

## **EXODUS Pt 7 - Moses 're-called' (6:1-30)**

Chapter 5 ends with Moses' complaint...He 'sits' God down and says: "Now listen here..." He accuses God of not caring... *you have NOT delivered your people like you said.*

- Moses doesn't see even a hint of deliverance; he sees a stubborn Pharaoh & a hopeless situation getting worse. *Then, God responds with his own... "NOW, you listen here..."*

**Exo 6:1-30** But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land." 2 God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. 4 I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. 5 Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. 6 Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. 7 I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. 8 I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'" 9 Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery. 10 So the LORD said to Moses, 11 "Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land." 12 But Moses said to the LORD, "Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?"

13 But the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt. **14 These are the heads of their fathers' houses: the sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi; these are the clans of Reuben...** 15 The sons of Simeon... 16 These are the names of the sons of Levi... 17 The sons of Gershon... etc, etc. (more about this later...)

25 Eleazar, Aaron's son, took as his wife one of the daughters of Putiel, and she bore him Phinehas... **These are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites by their clans.** 26 These are the Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said: "Bring out the people of Israel from the land of Egypt by their hosts." 27 It was they who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt about bringing out the people of Israel from Egypt, this Moses and this Aaron.

28 On the day when the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, 29 the LORD said to Moses, "I am the LORD; tell Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you." 30 But Moses said to the LORD, "Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips. How will Pharaoh listen to me?"

**Moses is despondent** - he has been wrung out and left to dry. Pharaoh has rejected him and the people of Israel have ridiculed & rejected him.

- **Exo 6:9** Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

**Moses is doubting** - he is uncertain that he is the right man for the job and he is pretty sure that he is disqualified and that his moment has passed.

- **Exo 6:12** But Moses said to the LORD, "Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?"

- **Exo 6:30** But Moses said to the LORD, "Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips. How will Pharaoh listen to me?"
- At a surface level, Moses is referencing his inability to speak eloquently! Stammering
- *But, Moses also speaks this way of himself because he feels that he has forfeited the promises of God (he's like uncircumcised Gentile).*
- He is sensing his own moral failings...Moses may be saying: "*Lord, my body might be circumcised, but you know that I'm just a sinful man...I'm unworthy for this.*"
- **We can understand Moses' doubts.** "*Lord, why are you sending me? I've spoken to the foremen. They've rejected me. I've spoken to Pharaoh once. He's rejected me. I've spoken Your people. They have rejected me.*" **Lord, three strikes – I'm out.** And now you want me to go back to Pharaoh to declare Your plan once more?

**Moses is re-deployed** - In chapter 6, we learn that God's mind has not changed, so he recommissions his representatives to go back to Pharaoh with the same ultimatum!

- **Exo 6:10-11** So the LORD said to Moses, 11 "Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land."
- **Exo 6:13** But the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt.
- **Exo 6:28-29** On the day when the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, 29 the LORD said to Moses, "I am the LORD; tell Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you."
- Moses is sent on his original mission - **You might say, but this is all the same stuff God said last time** - *you are correct, God is repeating his promise of deliverance but this time he says something more...something new...something different...*
- **In verses 2-8**, God goes into a quick history 101 for Moses, explaining again that he appeared to **Abraham, Isaac & Jacob** hundreds of years ago and made a covenant with them. Then at the end of verse 3 he says this... **Exo 6:2-3** God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them."
- **God identifies himself, in a unique way.** He first reaffirms his compassion and covenant commitment to his people. Let Me remind you... "*I am the very same one who spoke to the Patriarchs, but at the same time I am more glorious than you have ever known.*"

**A Renewed vision of the Lord:** '*God's self revelation*'

- **God reassures Moses with a message about Himself!** Now if that were a human, that would be arrogant to the point of unbelief. *We have all heard the story of the guy who takes the girl out on the date and all he talks about is himself!? But this is God!*
- **This is important, firstly because... Our insecurities, fears and doubts can never be banished by a knowledge of who we are...they can only be banished by the knowledge of who God is!**
- **Secondly**, God is telling Moses about Himself, **because something big is about to happen!** (*Its not that they had never heard the sound of His name. That's not what He means. He means that they did not understand the full significance of His great name.*)
- At first, I revealed myself as "**God Almighty**" (**El-Shaddai**). El points to the power of God Himself. And "Shaddai" seems to be derived from another word meaning 'breast', which implies that Shaddai signifies the one who nourishes, sustains and satisfies.

- **So God says, I am an all sufficient God who makes promises...and now you will see that I keep the promises I make... "I am the Lord" (Yahweh)**
- **God is adding that NOW he will make himself known not only through promise but through fulfillment (action).** God basically tells him to stand back and watch what he is about to do. **John Currid:** "The promise of a coming Exodus and redemption from slavery, was not fulfilled during the time of the Patriarchs but belonged to a distant future."
- **Alec Motyer:** "God sent Moses to Egypt to declare a nature, not a name." The name they knew, the nature...they were about to have their minds blown.
- And that is precisely what God is saying in verse 3. *Buckle your seat belt, Moses, I am about to blow your mind. You have no idea how powerful and how faithful I am.*
- **But then we have this weird TV commercial moment - the genealogy of Moses - "we interrupt this special show, to bring you a word from our sponsors!"**
- The genealogy may not make sense to us, but it's perfectly normal in Semitic literature to interrupt a story and say, *"Now let me give you some background on these guys"*
- **The Point - Contrast the genealogy of Moses and the glory of the eternal God!**
- Here we see the ordinary and real humanity of Moses as seen in his family tree.
- **Exo 6:26-27** These are the Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said: "Bring out the people of Israel from the land of Egypt by their hosts." 27 It was they who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt about bringing out the people of Israel from Egypt, this Moses and this Aaron.
- **You can almost feel the tone of the ordinary** - in the one corner, simply human clay (Moses) and in the other corner superpower royalty (Pharaoh King of Egypt)!
- **The genealogy is also full of moral failure** - *In Vs 15, we are told that Shaul was the son of the Canaanite woman.* In other words, one of Moses' ancestors had violated a very important command, not to intermarry with pagans. **Then in Vs 20, Amram is married to his paternal aunt.** This, too, was against the law of Moses.
- But this 'mere' humanity who has **a sinful past, present and future**, has been chosen and commissioned by God Almighty, **who is eternally perfect in the past, present and future and he will make all the difference!**
- **Moses is showing there are some serious skeletons in his closet**, and yet despite this, God has been planning for Israel's deliverance for many generations. *Nothing is going to stop him! He is the Lord, God almighty!*

**Then God then declares 7 things, that He will do unconditionally (without help):**

- **Here we have the Gospel According to Exodus** - There was no advice to be a followed or work to be accomplished, it was all going to be accomplished by God. Yes, Moses will be an instrument ...but as we've seen a very blunt, ineffective tool.
- **Exo 6:6-8** Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. 7 I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. 8 I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.' (x7 "I will's...")
- *The glory of the gospel, is not about what we can do to be accepted by God—that's religion - but what God has done for us!* We cannot produce salvation/deliverance, it must be received! Lets fix our eyes on Jesus - let's gain a renewed vision of the Lord!