



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2023 – WEEK 3

Exodus 2:23-6:1: A Reluctant Deliverer

Then Moses went back to the LORD and protested, “Why have you brought all this trouble on your own people, Lord? Why did you send me? Ever since I came to Pharaoh as your spokesman, he has been even more brutal to your people. And you have done nothing to rescue them!”

– Exodus 5:22-23 NLT

- **Cast out but settling down**

And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.” – Exodus 2:21-22 ESV

- Gershom – *gēršōm* – gay-resh-ome' – an exile from *gāraš* – gaw-rash' – driven out, cast out

“I have become a resident foreigner in a foreign land.” – vs 22 NET

- Moses wasn't where he belonged
 - Egypt wasn't his home
 - Neither was Midian
 - But another 40 years would pass
- Meanwhile, back in Egypt...

During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel—and God knew. – Exodus 2:23-25 ESV

- Forty years later...
 - Moses is alive and well
 - His Egyptian grandfather is dead

- And the Israelites are desperate
...the people of Israel groaned - vs 23
...and cried out for help - vs 23

- ~ But to whom were their cries directed?
- ~ Were they calling on Yahweh?
- ~ Probably not

“Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River [in Ur] and in Egypt. Serve the LORD alone.” – Joshua 24:14 NLT

*“You know all the hardship that we have met: how our fathers went down to Egypt, and we lived in Egypt a long time. And the Egyptians dealt harshly with us and our fathers. And **when we cried to the Lord**, he heard our voice and sent an angel and brought us out of Egypt.” Numbers 20:14-16 ESV*

*“...the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. Then **we cried to the Lord, the God of our fathers**, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.” – Deuteronomy 26:6-7 ESV*

- What’s going on here?
 - ~ These passages are **after** their deliverance
 - ~ When they **knew** who had heard their cry
 - ~ The **only** God who could hear and respond

*And **God heard** their groaning, and **God remembered** his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. **God saw** the people of Israel—and **God knew**. – Exodus 2:24-25 ESV*

- ~ God is not responding or knee-jerk reacting
- ~ He is implementing His preordained plan

- **An octogenarian meets his Maker**

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. – Exodus 3:1-2 ESV

- Moses sees a **theophany**
 An appearance of God, an intense manifestation of the presence of God that is accompanied by an extraordinary visual display
- Was this the pre-incarnate Christ? Difficult to say
- But Moses **was** in the presence of Yahweh

...the bush was burning, yet...not consumed – vs 2

God called to him out of the bush – vs 4

“...the place on which you are standing is holy ground” – vs 5

Moses...was afraid to look at God – vs 6

- **The self-disqualified deliverer**

*Then the LORD said, “**I have surely seen** the affliction of my people who are in **Egypt and have heard their cry** because of their taskmasters. **I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them...** – Exodus 3:7-8 ESV*

*“Come, **I will send you** to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “**Who am I** that I should go...?” – Exodus 3:10-11 ESV*

- Moses was damaged goods
 - A convicted murderer
 - An octogenarian
 - And a failed and flawed leader
- A man of few words, but plenty of questions
“Who am I to appear before Pharaoh?” (3:11)

“Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?” (3:11)

“What if they won’t believe me or listen to me?” (4:1)

“What if they say, ‘The Lord never appeared to you?’” (4:1)

...but the angel reassured them [the shepherds]. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior — yes, the Messiah, the Lord — has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!” – Luke 2:10-11 NLT

*Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. **He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem** who were two years old and under, based on the wise men’s report of the star’s first appearance. – Matthew 2:16 NLT*

- His questions turn into excuses
“O Lord, I’m not very good with words.” (4:10)

“I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.” (4:10)

“Lord, please! Send anyone else.” (4:13)

- His 40 years in Midian had left him...
 - ...comfortable and complacent
 - ...satisfied and set in his ways
 - ...contented and self-consumed
 - ...fruitful but forgetful

- He had forgotten why God had delivered him
*One day when Moses was forty years old, he...assumed his fellow Israelites would realize that **God had sent him to rescue them**, but they didn't.* – Acts 7:23, 25 NLT

- He had also forgotten God
 - Yahweh had to introduce Himself to Moses

“I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” – Exodus 3:6 ESV

- God uses this phrase 3 times

- **Who are you God?**

Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” – Exodus 3:13 ESV

- Moses is asking God to identify Himself
- He uses the generic Hebrew term: *ělōhîm*
 - The term they used for all gods
- Moses wants this *ělōhîm* to be more specific
- He needs more details than a burning bush
- He refers to God in the third person
 - He has no personal frame of reference
 - This *ělōhîm* had been distant and aloof
 - He had been out of sight and out of mind
 - He was a God in need of a name

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.” – Exodus 3:14-15 ESV

- The unparalleled identity of God
 - He is not just one of many gods
 - He is not a regionally based god

- He is the one true *ělohîm*

"I am the Lord;

there is no other God.

