



Exodus

Freed to Worship

Exodus 6:1-8

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Sunday Evening Service

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Exodus: Freed to Worship

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Opening Comments

- Turn to **Exodus 6**
- We are continuing our study: **Freed to Worship**
- Last time, we looked chapter 5
- Moses did what God had told him to do
- First Moses went to the elders of the nation of Israel and told them what God had told him to say
- They were excited – God had noticed them and because of His love for them was going to deliver them from the harsh bondage of Egypt
- I can imagine Moses feeling pretty good about himself after the way the elders responded
- Then he goes in to Pharaoh, maybe a little arrogantly
- Tells Pharaoh what the Lord told him to say – Let My people go!
- I would like to have seen Moses' face – was he shocked and surprised by Pharaoh's response?
- Moses shouldn't have been surprised that Pharaoh said no **Exodus 3:19-20**
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- What really shocked Moses was not that Pharaoh said no, but that he made their bondage even more harsh
- He told the task masters not to give the Hebrews straw for making bricks and demanded that they meet their daily quota anyway
- And when they didn't meet their quotas, the taskmasters beat the leaders of the people
- When they went to Pharaoh to complain he told them to stop being lazy and get back to work, and stop listening to Moses
- The elders of the Hebrews blame Moses and Aaron
- Moses doesn't get it and goes to God
- **Exodus 5:22-23**
- Basically, are you going to keep your promises?
- As you hear that, it almost sounds disrespectful, and certainly proves a lack of faith on Moses' part

- The beginning of chapter 6 is God’s response to Moses

Teaching

- **Exodus: Freed to Worship**
- Let’s begin
- **Exodus 6:1**
- Pharaoh said he wasn’t going to let the people of Israel go
- But here God says that Pharaoh will not only let them go, he will do it with a ‘strong hand’
- The essence of that is that Pharaoh is going to force them to leave
- ‘strong hand’ speaks of strength, power, force
- Pharaoh will eventually drive them out of the land
- This was a call to Moses to trust God and walk in faith
- Now you will see what I will do
- **Exodus 6:2**
- The Lord had told Moses that He was going to deliver the Hebrews from their bondage in Egypt
- For the purpose of proving this God simply says ‘I am the Lord’
- In essence saying if you know what that means then you will know that what I am saying is true, and it is sure to come to pass
- The phrase “I am the Lord” appears 165 times – only in the Old Testament
- Not in the New Testament – Old Testament focus was on Yahweh, God the Father
- New Testament focus is on Jesus, God the Son, the Messiah, the Christ
- Chapter 5 ended with Moses asking why
- The Lord’s response is ‘I am the Lord’
- There is a powerful lesson in that for us
- As we go through this thing we call the Christian life, we are going to come to times when we are doing what we believe God would have us to do, and it is not working like we believe it should
- And we will ask the ‘why’ questions, just like Moses did
- Sometimes God in His grace will give us answers, through His Word, through His Spirit, or through His people

- But sometimes there are no answers forthcoming
- In those times, we need to remind ourselves who God is
- Rehearse in your mind the character and nature of the God who has said that He loves you and cares about and for you
- Remind yourself about the things that God has done in the past
- Review in the Bible how God worked in the lives of others
- When the circumstances of your life are leaving you with more questions than answers, draw near to God
- Ultimately, the answer to all the questions of life are simple –

Jesus **Colossians 3:17**

And *whatever* you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- All of life and this world are about Jesus – get to know Him better and better in those times when you have unanswered questions
- And what you will find as you do that is that either your questions will get answered or you may come to find out that you were asking the wrong questions or God will work and make the questions irrelevant
- Next comes a difficult verse to interpret

• **Exodus 6:3**

- God appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- That is not a problem – we see that mentioned in the Scriptures
- It is the second part of the verse
- The skeptics would point to this and say it is a contradiction because in the book of Genesis the name Lord, or Yahweh is used over 100 times

• Some notable examples are **Genesis 4:26**

And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then *men* began to call on the name of the LORD.

• And another important one **Genesis 15:2**

But Abram said, “Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house *is* Eliezer of Damascus?”

- The skeptic will say, the Bible can’t be trusted, it is full of contradictions
- But a careful study of the verse reveals what the Lord means here
- Especially if you understand the meaning of the word know
- Know = to be or become ascertained with certainty

- What the Lord is saying is that He had appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but they didn't really know Him
- He is speaking of the intimacy by which He was going to make Himself known to the people of Israel
- He was going to be a Father to them
- He was going to dwell with them
- He would be their shield and rear guard
- He would speak to them and provide and protect
- This was all new – God was about to do something new
- This is a warning to us – be careful when you come to a verse that you don't understand
- The skeptics can take you to verses that they believe prove that the Bible contradicts itself
- It doesn't – the Bible is one harmonious, perfectly compilation of God's words to mankind
- In its original language it is without error
- When you come to a verse that seems like it contradicts itself, remind yourself of that
- It is probably proving that there is something you don't know or understand
- Start with the mindset that God's Word is perfect and you will avoid much confusion
- **Exodus 6:4**
- God established this covenant with Abram, later renamed Abraham
Genesis 12:7

Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

- He repeated this promise of the land on several occasions **Genesis 17:8**

Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

- Notice in that verse that God says it is an everlasting possession
- How long do you think 'everlasting' is? Forever, right?
- And then there is something interesting in **Leviticus 25:23**

The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land *is* Mine; for you *are* strangers and sojourners with Me.

