

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

This morning we are going to continue our study through the book of Exodus.

Let's pray...

We ended our study last week with Moses being deeply discouraged.

God had revealed to Moses that he was going to be the human instrument that was going to be used to deliver the Children of Israel out of Egypt.

Moses returns to Egypt.

He speaks to the elders and he tells them that God has heard their cries and the He is about to deliver them.

Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh – they ask him to grant the Children of Israel a few days to go into the desert to worship God.

And Pharaoh responds with a “no”.

Moses, your people have too much time on their hands. But I will fix that.

No longer are we going to provide straw for them. They are going to have to gather it and still produce the same amount of bricks.

And if they don't, they will get beaten.

Not only does Moses get rejected by Pharaoh – it appears that things got even worse for the Children of Israel.

So Moses, brings his discouragement before the Lord.

[Exo 5:22-23 NKJV] 22 So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why [is] it You have sent me? 23 "For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all."

He didn't go on social media and tell the world how discouraged he was.

He didn't sit in his tent and sulk.

Moses went before the Great Encourager.

And here in chapter six, we have God responding to Moses' discouragement.

[Exo 6:1-13 NKJV] 1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land." 2 And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I [am] the LORD."

God responds to Moses' discouragement by first reintroducing Himself to Moses.

Moses, I am going to fulfill the promise that I made.

Did you forget who I am? I am the LORD – all caps. I am Yahweh, I AM that I AM – there is no one equal to Me other than Me.

Did you forget that Moses????

Moses – your discouragement is based upon Pharaoh rejecting you.

Did you forget how much greater I am than Pharaoh???

Church, many of us are discouraged this morning – just like Moses, because we have our very own Pharaoh to deal with.

For some of us pharaoh can be an addiction, a health problem we are currently going through, a sin we are struggling with, a troubled marriage, it could be depression, it could be the corona virus – and I could go on and on.

We fixate our eyes upon our own pharaoh and become discouraged when it appears that there is no deliverance in sight.

But by fixating our eyes upon the pharaohs in our lives, we forget how much greater our God truly is.

This is how God is going to reassure Moses in this chapter.

God is going to keep on reminding Moses of who He is throughout the chapter.

Five times, God is going to remind Moses “I am the LORD”

Church, we need to know that He is the Great I AM.

He is the only living and true God

He is the only self-existent One, who is everlasting.

3 "I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but [by] My name LORD I was not known to them. 4 "I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. 5 "And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.

What the Lord is saying here in verse 4-6 is that the patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, they mostly knew the Lord as El Shaddai, which is Hebrew for Almighty God.

They knew El Shaddai as the Creator and as the Covenant Maker.

However, through the work that God will be doing through Moses, the Children of Israel will have the opportunity to know God as the One who fulfills the covenant.

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob knew the **Promise Maker** – but Moses and the Children of Israel were going to have the opportunity to know God as the **Promise Keeper**.

6 "Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I [am] the LORD;

Now, I want you to make a note of these seven promises that Lord made to Moses because I believe that they are applicable to the believer today.

All the promises start with, I will...

I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians,

In the scriptures, Egypt is a type of the world.

And God promised to deliver us from the oppression and the burdens that the world has to offer.

[Mat 11:28-30 NKJV] 28 "Come to Me, all [you] who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 "For My yoke [is] easy and My burden is light.

"I will rescue you from their bondage,

God liberates us from the bondage of our sins.

We have freedom in Christ.

Not the freedom to do whatever we want to do – but the ability to do what we ought to do by the power of the Holy Spirit.

[Jhn 8:31-36 NKJV] 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 "And you shall know the truth,

and the truth shall make you free." 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How [can] You say, 'You will be made free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, [but] a son abides forever. 36 "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

You see church, our Savior's death upon the cross set us free from the penalty of sin but also from the power of sin.

and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

To the Children of Israel, God was going to redeem them through His outstretched arm upon Pharaoh.

To the believer, our redemption occurred as Jesus Christ outstretched His own arms as He was nailed to the cross at Calvary.

That was the price of redemption for you and me.

7 'I will take you as My people,

Here we have the promise of adoption into God's family.

[Eph 1:3-6 NKJV] 3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly [places] in

Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

and **I will be your God**. Then you shall know that I [am] the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

Here we have the promise of revelation.

