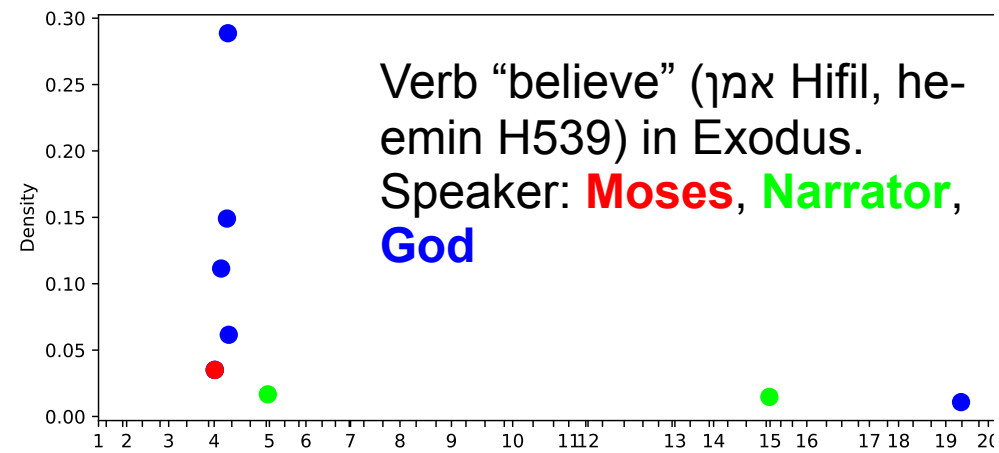
Exo 15:1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. ... 3 **The LORD is a man of war:** the LORD is his name.

3:9 They will not ...

“Hearken”: *le* (ל) in 3:18, *be* (ב) in 4:1

Mat 23:16 Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! 17 Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? 18 And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. 19 Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift? 20 Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon. 21 And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein. 22 And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.

Ezr 7:10 For Ezra had **prepared his heart** to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.



Narrator

Ex. 4:30 Aaron spake all the words ... and did the signs ... 31 And the people **believed**:

Ex. 14:31 And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and **believed** the LORD, and his servant Moses.

At Sinai

Ex. 19:9 And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and **believe** thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.

4:2-9, Three Signs for the People

Signs in Theophanies

Reference	Person	Sign
Genesis 15	Abram	Furnace, lamp
Genesis 28	Jacob	Ladder
Exodus 3	Moses	Burning bush
Judges 6	Gideon	Fire from heaven; fleece
Judges 13	Manoah	Angel ascends in flame

Rod → Serpent

Goddess Wadjet, protector of lower Egypt

→ God is more powerful than Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt

Hand → Leprosy

Rejection by society

→ God is more powerful than the Egyptian people

Nile → Blood

God Hapi, source of nourishment

→ God can provide even outside of Egypt

Nile → Blood: for Elders

3:9 thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and **the water which thou takest** out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land

Nile → Blood: for Pharaoh

7:19 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone. 20 ... **all the waters** that were in the river were turned to blood.

Uraeus
(cobra)



3/22/2026
Bilson Peters

Exodus 4:1-4

4 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee.

2 And the Lord said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.

3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.

4 And the Lord said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

How did the snake become a staff again?

