

## **BACKGROUND**

**By coincidence**, I started to watch 2014 movie, *Exodus: Gods and Kings*.

- Directed by Ridley Scott
- Christian Bale [Moses]
- Joel Edgerton [Rameses]
- Sigourney Weaver
- Ben Kingsley (who is a Christian BTW)

**TOTAL SACRILEGE & LIES** deliberately designed to deny the sovereignty and power of God!

- Apart from the story line **TOTALLY** wrong
- No - removing shoes ... standing on Holy Ground
- God spoke through a child and told Moses to be a great warrior
- No mention of Moses weakness and humility before Almighty God
  
- Left his wife behind and became a military leader in Egypt
- Trained and prepared weapons for Guerilla warfare against the Egyptians.
  
- **The whole essence of the movie was and IMPOTENT God suggesting a powerful man to help.**
  
- **Tracey was getting upset with my Biblical Anger at this blasphemy**
- I stopped watching after about 10-15 minutes.
- It is NOT just telling a story for entertainment ...
- **It exposes people who don't know the Bible to LIES, which are absorbed subconsciously as TRUTH.**
- **It builds a framework about a FALSE GOD who DOESN'T HAVE ANY CONTROL over HIS CREATION!**
- **It Elevates MAN to the level of Gods ... like ancient mythology, like Hercules.**
- **Erodes the narratives of the Bible to Fairy Tales!!!**

**This makes my blood boil, when Almighty God's name is blasphemed!!!**

**NOW, here's the TRUTH !!!**

Ex. 3                      **1491 BC**

- Moses was Jethro's shepherd - working for his father-in-law
- Mt Horeb, saw the incredible miracle of the Lord's presence - *the Burning Bush*

PCA logo - **TURN AROUND AND LOOK AT WINDOW**  
"Nec Tamen Consumeatur" [Yet it was not consumed]  
**It is how we are supposed to live our lives for God!**

- God identifies Himself v.5,6
- Aware of the affliction of His people in Egypt
  
- Moses commission v.10
- Go to Pharoah
- Bring forth God's People
  
- Moses mentions his human inability
- God says He will send a token [Community Chest card]
- Give the Israelites God's highest credentials! [**I AM WHO I AM = YHWH**] ! V.14
- God outlines the details of His plan v.15 - 22



## 1. The Humble Implement

### V.1

After God explains His plan in detail, **how does Moses respond?**

**But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee.**

### V.2

And the Lord said unto him, **What is that in thine hand?**

- A rhetorical question for Moses to take note of what he uses everyday!

And he [Moses] said, **A rod. \* PICK UP THE ROD EXAMPLE**

- Shepherd's Rod or Staff - **the basic tool of a LOWLY shepherd**

Sang Ps. 23:4 [Rejoice verse 3] ***thy rod and thy staff they comfort me***

- Rod = correct and rebuke sheep
- Staff = guides and direct sheep
- Years ago, I worked on a Suffolk Sheep Stud "Eddington",
  - out at Baking Board (near Chinchilla)
  - Godly folk, Arthur and Janelle Hurse.
- Gatton Ag College - we had to work on a range of different farms to get practical experience
- It was a great idea
- Exposed me to so many new experiences and ag environments
- More so than many of kids my age.
- Anyone here worked with sheep?
  - They are the **DUMBEST ANIMAL** on God's green earth.
  - Probably why we humans are always compared to sheep in the Bible
- Used mostly sheep dogs, but in close quarters (small paddocks) used a rod like this!
- With cattle we could use black poly pipe ... noise and sting more successful.
- NOT with sheep.

**Is there ANYTHING more simple than a stick or rod?**

- Animal guide ~ chooks, sheep
- Walking stick / crutch
- Scouts in my youth
  - Tent Pole for a shelter
  - Camp gadgets when lashed together
  - Vaulting over small gullies
- 3 yr old Grandson, Lucas, uses them for a rifle! (doesn't impress his Mum)
- 18 moth old grandson, Bailey, uses them as light sabre from Star Wars.
  - But he prefers Steppy use **Grandma's purple coat hanger**

## God used (and still uses) mostly base things in mighty ways to show His glory and power!

Book of Judges ~ outline the cycle:

- Everything great
- Israelites fall into gross sin
- Everything turns to rubbish
- Israelites cry out to God for help
- God raises up lowly things (people or items) to use mightily (fight battles, slay Philistines)
- Cycle starts all over again
  
- **Othniel** = a youngest brother (3:9)
- **Ehud** = Molly-duker [left-handed] AND a Benjamite [lowliest tribe] (3:15)
  - 600 Philistines with an ox goad!
  - My favourite - shoved a dagger in Eglon -
    - ◆ so fat it swallowed the entire knife!
- **Deborah** = a woman (4:4)
- **Gideon** = poorest and least in the family (6:15)
  - BTW look what the **angel of the Lord does with His staff** (6:21)
    - ◆ **Read the whole of Judges 6 for yourself this arvo, for the answer!**
    - ◆ **It is so cool!**
- A “no-name” lady gave Abimelech a mortal head wound with a piece of a mill stone! (9:53)
- **Jephthah** = bastard son of a prostitute AND exiled (11:1,2)
- **Samson?**
  - What was his lowly thing the Lord used?
    - ◆ Just one cut of his hair (16:19) - restored destroyed the Philistines in the feast
    - ◆ Ass jaw bone - slew 1000s Philistines (15:15)

And this is just from one book!

