



## Encountering God

### New Testament

#### Acts 9:1-9

1 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." 7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

English Translation: NRSV

<sup>1</sup>Ο δὲ Σαῦλος, ἔτι ἐμπνέων ἀπειλῆς καὶ φόνου εἰς τοὺς μαθητὰς τοῦ κυρίου, προσελθὼν τῷ ἀρχιερεῖ <sup>2</sup>ῆτήσατο παρ' αὐτοῦ ἐπιστολὰς εἰς Δαμασκὸν πρὸς τὰς συναγωγάς, ὅπως ἐάν τινας εὔρη τῆς ὁδοῦ ὄντας, ἄνδρας τε καὶ γυναῖκας, δεδεμένους ἀγάγῃ εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ. <sup>3</sup>Ὡς δὲ τῷ πορεύεσθαι ἐγένετο αὐτὸν ἐγγίζειν τῇ Δαμασκῷ, ἐξαίφνης τε αὐτὸν περιήστραψεν φῶς ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, <sup>4</sup>καὶ πεσὼν ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν ἤκουσεν φωνὴν λέγουσαν αὐτῷ, Σαοὺλ Σαοὺλ, τί με διώκεις; <sup>5</sup>εἶπεν δέ, Τίς εἶ, κύριε; ὁ δέ, Ἐγὼ εἰμι Ἰησοῦς ὃν σὺ διώκεις; <sup>6</sup>ἀλλὰ ἀνάστηθι καὶ εἴσελθε εἰς τὴν πόλιν, καὶ λαληθήσεται σοι ὃ τί σε δεῖ ποιεῖν. <sup>7</sup>οἱ δὲ ἄνδρες οἱ συνοδεύοντες αὐτῷ εἰστήκεισαν ἐνεοί, ἀκούοντες μὲν τῆς φωνῆς μηδένα δὲ θεωροῦντες. <sup>8</sup>ἠγέρθη δὲ Σαῦλος ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς, ἀνεωγμένων δὲ τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν αὐτοῦ οὐδὲν ἔβλεπεν: χειραγωγοῦντες δὲ αὐτὸν εἰσήγαγον εἰς Δαμασκόν. <sup>9</sup>καὶ ἦν ἡμέρας τρεῖς μὴ βλέπων, καὶ οὐκ ἔφαγεν οὐδὲ ἔπιεν.



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### Quran

#### Ta Ha 20: 9-23

9 Has the story of Moses come to you [Prophet]?  
10 He saw a fire and said to his people, 'Stay here — I can see a fire. Maybe I can bring you a flaming brand from it or find some guidance there.'  
11 When he came to the fire, he was summoned, 'Moses!  
12 I am your Lord. Take off your shoes: you are in the sacred valley of Tuwa.  
13 I have chosen you, so listen to what is being revealed.  
14 I am God; there is no god but Me. So worship Me and keep up the prayer so that you remember Me.  
15 The Hour is coming — though I choose' to keep it hidden — for each soul to be rewarded for its labour.  
16 Do not let anyone who does not believe in it and follows his own desires distract you from it, and so bring you to ruin.'  
17 'Moses, what is that in your right hand?'  
18 'It is my staff,' he said, 'I lean on it; restrain my sheep with it;' I also have other uses for it.'  
19 God said, 'Throw it down, Moses.'  
20 He threw it down and— lo and behold!— it became a fast-moving snake.  
21 He said, 'Pick it up without fear: We shall turn it back into its former state.  
22 Now place your hand under your armpit and it will come out white, though unharmed: that is another sign.  
23 We do this to show you some of Our greatest signs.