- The land of Palestine belongs to God – no one can claim it
- No other nation has a right to claim any portion of the land that God has promised to Israel
- This is why Israel is so against the giving up of any of their land
- First, it doesn't belong to them – it belongs to God
- God told them not to sell it – giving it away would be an act of disobedience and rebellion
- The Lord then reminds Moses why God is doing what He is doing
- **Exodus 6:5**
- God is not deaf and blind to their suffering
- He is working to free them from their bondage and fulfill His promise to Abraham, to keep the covenant
- Next in what might be the key verses of the book of Exodus, verses 6-8 the Lord is going to describe to them the redemption He is about to perform
- He will use 7 'I will' statements
- The first three are in verse 6
- **Exodus 6:6**
- 'Therefore' = because of everything in verses 1 to 5 go back to the children of Israel and tell them about me
- God is gracious and patient with Moses
- He let Moses whine and complain because things didn't go the way he thought they were supposed to go
- Gently and lovingly, the Lord reminded Moses who He was and pointed Moses to the privileged place that he and the children of Israel were about to enjoy
- And then the Lord re-deployed Moses back into the mission that God had sent him to do
- There is a lesson in that for us also, there are times when we are struggling with what God is doing
- We need to do what Moses did – He went to the Lord
- We need to let the Lord ministry to our soul
- And then we need to get back into the thing He created us to do
- In Moses' case it was to go back to the children of Israel who had just rebuked him for making their life harder

- Though it wasn't really Moses, it was the Lord's work
- Moses had done exactly what the Lord had told him to do
- Go back to them and tell them
- First thing, 'I am the Lord' - I am Yahweh
- Yahweh had heard their groaning, He had visited them in their bondage and He was about to do something about it
- The first 'I will' – I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians
- What we need to see in these statement is God's part of redemption and their part
- God said I am going to bring you out – God was going to do it
- What did they have to do – not nothing – they had to believe
- Egypt will later in Scripture become a picture of godless government
- God's promises in these seven statements apply to us just as surely as they did to the children of Israel
- God will deliver us from the world system – the question is do we trust Him enough to wait and let Him work
- Second – 'I will rescue from their bondage'
- This world has lots of ways that it enslaves people
- Some of the obvious ones are drugs, sex, pornography, alcohol
- People can also be enslaved by money, position, possessions, video games, fame, popularity
- Anything that gets in the way so that we cannot obey and serve God is potentially putting us into bondage
- If we will humble ourselves before God He can rescue us
- So that we can glorify Him, bless other, and grow in our faith
- Third – 'I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments'
- God was going to do something He had never done before
- He was going to bring upon the people of Egypt a series of plagues that were designed to humble them and prove to them that there was a God in Heaven that was superior to all of their false gods
- What were the children of Israel going to have to do? believe
- God is infinitely powerful and infinitely creative
- He can and will whatever is necessary to buy us out of our sin

- As Christians, God did the impossible – He sent His Son Jesus to live as a man and then die for our sins

- Jesus redeemed us with His life on the cross **Ephesians 1:7**

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

- What do we have to do to be redeemed – believe
- The next two ‘I will’ statements are in verse 7

- **Exodus 6:7**

- Fourth – ‘I will take you as My people’

- There are two possible interpretations of this word take

- First it could be a picture of adoption

- The Jews had the idea of being the children of God **Isaiah 64:8**

But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.

- While the image of adoption is not clear in the Old Testament, it is in the New Testament **Ephesians 1:3-6**

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.

- The word ‘take’ can also be applied to the idea of ‘taking a wife’

- The picture of Israel as the wife of God is seen most clearly in Hosea where God depicts Israel as an unfaithful wife

- IN the New Testament the church is described as the bride of Christ

- We see that depicted in **Ephesians 5:25-27**

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- God said ‘I will take you. – what do they need to do – believe

- Fifth – ‘I will be your God’

- This is speaking of an intimate relationship

- This is a commitment by God to be for them what they God to be

- There is also a picture of God choosing them out from all the other nations

- Those first five would help the people of Israel begin to know God

- Not just be aware of Him, but to know Him experientially

- This is one of the goals in all that God does in the world and in our lives
- That we would get to know Him better and better
- Last two ‘I will’ statements

- **Exodus 6:8**

- Sixth – ‘I will bring you into the land’
- Lord is saying that He will keep His promise to Abraham
- God is faithful – always
- He always keeps His promises
- What are the children of Israel going to have to do – believe
- God has made promises to us as well **2 Peter 1:2-4**

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

- God has made the promises – what are we to do – believe
- Seventh – ‘I will give it to you as a heritage’
- The land was promised to the children of Israel as an eternal possession
- As Christians we are not promised an eternal possession of a land
- But we do have a promise that includes an eternal possession

Ephesians 1:11-14

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.¹³ In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

- What do we do to obtain this inheritance – believe
- The Lord ends this part with the same four words He began it with ‘I am the Lord’
- The Lord is going to do all these seven things to redeem His people
- All they need to do is believe
- But with the idea of believing includes the reality of obedience
- If we truly believe God, we will obey Him

- That will end being a problem for the children of Israel
- They act like they believe, but they struggle to obey
- Sounds like some Christians, doesn't it?
- That is for later – we will stop here for the night – God bless you
- **Amen?!**
- God bless you