The Bible is full of many examples of Mighty deeds by base things used by God.

**A lesson in humility ... Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth [Mt 5:5]**

So returning to Moses and his Rod ....

## 2. God's Mighty Tool

V.3 And God said, Cast it on the ground.

And Moses cast it on the ground,

**\* Drop the rod onto the floor**

and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.

Can anyone guess what I have in this potato bag?  
I found it a couple of days ago, and put in last night.

- Put on gloves
- Undo Potato bag
- Carefully remove the RUBBER Snake

Is anyone scared of snakes?

My poor wife doesn't even like this one!

I used to carry it on tours - Chinese kids loved it!

- They would put it around their necks and pretend to be Steve Irwin

Now look at your fears when you **only thought** I had a real snake in this bag.

Moses actually saw it turn into a REAL snake  
And he ran away in terror !!!

Remember, Moses was a:

- former Egyptian Prince
- Military leader (of the mighty Egyptian Army)
- Lived in the land of Midian (scrub & arid country) for 40 years !!!
- Experienced shepherd during this period

If a former renowned warrior and experienced bush man was terrified of this snake,

- It must have been remarkable.
- He would not have been worried unless it was serious!!!

But it doesn't stop there ... What did the Lord want Moses to do next ?

**v.4 Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail.**

Bend down and pick it up ...

**And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:**

This expression "and caught it" uses the Hebrew word, **chaw~zaq**

- It implies to **courageously** and **valiantly** take hold

So here we see Moses follows God's command by **FAITH**

**FAITH = Trust & Obey**

**Trust = God said the terrifying snake was safe to pick up**

◆ **So Moses was scared !**

**Obey = Moses actually picked it up anyway, despite his fears!**

Have any of us been terrified by God or His commands of us?

Have any of us still been faithful to trust God's command and Obey dutifully, even when scared?

Remember our NT reading about faith; Heb.11:1

***faith is the CONFIDENCE of things hoped for, the EVIDENCE of things not seen.***

The reading continued about Moses' faithfulness (and all the other OT elders).

Now let's look at God's purpose for this tool ....

### 3. God's Use of the Tool

**v.5 That they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee ...**

- This **Rod of Moses** is NOW the **Rod of God** (mentioned in v.20).
- It is a token to prove to certain parties that **Moses is the God-appointed deliverer!**

Who were the parties he had to demonstrate to ....

**Ex.3:10** Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto **Pharaoh**, that thou mayest bring forth **my people the children of Israel** out of Egypt.

I sat down and had a cursory look at how many times and ways Moses used the **Rod of God!**

4:20	Named the <b>Rod of God</b>
7:8-13	Serpent ate the other snakes!
7:20	Water into blood
8:5	Frogs
8:16	Lice
9:23	Hail and fire
10:13	Locusts on the East wind
12:11	Passover - had his staff in hand while performing the rituals
14:16	Crossing the Red Sea
17:5,6	Released water after striking the rock
17:9	Battle of the Amalekites (held above his head)

Numbers 20:8 Used to assemble the congregation

Numbers 20:11 Wrongly struck the rock (instead of speaking to it) for water [SIN]

It is astounding how this lowly stick was used mightily so many times by the Living God!

BTW Aaron had a fantastic rod too.

It performed numerous miracles (budding, etc) and finally rested inside the Ark of the Covenant.

### **What was Moses story all about?**

Moses was an OT example [archetype] of the Lord Jesus Christ and His work in the NT.

Moses was sent by God to deliver His people from bondage.

Jesus was sent by God the Father to deliver His people from the bondage of sin and death.

Moses showed them the way to live according to the precepts of Almighty God (10 Commandments & the othe Laws). He lead them through the wilderness.

Jesus WAS the way the Truth and the Life - the PERFECT example to live for God, through our wilderness!

Moses directed the Israelites towards the promised land of Canaan, the land flowing with milk and honey!

Jesus lead the way and now awaits for us in our Promised Land,

as we march through our lives to Zion, or until returns for us to take us there Himself.

## **Summary**

So loved ones,

How many of you feel like God can't use you?  
Do you feel like a worthless or inferior stick?  
I hope that is just a true spiritual sense of humility.

Do you realise that the Lord can use even me and you?  
No matter how weak or young or old we are?

(and we may never know how He uses us - planting a seed or example in the lives of people who observe us.)

Finally, brothers and sisters:

***Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many,  
will appear a second time,  
not to deal with sin  
but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*** (Heb. 9:28 ESV)

If you don't know the Lord Jesus Christ personally in a submissive and loving intimate relationship,  
Please make sure you find Him soon ... be one of those who are eagerly waiting for Him ...

Because as Paul warns in his letter to the Thessalonians:

*the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.*

*While people are saying, "There is peace and security,"*

***then sudden destruction will come upon them  
as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman,  
... and they will not escape.*** (1 Thes.5: 2,3 ESV)

**Pray for your family and friends.**

**Share with them the Gospel.**

**Trust that the Lord will accomplish His Will for us (and them),**

**And courageously ... valiantly ... pick up the serpentine rod God has asked you to.  
(Whatever it may be).**

**Just like Christ courageously bore that sin-laden "rod" to Calvary for my sins and yours.**

God be with you all.

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