You will know who I am and you will realize what I have done!

8 'And **I will bring you into the land** which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and **I will give it to you [as] a heritage**: I [am] the LORD.' "

Not only were the Children of Israel going to be delivered from the bondage and oppression they were suffering in Egypt, God was also preparing a place for them – the Promised Land.

That was the big picture that God wanted Moses to tell the people.

Look past the temporary hardships. God is in control and He has plans for you.

The same message can be applied to you and me.

As believers, God is preparing a place for you and me,

[Jhn 14:2-3 NKJV] 2 “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, [there] you may be also.

Our life here is only temporary.

Our citizenship is in Heaven.

We are only here on a temporary visa.

Now - I want you to notice that during these seven I will’s, God never said – you will do.

There isn’t a single thing that the Children of Israel were supposed to do.

It is God extending His hand to the children of Israel and waiting for them to take His promises.

Church, it’s a picture of grace.

It reminds us that our salvation comes because of what God has done for us, not what we’ve done for Him.

One would think that after the Children of Israel heard Moses tell them about the seven I will’s, that they would be rejoicing – that they would be comforted.

9 So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage.

The people had a hard time listening to what Moses was saying because of the difficulty of their circumstances, and how they had responded to their circumstances.

They were too overwhelmed with their burdens that they refused to look up and see that God was already working on their behalf.

Church, this is why it is so important to do devotionals and read the word of God daily.

Because doing so, we will be reminded of the many promises that belong to His family.

Here is something to remember,

We should never confuse the hardships that we are going through with the love and the purpose God has for you and me.

Just because things are getting worse – doesn't mean that God is not at work in our lives.

10 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 11 "Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the children of Israel go out of his land." 12 And Moses spoke before the LORD, saying, "The children of Israel have not heeded me. How then shall Pharaoh heed me, for I [am] of uncircumcised lips?"

After the Children of Israel reject Moses – God commands Moses to once again go to Pharaoh and tell him to let the Children of Israel go.

And Moses responds with – “What’s the point?” If the Children of Israel didn’t listen to me – Pharaoh is not going to listen to me.

He then proceeds to make an excuse – I am of uncircumcised lips – most likely meaning, “I am the wrong guy for this job”

“I tried – it didn’t work – I can’t do this”

Before we criticize Moses for his doubt, we should think about how many times we have done the same thing.

For example, we feel the Holy Spirit leading us to share the Gospel with someone, and we know what to say, but we’re afraid, and therefore we doubt...and we make excuses.

Now, notice that God did not strike Moses for his doubt.

In the same way that God didn’t strike the Children of Israel for their refusal to heed the words of Moses.

13 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, and gave them a command for the children of Israel and for Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

Moses had to understand that this was God's will, not merely a few suggestions for Israel and Pharaoh.

The reason that God commands Moses to go back is because he is going to have to learn how to deal with discouragement.

You see, God is preparing Moses' heart for the 40 years of discouragement that he is going to have to deal with as he leads the Children of Israel to the Promised Land.

We are going to jump to verse 28 now.

If you want to read through the names of family of Moses and Aaron – go for it.

[Exo 6:28-30 NKJV] 28 And it came to pass, on the day the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, 29 that the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "I [am] the LORD. Speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you." 30 But Moses said before the LORD, "Behold, I [am] of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh heed me?"

On social media, the term - "You Had One Job" is an expression used to call attention to perceived blunders made by individuals on the job.

For example, there are plenty of memes that show road crews misspelling words on the road.

They spell “school” incorrectly or the word “stop” and underneath are the words – You had one job!

I saw one recently where road crews repainted the double yellow lines on the road and they didn’t bother to remove a dead possum from the middle of the street.

For Moses, he had one job.

It wasn’t easy, but it was simple.

It was to repeat to Pharaoh exactly what God had told him through Aaron.

And once again he hesitates –

Forty years earlier, Moses was in a hurry to deliver the Children of Israel.

Now, he was reluctant to do so, making every excuse he could.

In effect, Moses was asking God to wait until He found someone more suitable.

I believe that the same thing can be applied to you and me.

Church, anytime that we are prompted to serve the Lord, but hesitate because we don’t feel suitable, we – like Moses – are asking God to wait by finding someone else.

