

# Which Staff Are You? Exodus 4:1-20

# The Call

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The book of Exodus is mainly a story about Moses; his birth to death. He was described as being “beautiful.” Chapter two tells the story of how this beautiful boy was placed in a basket and put in the Nile River reeds, in such a way that it would float by the daughter of Pharaoh and her entourage. She rescued him and raised him as her own, in the palace. He was educated to become a leader, and he never forgot his true heritage. Full of himself, he thought he would defend his people who were being forced into “hard labor.” He killed an Egyptian taskmaster and had to flee for his life into the desert, where he came across Reuel, a shepherd. He married his daughter and became a shepherd himself. In chapter 3, we read about his burning bush experience, which changed his life forever. In verse 10, Moses receives the reason for his calling to deliver Israel from their bondage.

# The Question

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Once the Lord explains to Moses his mission, He has to deal with his doubts. This brings us to the question in 4:2. “What is that in your hand?” He answers, “A staff.” The Lord will use the normal tool of a shepherd’s staff, and make it into a tool useable for the leader/deliverer he is to become. Notice the power of the staff blessed by Elohim. It is able to turn into a snake, but not a normal snake. It can devour many other snakes of the false magicians who used actual snakes that had been hypnotized, then Moses’ turned back into an actual wood staff! If this wasn’t enough, Moses was given two other signs to use: his hand turned leprous then turned back clean again, and to turn Nile water into blood. As far as I understand and from reading Exodus, Moses is probably never far from his staff ever again. What happened to his staff? No one knows. Maybe it was buried with him?

# The Staff's Power

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After another bout of doubt in his own ability, which brought his brother Aaron into his ministry, Moses proceeded to follow his call to free his people from their bondage. Reading through the 10 plagues, you will notice how the staff's power is used when lifted or touches anything: 1. The Nile River turns to blood. 2. It brings up frogs from the rivers and streams. 3. It strikes the dust and brings forth gnats. 4. Then brings forth flies. 5. Kills the livestock of Egypt. 6. Brought boils on the Egyptians. 7. Brings hail down from the sky. 8. Brings locusts over the land. 9. Brings darkness over the land. 10. Then Moses visits the Pharaoh for the last time. He walks into his presence with the staff in his hand (authority) and makes his final pronouncement. This time the staff isn't employed, but the Lord Himself (12:29), carries out the punishment over the firstborn babies and cattle. This event begins the memorial called "Passover."

# Other Uses of The Staff

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1. 14:16, 21 “Lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it,”
2. 17: 5-6 Struck the rock at Horeb and water flowed.
3. 17:9-12 Staff lifted brought victory for Israel over the Amalekites.
4. Numbers 20:8-12 Notice there seems to be a change from the power of the staff to the power of the Lord’s spoken Word. Moses was to stand before the people with the staff in hand, but SPEAK to the rock and bring forth water. Moses disobey by bring attention to himself and Aaron. Verse 10 says, “shall WE bring forth water for you out of this rock?”
5. It seems from this point forward, that it is the power and authority of the given Word that leads His people, not a staff.

# Application For Us?

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- \*We must have our own “burning bush” experience with the Lord. That is to say, a “coming to Jesus moment” that forever changes our lives. John 3:3. “You MUST be born again!”
- \* Like Moses threw down his staff for a change to happen, we too need to throw ourselves down and pick up the cross of Christ, then walk daily with our cross across our shoulders as a reminder of what the Lord did for us on the cross. Luke 9:23
- \*We need to quit asking for signs and giving excuses for our refusal to obey our Lord’s commands. 1 Corinthians 1:22. (signs and wisdom) Luke 9:57-62 (excuses)
- \*We need to depend on Jesus’ Word and all Scripture. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

# Back to the Question

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Which staff do you carry? The normal staff of a shepherd that anyone can carry, or are you carrying the staff of Jesus? That staff is the one He died on for us, then commissioned us to go in the power and authority of His name. Matthew 28:18-20.

Now is really the time to be faithfully carrying out the commission He gave us. When the door swings open to give you an opportunity to witness for Him, walk through! Watch what our Lord can do when we are faithful to lift Him up. He is THE heart changer!

Psalm 31:24