English translation: Abdel Haleem

وَهَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ مُوسَى ۖ إِذْ رَأَى نَارًا فَقَالَ لِأَهْلِهِ  
أَمْكُثُوا إِنِّي آنَسْتُ نَارًا لَعَلِّي آتِيكُم مِّنْهَا بِقَبَسٍ أَوْ أَجْدٍ عَلَى  
النَّارِ هُدًى ۖ فَلَمَّا أَتَاهَا نُودِيَ يَمْوَسَى ۖ إِنِّي أَنَا رَبُّكَ  
فَاخْلَعْ نَعْلَيْكَ ۖ إِنَّكَ بِالْوَادِ الْمُقَدَّسِ طُوًى ۖ وَأَنَا  
أَخْتَرْتُكَ فَاسْتَمِعْ لِمَا يُوحَى ۖ إِنَّنِي أَنَا اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا  
فَاعْبُدْنِي وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِذِكْرِي ۖ إِنَّ السَّاعَةَ آتِيَةٌ أَكَادُ  
أُخْفِيهَا لِتُجْزَىٰ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا تَسْعَىٰ ۖ فَلَا يَصُدُّكَ عَنْهَا  
مَنْ لَّا يُؤْمِنُ بِهَا وَاتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ فَتَرْدَىٰ ۖ وَمَا تَلَّكَ بِيَمِينِكَ  
يَمْوَسَىٰ ۖ قَالَ هِيَ عَصَايَ أَتَوَكَّأُ عَلَيْهَا وَأَهُشُّ بِهَا  
عَلَٰلِي غَتَمِي وَلِي فِيهَا مَنَارِبٌ أُخْرَىٰ ۖ قَالَ أَلْقَاهَا يَمْوَسَىٰ  
ۖ فَالْقَهَا فَإِذَا هِيَ حَيَّةٌ تَسْعَىٰ ۖ قَالَ خُذْهَا وَلَا تَخَفْ  
ۖ سَنُعِيدُهَا سِيرَتَهَا الْأُولَىٰ ۖ وَاضْمُمْ يَدَكَ إِلَىٰ جَنَاحِكَ  
خَرُجْ بَيْضَاءَ مِّنْ غَيْرِ سُوءٍ ؕ آيَةٌ أُخْرَىٰ ۖ لِئَرْيَاكَ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا  
الْكُبْرَىٰ ۖ



## Encountering God

### Hebrew Bible Exodus 3:1-8

1 Now Moses, tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, drove the flock into the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 An angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire out of a bush. He gazed, and there was a bush all aflame, yet the bush was not consumed. 3 Moses said, "I must turn aside to look at this marvelous sight; why doesn't the bush burn up?" 4 When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him out of the bush: "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am." 5 And He said, "Do not come closer. Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. 6 He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. 7 And the LORD continued, "I have marked well the plight of My people in Egypt and have heeded their outcry because of their taskmasters; yes, I am mindful of their sufferings. 8 I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them out of that land to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey, the region of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

English Translation: JPS 1985

א ומֹשֶׁה הָיָה רֹעֵה אֶת צֹאן יִתְרוֹ חֹתְנוֹ כִּיהֵן מִדְּיָן וַיִּנְהַג אֶת הַצֹּאן אַחַר הַמִּדְבָּר וַיָּבֵא אֶל הַר הָאֱלֹקִים חֹרֵבָה.  
ב וַיֵּרָא מִלְאָכָה ה' אֵלָיו בְּלַבַּת אֵשׁ מִתּוֹךְ הַסִּנֵּה וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה הַסִּנֵּה בֹעֵר בְּאֵשׁ וְהַסִּנֵּה אֵינֶנּוּ אֶפְלָי.  
ג וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶסְרֶה נָא וְאֶרְאֶה אֶת הַמַּרְאֶה הַגָּדֹל הַזֶּה מִדּוּעַ לֹא יִבְעַר הַסִּנֵּה.  
ד וַיֵּרָא ה' כִּי סָר לְרֵאוֹת וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו אֱלֹקִים מִתּוֹךְ הַסִּנֵּה וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֶר הַיְיָנִי.  
ה וַיֹּאמֶר אֵל תִּקְרַב הֵלֶם שֶׁל נַעֲלֶיךָ מֵעַל רַגְלֶיךָ כִּי הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עוֹמֵד עָלָיו אֲדַמַּת קֹדֶשׁ הוּא.  
ו וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנֹכִי אֱלֹקֵי אָבִיךָ אֱלֹקֵי אַבְרָהָם אֱלֹקֵי יִצְחָק וְאֱלֹקֵי יַעֲקֹב וַיִּסְתֵּר מֹשֶׁה פָּנָיו כִּי יָרָא מֵהִבִּיט אֶל הָאֱלֹקִים.  
ז וַיֹּאמֶר ה' רָאה רְאִיתִי אֶת עַנְי עַמִּי אֲשֶׁר בְּמִצְרַיִם וְאֵת צַעֲקוֹתָם שְׁמַעְתִּי מִפְּנֵי נַגְשָׁיו כִּי יָדַעְתִּי אֶת מַכְאֲבָיו.  
ח וְאֵרַד לְהַצִּילוֹ מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם וְלְהַעֲלֹתוֹ מִן הָאֶרֶץ הַהִוא אֶל אֶרֶץ טוֹבָה וְרוֹחֶבָה אֶל אֶרֶץ זָבַת חֶלֶב וַדְּבָשׁ אֶל מְקוֹם הַכְּנַעֲנִי וְהַחִתִּי וְהָאֱמֹרִי וְהַפְּרִזִּי וְהַחִוִּי וְהַיְבוּסִי.