None of us are suitable, because God doesn’t need our natural talents and abilities.

If He has set something before you, some task, then we need to quit being reluctant and go for it, not by our might or in our power, but by Him.

[Exo 7:1-7 NKJV] 1 So the LORD said to Moses: "See, I have made you [as] God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. 2 "You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land.

Once again we see God's patience and mercy as He deals with Moses.

Once again, He commands Moses to go speak to Pharaoh.

I had you make a note where it says made you as God –

Moses was going to act in God's place, on God's behalf.

This sounds a little strange until you remember that the Pharaoh was considered to be a god.

In his own court stood another man - Moses - who was speaking as God.

The fact he spoke through Aaron only intensified the symbolism.

If Moses spoke directly, Pharaoh might think of him as a mere prophet of some secondary deity.

But here was Moses speaking through a prophet - the way God would speak.

Aaron was going to repeat what God told Moses – he didn't have the freedom to edit or add to the message.

3 "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. 4 "But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies [and] My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments.

God has foreknowledge.

He knew that after every sign and wonder the heart of Pharaoh was going to get harder, while the eyes of the Egyptians were going to start to open more and more.

He knew how Pharaoh would respond.

His foreknowledge did not determine how Pharaoh would respond; it did not cause Pharaoh to harden his heart.

Even though Pharaoh would not heed the message, God would provide for His plan, and get the Children of Israel out of Egypt.

In ways that we do not understand, God accomplishes His will without violating ours.

The great judgments that are spoken of at the end of verse four – those are directed at the Egyptian gods – not the Egyptian people.

5 "And the Egyptians shall know that I [am] the LORD, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them."

This is quite an insight into the nature and character of God.

He was simultaneously delivering His people AND revealing Himself to the nonbelieving Egyptians.

Church, never forget that God so loved the world that He sent Jesus into it, to die for whosoever would believe in Him, and thereby have eternal life.

Holding that overriding truth in mind, we see Him reaching-out to the Egyptians - not taking pleasure in judging them.

6 Then Moses and Aaron did [so]; just as the LORD commanded them, so they did. 7 And Moses [was] eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.

Moses and Aaron were in their 80's and they were serving the Lord.

There is no such thing as spiritual retirement.

In fact, retirement means that we will now have more time to serve the Lord – not less.

I like the way that DL Moody summarizes the life of Moses.

He said,

"Moses spent forty years in Pharaoh's court thinking he was somebody, forty years in the desert learning that he was nobody, and forty years showing what God can do with a somebody who found out he was a nobody."

[Exo 7:8-13 NKJV] 8 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 9 "When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Show a miracle for yourselves,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and cast [it] before Pharaoh, [and] let it become a serpent.' " 10 So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the LORD commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

Here we have Aaron replicating the same sign that Moses was given at the burning bush -

11 But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. 12 For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 3:8, the names of two of the magicians that were able to replicate the sign. Jannes and Jambres.

There could have been many others – the floor in the palace could have been littered with serpents –

Some people try to explain their ability to replicate the miracle as a sleight of hand trick.

Maybe they had a serpent up their robe???

Others suggest that this was nothing other than demonic power at work.

Church – miracles can prove that something is supernatural, but they cannot prove that something is true.

Paul warns us in 2 Thess 2

About someone who is going to do wonders

[2Th 2:9-10 NKJV] 9 The coming of the [lawless one] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

The same demonic spirit that will one day be manifested in this lawless one was back with these magicians in Egypt.

However, notice that Aaron's rod swallowed up all of the other rods.

13 And Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

Pharaoh saw the battle of the rods that day – and because his magicians were able to replicate the miracle to some extent, he must have thought to himself – the God of the Hebrews – He must not be so great.

And his heart got harder and harder.

Pharaoh heart was hardened after he was given every chance to respond to God but refused out of his own free will.

We must understand that our hearts can harden through refusing to submit to the Lord.

However, we also need to realize that it is possible for our hearts to soften.

This happens when we no longer resist God and continue in what is not pleasing to Him.

[Eze 36:26 NKJV] 26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

God can heal any heart, once we recognize our disobedience and repent from our sins.

Amen.

Let's pray...

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