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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

51/J/PM

Prayer Meeting Address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham
29.10.51

Reading: Exodus 3

God has His appointed time to appear for His oppressed and afflicted people, although for a very long period He appeared to be unmindful of their oppression and affliction. But according to His covenant word, in His appointed time, the Lord heard their groaning, remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and raised up His servant Moses to be instrumental in their deliverance from that long and weary bondage.

The life of Moses appears to be divided into three parts. The first forty years was spent in the court of Pharaoh where he was brought up in all the luxury of the Egyptian court. The second forty was a striking contrast to that mode of life and was spent in the backside of the desert. The third forty was spent in leading the children of Israel through the wilderness. It was at the middle of these phases of his life when he was at the backside of the desert that God appeared to Moses and revealed His commission to him. It was a most unlikely place, but there is no question but that Moses had more teaching in the backside of the desert than ever he had in the house of Pharaoh. There it was that the Lord distinctly appeared to him and manifested His majesty by speaking out of the midst of a bush that was burning and yet not consumed. This may be emblematical of the afflicted Church of God or of the children of Israel there who had been in the furnace of affliction and yet were not consumed. Moreover the fire may indicate the majesty of God in His justice and in His dealings with His children whereby they are by means of a furnace of affliction cleansed and purified.

At this time Moses had a deep sense of God's majesty, for we read that he hid his face for he was afraid to look upon God, but when God made known to him what He designed him to do he affirmed it by a very gracious and seasonable promise. Moses objected saying, "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt". The Lord

said, "Certainly, I will be with thee". That covered all, covered all the difficulties, all the objections, although indeed Moses did object; it covered all that appeared so impossible. When Moses said, "Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, the God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, what is His name? what shall I say unto them?", God said, "I AM THAT I AM hath sent thee". This is a divine title expressive of those perfections that pertain only to God, of His self existence and His eternity. I AM, - not, I was, or I will be, but I AM. I AM THAT I AM, which means that His almighty power is above everything and that He has absolute control over it. Although Pharaoh's heart was hardened not to let the children of Israel go, yet God had a purpose in that to magnify His power. Nothing could stand in the way eventually.

The Word of God, the power of His name "I AM THAT I AM" gave authority and lustre to the promise made to Moses, "Certainly I will be with thee", almighty power will be with thee. When we can feel that, it brings a holy confidence and enables us to go in the strength of the Lord God; it is a divine support to us. There is such a difference between merely reading a promise and feeling the promise. But are there not times with the Lord's children when even such a word is distinctly felt? When that is so then actually there are no difficulties though there may be great difficulties. If the almighty power is on our side, if the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is our God, we have no real reason to fear; if God be for us who can be against us? "Certainly I will be with thee". What a strength this can be when facing difficulties which may appear in themselves insurmountable. What quietness it can bring to us. "Certainly", not 'perhaps' or "I may be", but the promise was so definite, "Certainly". You can see the relevancy of that way of expressing it in view of the unparalleled difficulties which Moses had before him. God fulfilled His word to him, "Certainly I will be with thee", and so He will to each of His children seeing that He has said in His word "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee". May the Lord help us to take some encouragement from this, not in the way of applying it to ourselves, but realising that God is supreme and that His name is I AM which indicates His divine perfections and attributes and that this God, if He is our God, (and we trust He is) will bring us through "Certainly I will be with thee", is all we need. It covers everything. May the Lord mercifully grant it to us and give us to realise it on every occasion of need and difficulty. **"CERTAINLY I WILL BE WITH THEE!"**