

THE VOICE OF GOD IS CALLING



We often hear someone begin to question us in this way: can you remember a time when?

“Memories” are one important part of each person that keep any two persons from being exactly alike. Prove it with an experiment by letting a group of friends “about your age” make a picture of a sad and a happy memory that each of them has. Do any two memories come out the same?

The Hebrew people long ago had memories that reached far back to the time when God first called them to become a nation, giving them the special responsibilities of teaching the whole world about His Purposes. To keep their memories alive and strong, they recited and retold the stories again and again around the campfires in the wilderness until the “telling” of the Exodus Event became like a ceremony. Throughout Old Testament writings there are many words written to renew and remind the people of the covenant relationship between God and Israel.

Perhaps you could act out the Exodus Event in your choir. Some could be Egyptian soldiers; some could be Hebrew slaves making bricks, with one boy acting out the part of Moses when he (Moses) became aware of God calling him to lead the Hebrew people across the Red Sea into a promised land. Can you guess what Moses did when God called him? Just like we sometimes do ourselves when it’s time to go to church or to fulfill a responsibility—Moses tried all kinds of excuses to get out of obeying God. Read all of Exodus, Chapters 3 through 15, to learn the exciting things that happened to Moses.

A hymn which reminds us of how God calls persons is:

*The voice of God is calling its summons unto men,
As once he spake in Zion so now he speaks again.*

How does the voice of God call us? Through a voice like a human person or through events and experiences in which we become aware of God’s Presence?

The next line asks, “Whom shall I send to succor my people in their need?” “Succor” means to help. Who are some of the people in the world today who need help?

Some of the other stanzas use words that are a bit out of date but the IDEA of the hymn is the same as the IDEA of the Exodus Event of the Israelites and its memory in the conscience of the people of Israel: GOD CALLS US AND WE TOO MUST OBEY!

Search the melody to see which lines are alike. Try singing the matching lines by scale steps of *do-re-mi*’s. Now clap the rhythm. Do you think the lively Welsh rhythm is appropriate to the meaning of the words? _____

Why? _____

A fine memory that you might like to keep your whole lifetime is the good feeling as you stand among the group of your choir friends singing the hymns that show *We heed, O Lord, Thy summons and answer: Here are we!*”