

Exodus - Chapters 3 Study Questions

1. **Exodus 3:2** What is a “theophany”? What does Moses’ encounter with the Lord anticipate? What allegorical significance does the burning bush have in relation to the Blessed Virgin?
Footnote p. 20, 3:2 Angel of the Lord

2. **Exodus 3:5** The expression “holy ground” is often used loosely to refer to places of special, though not necessarily religious, importance. In Moses’ case, what makes the ground holy? What does it mean for a place or a thing to be holy in a religious sense? What should one’s attitude be toward such places and things?
Footnote p. 20, 3:5 Holy ground
Footnote p. 20, 3:6 The God of your father

3. **Exodus 3:10–11** Since Moses was raised among Egyptian nobility, and it has been many years since he fled Egypt, why do you think Moses balks at God’s commission? When have you hesitated at taking on a large responsibility, and why?
Footnote p. 20, 3:10-4:17 The call of Moses

4. **Exodus 3:14** What does the name “I AM WHO I AM” reveal about God? What philosophical truth does it express and how is it made visible? How does Jesus lay claim to divinity in the fourth Gospel?
Footnote p. 20, 3:14 I am who I Am
John 8:58 (NT p. 180) and Footnote 8:58 Before Abraham was I am

5. **Exodus 3:15** What is the name YHWH called and what does it mean? When devout Jews come to the divine name in Scripture, what do they do?
Footnote p. 21, 3:15 Lord
Psalms 145:1-2 I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

6. **Exodus 3:15** In June 2008, the Holy See issued a directive that the name of God revealed in the tetragrammaton YHWH is not to be pronounced in the Catholic liturgy. What motivated the directive? Since the liturgy itself never uses the divine name that way, what would be affected?
CCC 209 Out of respect for the holiness of God, the people of Israel do not pronounce his name. In the reading of Sacred Scripture, the revealed name (YHWH) is replaced by the divine title "LORD" (in Hebrew *Adonai*, in Greek *Kyrios*). It is under this title that the divinity of Jesus will be acclaimed: "Jesus is LORD."

7. **Exodus 3:18** What is the primary goal of the Exodus and what is Moses requesting of Pharaoh at this point in the story?
Footnote p. 21, 3:18 That we may sacrifice

8. **Exodus 3:19** It is fairly common for human beings not to respond to God “unless compelled by a mighty hand”. Critical life circumstances sometimes “compel” us to turn to God. How have you been forced by circumstance to turn to God after resisting him?

Note: Most questions come from the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible Exodus by Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch. Ignatius Press. Page numbers in (p. xx) are from the Exodus booklet and page numbers in (NT p. xx) are from the New Testament Bible