“LET MY SON GO THAT HE MAY SERVE ME”

Exodus 4:18–31

Key Verses: 4:22–23a

1. After experiencing God’s call, what does Moses do (18a)? What reason does he give for wanting to return to Egypt, and why? How does Jethro respond, and what is the significance of this conversation (18b)?
2. What is the real reason Moses is returning to Egypt (19)? How does this contrast with when he first went out to see his people (2:11–15)? Why is going when God says to go so important? What does “the staff of God” signify (20b)?
3. How does the LORD instruct Moses, and why is it crucial that his power is from God (21a)? What else does the LORD predict, and how and why is this a theme in Exodus (21b; cf. 7:3,13–14,22; 8:15,19,32; 9:7,12,34–35; 10:1,20,27; 11:10; 14:4,8,17)?
4. Read verses 22–23. What does it mean that God sees his people as his “firstborn son”? What does this mean to us (see also Gal4:4–7)?
5. What is God’s purpose in saving Israel, and how and why is this another theme in Exodus (23a; cf. 3:12; 7:16; 8:1,20; 9:13; 10:3,7,8,11,24,26; 12:31; 20:5; 23:24–25,33)? How does this point to our salvation in Jesus (Lk1:74–75; Ro6:19; 12:1)? What does God warn, and what event does this foresee (23b; 12:29)?
6. What surprising thing happens on Moses’ way back to Egypt, and what does this incident teach us (24–26)? Describe Moses’ return (27–30). How do the people respond, and what is the focus here (31)?