



# Exodus

## Freed to Worship

**Exodus 6:9-30**

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**Sunday Evening Service**

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# Exodus: Freed to Worship

## *Exodus 6:9-30*

### Opening Comments

- Turn to **Exodus 6**
- We are continuing our study: **Freed to Worship**
- Last time, we started chapter 6
- Chapter 5 ended with Moses complaining to God because things hadn't turned out the way Moses thought they should have
- Pharaoh had not let the Israelites go
- Instead, he made their bondage even more harsh
- And then to top it off, the Israelites blamed Moses for their increasingly difficult circumstances
- The beginning of chapter 6 is God's response to Moses
- We stopped last week after we had looked at verses 6 to 8, the key verses of the book of Exodus
- Let's go ahead and read them again as a refresher
- **Exodus 6:6-8**
- The Lord begins and ends these three verses with "I am the Lord"
- And right in the middle the Lord says, "Then you shall know that I am the Lord."
- It is as if God has put what He says in these three verses in brackets and underlined it with one primary reality – He is the Lord = Yahweh
- It is a call to faith – faith in the name of Yahweh
- It is a call to trust completely in who God is and what he has done and what He has promised to do
- It is almost as if He is saying, I was with you in the past, I am with you now, and I will go with you
- And then He gives them 7 'I will' statements
- Each statement is a promise of His redemption and salvation
- Each of these statements can be taken by any believer throughout time and apply it to their own circumstance
- God is still redeeming people to Himself through Christ and He is still saving them from the bondage they find themselves in through the working of the Holy Spirit

- Each of these promises was repeated in the person of Jesus Christ
- The Apostle Paul quoted Exodus 29:45 in **2 Corinthians 6:16**

**What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”**

- Later through Moses God told the people of Israel why He did all that He did for them **Deuteronomy 7:7-8**

**The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; <sup>8</sup> but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.**

- It was that same love that God has directed to us **Romans 5:8**

**God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

- That’s the background for tonight’s text

## Teaching

- **Exodus: Freed to Worship**

- Let’s begin
- The Lord tells Moses to stop complaining and go tell the Israelites what He said
- And so that is exactly what Moses does
- **Exodus 6:9**
- Moses had just told them what God was going to do
- And their response was to ‘not heed Moses’
- They wouldn’t listen to him
- The reason given was because of ‘anguish of spirit and cruel bondage’
- ‘anguish of spirit’ can also be translated ‘shortness of breath’
- The best picture of what this looks like is when a small child has been crying hard – take gasping breaths
- This is a picture of hopelessness and despair
- One commentator said, ‘They were enslaved by their slavery’
- Their circumstance was indeed desperate, and all they could see was hardship and suffering
- They had become blind and deaf to the message that God had for them
- A message that should have filled them with hope and faith

- The hope and faith they would need to persevere until God did what He had promised to do
- It occurred to me that there is a powerful reality bound up in this text
- Moses is trying to reach the Israelites with the message of hope of the salvation that is theirs in the Lord
- God had promised to save them, but they couldn't hear it because of their suffering
- Jesus told His disciples before He left **Mark 16:18**  
**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.**
- That is a command given to all who would call upon Jesus as their Savior
- We are called to be a part of His work of salvation in the world
- I don't know about you, but I sometimes encounter people who seem to be deaf and blind to the message of hope and salvation through Christ
- Just like the Israelites, they are enslaved by their slavery
- They are either in bondage to the difficult circumstances of their life
- Or they are enslaved by some sin in their life
- It was discouraging to Moses to give them the message of the Lord only to have them 'not heed' it
- They didn't want to hear what the Lord had to say
- It was going to take divine intervention **John 5:24-25**  
**Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. <sup>25</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.**
- Maybe you have felt like Moses when you tried to share your faith with someone
- They wouldn't listen to you - Or they mock you
- You might even feel like Moses did, and believe that you are the wrong person for the job
- If so, let's look at how God responds to Moses, because it has a message for anyone who might think God can't use you to reach someone with the message of salvation
- **Exodus 6:10-11**

- The Lord doesn't even acknowledge that the Israelites did not heed the voice of Moses
- Instead the Lord gives Moses the next step he is to perform – Go tell Pharaoh to let My people go
- Try to put yourself in Moses' place –that didn't work the first time, in fact, nothing has worked up to this point
- What Moses doesn't understand yet is that God is working even when nothing else in our life is
- We look at this event in Moses' life through the lens of history
- We know what happened – we know how God worked – He didn't know that yet
- Sometimes God gives us directions that don't seem to make sense, based on the circumstances of our life
- It is in those times that we must choose to trust God because He already knows how it is going to turn out **Isaiah 46:10**  
**Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,'**
- God says to Moses go back to Pharaoh and tell him again what you told him already
- Moses is not convinced that this is the right course of action
- **Exodus 6:12**
- If the Israelites didn't listen to me, then I am sure that Pharaoh is not going to listen to me
- Moses has been trying to talk God out of his calling since he first received it **Exodus 4:10**  
**Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."**
- Saying, 'Lord, You have the wrong guy!'
- The reality of Moses calling is overwhelming him
- Pharaoh was not going to let millions of slaves go
- And the people of Israel were not going to listen to him
- The immensity of his calling was making him feel very small, totally inadequate, and absolutely useless
- Moses had doubts – doubts are not foreign in the life of God's people
- Some would like to believe that it is sinful to have doubts

