

Trees of The Bible

A study course for Lent 2021

Week Two: The Burning Bush (*Rubus Sanctus*)

"There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up."

Exodus 3:2

Introduction

Moses' encounter with God in the burning bush marks the start of the most important event in Jewish History, which is still commemorated today: the Passover and God's deliverance of His people.

Those who have been to St Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai desert will have seen the tree which is supposedly the descendant of the original "burning bush".



Rufus sanctus, commonly called the **holy bramble**, is a bramble native to parts of Asia and Europe. It looks more like a tree than a bramble and lives a long time.

Eastern Orthodox tradition prefers the name *The Unburnt Bush*. The theology and hymnography of the Church considers the unburnt bush as a prefiguring of the Virgin Birth. Eastern Orthodox theology refers to Mary, the mother of Jesus as the *Theotokos* ("God bearer"), viewing her as having given birth to the Incarnate God without suffering any harm, or loss of virginity, similar to the bush being burnt without being consumed.

READ Exodus 3:1-10; Mark 12:24-27 and 1 Peter 1:13-21

LOOK UP Deuteronomy 33:16 & Acts 7:30-34

REFLECT

Why do you think God chose to speak to Moses from a burning bush?

How does God speak to us today?

What is the significance of the burning bush in the Old and New Testaments?

Does the burning bush have any relevance for us?

RECITE - Psalm 77: 13-20

- 13 Your ways, God, are holy.
 What god is as great as our God?
- 14 You are the God who performs miracles;
 you display your power among the peoples.
- 15 With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,
- 16 The waters saw you, God,
 the waters saw you and writhed;
 the very depths were convulsed.
- 17 The clouds poured down water,
 the heavens resounded with thunder;
 your arrows flashed back and forth.
- 18 Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,
 your lightning lit up the world;
 the earth trembled and quaked.
- 19 Your path led through the sea,
 your way through the mighty waters,
 though your footprints were not seen.
- 20 You led your people like a flock
 by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Silence

PRAY

Give thanks that God hears our prayers and comes to our help.....

For those who live under oppressive regimes

For Christians who are persecuted for their faith...

For those known to us who live with mental and physical abuse....

For those at the point of death that they may have hope in a living God....

Most gracious Father, who revealed yourself to your servant Moses in a burning bush, help us to hear your voice today that we may live holy lives and come to your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**