

GOD ON THE MOVE / IN SALVATION

Our 3rd lesson in this series focuses on how *God has been on the move to bring salvation*. Some of what I'm about to share may boggle your mind. Ready? Did you know that long before *the Spirit of God moved* over the deep in *Creation*, God the Father was already *on the move* in regard to our salvation? What was He *moving* to do? Listen closely to the following passages from the scriptures. Ephesians 1:4 says that God chose us in Christ "[before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.](#)" And Paul writes in 2nd Timothy 1:9: "[God has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done, but because of His own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time...](#)" Now hear the apostle Peter in 1st Peter 1:20, **who** tells us that Christ was chosen to be our redemption "[before the creation of the world...](#)" And finally, speaking of Jesus, John the apostle says in Revelation 13:8 that "[the Lamb was slain from the creation of the world.](#)" You see, even before the beginning of time God was *on the move* to save us from ourselves_ and for Himself.

As I said earlier, this may be hard to fathom, but allow me a simple illustration. Nina and I planned to have children before she conceived. It was not an accident. We were naïve, but not stupid. We knew it was a big responsibility. There would be pain and sacrifice. There would be times when our children would be "less" than perfect. Yet, we planned to have them anyway_ and purposed to love and care for them. When it was first apparent that Nina was expecting, we rejoiced. In the months that followed, we began to make preparations. Moving from a one-bedroom efficiency apt to a very modest 2-bedroom bungalow. At first, we set up a nursery area in our bedroom with a changing table, a bassinet, and little dresser. We bought unisex baby clothes from garage sales_ back then, we didn't know the gender of our unborn baby. Later, we were blessed by family and church family with gifts at baby showers. I added an insurance rider called a JEP to make provision for our child's education. See, if we know to do these things when we plan to have children, surely our Father in heaven knew what we would need, even before we were conceived.

The earliest revelation to man of God's plan to save may be found in Genesis 3. After the first couple rebelled against God, the LORD announced to Satan, "[I will put enmity \(cause hostility\) between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.](#)" In time, *God would move* to do battle with the evil one and, though wounded, His champion would rise victorious. Then, God *moved* to replace their vegan clothing with garments of skin_ a clear indication that blood needed to be shed. Earlier on, in verse 7, Adam and Eve had used leaves to cover themselves, but God made it clear that man's attempts to cover their sin will never be adequate. Sin results in death_ and always requires sacrifice. Notice it was *God who moved* first to shed innocent blood to redeem them. For, covering their sins was far more important to Him than covering their bodies.

So *God was on the move* in the beginning_ and even before_ to save His people. **He moved** throughout history to save them every time they strayed_ and they strayed a lot. In our study on Sunday nights, we've been reminded how the people of God would be caught in a cycle of disobedience, which always led to disaster_ but followed by deliverance when they called out to the LORD for help. And soon thereafter, He began holding out the promise of the Greatest Deliverer of all, the Messiah King, who would save them forever.

Luke 1:26-38 tells us that in the fullness of time, an angel appeared to a young maiden named Mary and said, "[The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.](#)" The *Spirit of God would move*, hovering over her to create within her new life_ a unique life_ *God's only begotten Son*.

That same angel told her she was to name Him **“Jesus”**_ for Luke 3:22-23 tells us that about 30 years later **the Spirit of God moved** again as He descended upon Him in the form of a dove, identifying Him at His baptism as the one who **would be the Savior** of the world.

I would imagine that most of you have heard how He accomplished this, but here’s a brief synopsis. Jesus lived a sinless life, but was crucified on a cruel cross for our crimes. (Luke 23) He suffered and died. Moreover, when God’s perfect Son breathed His last, He was then laid in a cold, dark grave. **It appeared to all as if God was no longer moving**_ that Satan had struck what he thought was the final blow. Yet, it would prove to be no more than *“a wound to His heel.”*

For three days later, the **Spirit of God moved** again. Luke 24 tells how the stone was rolled away from the tomb and then out came the victorious Lamb of God. Jesus conquered the grave, demonstrating once and for all, that our God is Mighty to save. And **He is mightily moving** yet today to save all those who will accept His Son as their Savior.

God is on the move whenever someone comes broken and wounded, confessing their personal sin and acknowledging Jesus as the Son of God who died to save them from those sins. What an amazing thing that the blood of Jesus has the power to cleanse the worst of sinners, even now, 2000 years after it was so brutally shed. And **God is ready, willing, and able to move** hearts of people to come out of the darkness into the light.

God is on the move whenever someone submits to the Lord’s command to be united with Him in baptism_ rising then to live a new life, freed from the fear of death and the control of their own weaknesses. What an awesome thing that **the Spirit of God will move in**, and take residence in the heart of believers; leading them and strengthening them in their daily lives,

And **God is on the move** when anyone reaches out in Jesus’ name to show love and compassion for others. What an incredible thing that **God is willing to move us** and use us as His instruments to help others who are hurting or distressed_ to be His hands to tenderly see to their needs. For as mentioned earlier, God saves us from our sins, to use us in His service in the kingdom.

Sometime after my dad passed away, my siblings who lived close by sorted through the things he’d left behind, trying to decide what to keep, discard, or give away. They placed some items in a box for me to go through and my brother Stan brought them to me. In the box was a cassette tape of my Dad singing and playing his guitar. I retrieved it, largely for sentimental reasons. Oh, I listened to it a couple of times, but for the lost part its sat on the shelf in my office. Yesterday, I was moved to rethink that. I’m going to convert it into an mp3, and maybe even make some CD’s for the rest of the family. I didn’t save it from the rubbish pile to sit on a shelf. And God didn’t save us from the pit to sit on the self either.....

God is on the move...right now, right here, calling you to make whatever move you need to make to take advantage of His saving grace. Not by telekinesis, but by His Spirit.