- Anyone who is sincerely seeking after God is going to have doubts occasionally
  - Those doubts could prove a lack of faith, but more precisely doubts reveal a lack of understanding
  - Moses was still growing as a man of God and as the leader of the people of Israel
  - What He needed was to know and understand God better
  - This was going to come
  - As you watch the life of Moses develop, you see his doubts and insecurity are replaced by immense confidence in the Lord
  - Moses reminds us that sometimes God's people, even God's chosen leaders are slow to understand what God is doing
  - The Lord is patient with Moses, God is patient with us, and we should be patient with others
  - **Exodus 6:13**
  - The Lord doesn't appear to respond to Moses' excuses as to why he can't do what the Lord is asking him to do
  - Aaron is introduced into the scene here
  - And then the text takes what might appear to be a peculiar turn
  - Right in the middle of this, a genealogy is given
  - And before we gloss over it, which might be our temptation, we need to remind ourselves of something **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**
- 'All Scripture...' – even the genealogies have something to offer us
  - We'll read through the whole genealogy and then come back and touch on a few things
  - **Exodus 6:14-27**
  - This genealogy begins with the first son of Jacob/Israel Reuben
  - It then goes on to Jacob's second son, Simeon, and then the third Levi, but doesn't go any further than that
  - This is a clue as to why this genealogy was given
  - It was given to introduce someone from the line of Levi
  - And it is my humble opinion that it is Aaron that is being introduced here

- As we get toward the end of it I will tell you why I believe that
- Let's look back at verse 14 and 15
- Israel's first two children get one verse each, the rest of the genealogy focuses on the descendants of Levi
- One of the reasons we can trust the Bible, for which there are many reasons, one of them is that it doesn't hide the flaws of God's people
- In verse 14 Israel's firstborn son Reuben is mentioned
- Reuben lost his birthright, the right to lead Israel's family by sleeping with one of his father's concubine's **Genesis 49:3-4**

**Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.<sup>4</sup>Unstable as water, you shall not excel, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled *it*— he went up to my couch.**

- Israel's second son, Simeon, conspired with his third son, Levi to take vengeance after their sister was raped
- But instead of taking vengeance on the man who had raped their sister, they killed every man in the city
- When Israel was dying he called all his sons in and spoke prophetic words over them
- This is what he had for Simeon and Levi **Genesis 49:5-7**

**Simeon and Levi *are* brothers; instruments of cruelty *are in* their dwelling place.<sup>6</sup>Let not my soul enter their council; let not my honor be united to their assembly; for in their anger they slew a man, and in their self-will they hamstrung an ox.<sup>7</sup>Cursed *be* their anger, for *it is* fierce; and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.**

- The prophecy was that they would be scattered throughout the nation of Israel
- If you fast-forward to when Joshua was dividing the land up for the tribes of Israel
- Simeon ended up with a territory within the tribe of Judah
- It wasn't long after that, that you don't hear about Simeon in their territory
- The prophecy regarding Levi came to pass also, but instead of being a curse, they ended up turning it into a blessing to the whole nation
- In Exodus 32, while Moses is up on the mountain with God getting the Ten Commandments, Aaron is going to blow it and make a golden calf

- After Moses gets down and sees what is going on, he loses it and breaks the stone tablets
- And then **Exodus 32:25-26**  
**Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to *their* shame among their enemies), <sup>26</sup> then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, “Whoever *is* on the LORD’s side—*come* to me!” And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.**
- And because Levi chose the Lord’s side, He blessed them with the ministry of the sacred things in the temple
- And when the distribution of land was given, they were not given an allotment, but were assigned cities throughout all of the nation of Israel
- Then in verse 20 Moses’ parents are named; Amram and Jochebed
- Aaron was the firstborn son, and Moses was the youngest son
- Aaron and Moses also had a sister named Miriam
- In verse 23 the genealogy tells us of Aaron’s marriage to Nashon and the birth of his four sons
- This is why I believe this genealogy is about introducing Aaron
- Aaron’s family is mentioned but Moses’ is not
- In the book of Leviticus we will see what happens to Aaron’s two older sons when they decide they want to worship God in a way that He has not prescribed
- As they are burning incense with ‘Strange fire’ fire comes down from heaven and kills them
- And then in verse 25 we are introduced to Aaron’s grandson, Phineas
- He is going to make a name for himself in Numbers 25
- At the time, the people of Moab are tempting the men of Israel into sexual relations and the worship of pagan idols
- As Moses and the others are talking about dealing with this sin, a man of Israel is seen bringing a Moabite woman into the camp and into his tent
- Phineas saw it, grabs a javelin, goes into the tent thrusts it through the both of them as they are in the act
- God had already begun to afflict the nation with a plague that stopped because of Phineas’ zeal for the Lord

- So while it may appear to be an interruption to the text, it served an important purpose in the account
- There are many other lessons to be drawn from this genealogy but for the sake of time we must continue

- **Exodus 6:28-29**

- Notice the Lord keeps repeating Himself
- Moses seems to be repeating himself also

- **Exodus 6:30**

- People will often come up with excuses for not doing what the Lord has told them to do

- And we tend to repeat our excuses even when God repeats the command

- If we remember God had told Moses something one of the times Moses gave this excuse **Exodus 4:11-12**

**So the LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD? <sup>12</sup> Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.”**

- And then we he still tried to get out of it **Exodus 4:14-16**

**So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: “Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. <sup>15</sup> Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. <sup>16</sup> So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God.**

- Moses had no reason not to obey God
- And neither do we
- If you look at what the Lord said in verse 29, ‘Speak to Pharaoh...’
- Does that sound like the Lord is asking Moses if he is willing to do it
- The Lord is not looking for a volunteer
- God chose Moses for the task – it is a command
- And based on God’s absolute sovereign authority, Moses’ response should be to humbly obey
- Moses is still wrestling with God
- He hasn’t figured out that God always win – but he will
- God will respond to Moses in the next chapter
- That is for later – we will stop here for the night – God bless you
- **Amen?!**