

Exodus: No Longer Slaves (6)

Why does God wait?

Exodus 5:22-6:8 - **22** Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Why, LORD, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me? **23** Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all.”

6:1 - Then the LORD said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.” **2** God also said to Moses, “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 fully known to them. **4** I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners. **5** Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant. **6** Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. **7** I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. **8** And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord.’ ”

The Context of Exodus 5–6

Let’s begin by looking at the context of Exodus chapters 5 and 6. Moses and Aaron accepted God’s command to go down to Egypt and to tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go but Pharaoh responds in 5:2, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD... I will not let Israel go.”

Instead of letting the Israelites go, Pharaoh made their bondage more severe. He forced them to make as many bricks as before, but gave them no straw. They had to find their own.

So the foremen of the Israelite work crews came to Moses and Aaron and accused them of putting a sword in Pharaoh’s hand to kill them (5:21). Moses, in turn, cries out to God in 5:22, “Then Moses turned to the LORD and said, ‘O LORD, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me?’”

God responds in Exodus 6:1 NIV, “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.’”

There is a lesson for us here that we must not pass over. Often when God is about to bring a powerful experience into your life, He let’s it be preceded by a very discouraging setback. The burden of bondage in Egypt became heaviest just before the great day of liberation.

Why did you wait, God?

1) So I can show you my power (v. 6:1, 6).

a) “His mighty hand and outstretched arm” is a running revelation in the Old Testament.

Deuteronomy 26:8 - And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders.

i) “Mighty hand” usually indicates judgments and God’s awe inspiring actions.

Peter tells us to “humble ourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you” by “casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:6, 7).

ii) His outstretched arm seems to always be an expression of mercy and kindness.

I envision His mighty hand as an upraised fist... full of power.

I envision His outstretched arm as an open palm that is inviting and reaching out.

b) Why did God delay? Why did God harden the enemy’s heart?

So He could reveal His mighty hand and His outstretched arm...

This revelation would be missed by a quick easy deliverance!

2) So I can deepen your revelation of My name.

Exodus 6:2, 3 - God also said to Moses, “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 fully known to them.

a) Revealing His Name

In Exodus 6:2–8, God gives a very distraught Moses the assurance he needs that God has the ability and intention to deliver His people from the hands of Pharaoh.

i) First He reminds Moses of His name which He revealed back in Exodus 3:14. Look at Exodus 6:2: I am YAHWEH! Verse 6: I am YAHWEH! Verse 8: I am YAHWEH! In other words, remember that I AM WHO I AM.

I have not ceased to be God because a little man like Pharaoh is refusing to obey. I AM WHO I AM. I do not change. You **will** be delivered.

ii) Then in verse 3, God reminds Moses of another name. He says, “I appeared

to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as GOD ALMIGHTY, but by my name YAHWEH I did not make myself known to them.” Why did God say this to Moses? How does this encourage Moses that God’s promised deliverance is really in going to happen?

- (1) It seems that God’s point was something like this: The name YAHWEH is a greater name than the name GOD ALMIGHTY (El Shaddai).

I did not reveal the full meaning of my name YAHWEH to Abraham. Only recently have I begun to make known to you the meaning of my name YAHWEH.

Note: This is why the historical books and the events of God’s dealings with His people are so important. It is the ongoing revelation of God.

Over the course of time, God is seen revealing new revelations of who He IS and what He wants to BE to His people. For us, over a lifetime of events, good and bad, God wants us to get a new revelation of who our covenant God is to us personally.

If Israel would have simply learned the elementary lesson that their God is The ALMIGHTY GOD, they would not fear Pharaoh.

How much more, then, should you, since you’ve been given the fuller revelation of my character in the name YAHWEH!

- (2) Even still I have another revelation! I am taking my people back to school! A deeper more powerful revelation is waiting but it is going to take a bigger lesson!

For Israel to truly know that I am YAHWEH, the I AM WHO I AM God, they will have to fight for this understanding; they will have to allow me to reveal myself by my Mighty Hand and My Outstretched Arm!

- iii) God is about to reveal the power of His name Yahweh through His mighty hand and outstretched arm.

- (1) Isaiah, Daniel, Nehemiah and Jeremiah all say the same thing.

See what Jeremiah says:

Jer. 32:20 NKJV - *You have set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, to this day, and in Israel and among other men; and You have made Yourself a name...*

Jer. 32:21 NIV - *You brought your people Israel out of Egypt with signs and wonders, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm...*

- b) The biblical process of revelation all points us to our relationship with Jesus.

The greatest revelation you could possibly have of God comes through a deeper understanding of the character and the name of Jesus!

Jesus is the All Mighty, Jesus is the I AM God and in Matthew 28:18 Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Jesus is the Outstretched Arm... "Come unto me all you who are weary and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28.

Over and over in the ministry of Jesus, we are told He had compassion and "he stretched forth his hand."

What is it going to take for you and I to learn the fullness of this revelation?

3) So I can increase the level of your freedom.

a) Notice the way God describes Israel's freedom in verses 6 - 7!

6 ... say to the Israelites: "I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. 7 I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians."

b) Verse 6 & verse 7 is famously known as the "I will's of God's redemption."

- i) I will bring you out!
- ii) I will free you from being slaves!
- iii) I will redeem you.
- iv) I will bring you into a new land.

c) Look at God's promise to process their revelation: "Then you will know that I am the LORD (Yahweh) your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians."

4) So I can claim you as my own (v. 7).

Verse 7 - I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God.

a) God then told Moses to put aside his broken spirit and feelings of inadequacy and return to the people.

b) Egypt has made you their possession. But you no longer belong to Pharaoh... You belong to Me.

- I will take you as My own people, and
- I will be your God

Can you hear God's voice in the midst of your need?

- * The Israelites did not hear these promises because of their broken spirit.

Exodus 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.

- * Even Moses struggled because God did not move quickly enough for him.

God promised, "you will see my Mighty Hand and my Outstretched Arm."