*I have equipped you for battle,
though you don't even know me,
so all the world from east to west
will know **there is no other God.***

*I am the Lord, and **there is no other.**" – Isaiah 45:5-6 NLT*

- The LORD
YHWH – a tetragrammaton

- Sometimes rendered as Yahweh
- Often translated as Jehovah
- The "existing one"
- *"I was, I am, and I will always be"*

- And here's the proof: Signs and wonders
 - God gives Moses instructions
 - And He backs up His words with actions
 - He's letting Moses know...

"I'm the same God who created the universe"

"I'm the same God who destroyed the world"

"I'm the same God who spared Noah"

"I'm the same God who destroyed Sodom"

"I'm the same God who spared Lot"

"I'm the same God who gave Sarah a son"

"I'm the same God who gave Rebekah a son"

"I'm the same God who sent Joseph to Egypt"

"I'm the same God who will send you"

- So you can know who I am
 - ~ God turns Moses' staff into a serpent
 - ~ He makes Moses' hand leprous
 - ~ He promises to turn water into blood
 - ~ And so the people will believe as well

*Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, **they bowed their heads and worshiped.** – Exodus 4:30-31 ESV*

- **The calm before the storm**

- The people are receptive
- But the new Pharaoh won't be
- The good news of God's deliverance was going to produce some very bad consequences

God said: "Let me people go!"

Pharaoh said: "Over my dead body!"

- The Israelites have been enslaved for 40 years
- But Moses' arrival only makes matters worse
 - The persecution only increased
 - Their workload is multiplied
 - Their conditions worsen
 - Their hopes diminish
 - Their anger at Moses explodes

They met Moses and Aaron, who were waiting for them, as they came out from Pharaoh; and they said to them, "The LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

*Then Moses turned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and **you have not delivered your people at all.**" – Exodus 5:21-23
ESV*

- **When God's will doesn't go our way**

- God had told Moses this was going to happen
- But it was not what Moses **wanted**
- He was expecting **immediate** deliverance
- He was hoping for **instant** results
- He had been anticipating gain without pain

"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." – John 16:33 NLT

*After preaching the Good News in Derbe... Paul and Barnabas... they strengthened the believers... [and] encouraged them to continue in the faith, reminding them that **we must suffer many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God.** – Acts 14:21, 22 NLT*

- **Discussion questions**

- If you could only choose one word to describe God, what would it be and why?
- Why do we expect gain without pain in our spiritual lives when it doesn't seem to work anywhere else?
- In what ways were the increased trials that the Israelites faced a way for them to get to know God better? How have you seen this work in your life?



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2023 – WEEK 4 HOMEWORK

WEEK 4 – Exodus 6:2-10:29: A Battle of God's & Kings

This lesson will cover the first nine plagues and establish the battle lines between Pharaoh, whom the Egyptians considered to be a god and Yahweh, the one true God of Israel. It will also cover the various deities that Egyptians worshiped and their ties to the various plagues. The goal is to highlight the spiritual battle taking place behind all these plagues. God was displaying His overwhelming power and sovereignty over nature but also over a human king who deemed himself a god. These dramatic manifestations of God's might were also designed to convince the people of Israel of His superiority and trustworthiness. These were people who after 400 years in captivity, had forgotten who Yahweh was. But He was revealing His power and capacity to defend and deliver His chosen people from their enemies.

- Read Exodus 6:2-10:29. What jumps out at you in these passages?
- This week's Devotional™ reading covers pages 59-104, so it is rather long. I would recommend spreading it out over the week.
- According to Exodus 6:6-9, what does God promise to do for the people of Israel?

Why does Moses see this incredible new as anything but good? Look at verses 10-13 for the answer.

- Take a moment to consider why the Holy Spirit would have inspired Moses to include the genealogy section in Exodus 6:14-30. What possible benefit could these verse hold?

- Chapters 7-9 contain Moses' description of the first seven plagues. Write down any specifics regarding each on that stand out to you.

Plague #1: Water turned to blood

Plague #2: Frogs

Plague #3: Gnats

Plague #4: Flies

Plague #5: Death of the Egyptian livestock

Plague #6: Boils

Plague #7: Hail

- Chapter 10 separates out the eighth and ninth plagues. What is different about them that they would cause them to be treated independently? What is it about them that makes them somewhat unique?

How have the plagues increased in intensity and weight over time?

Why do you think God chose to use these specific conditions to torment and teach the Egyptians?

If each of the plagues is an attack on a particular Egyptian God, what could God be trying to teach the Egyptians and the Israelites about Himself?

What aspect of God's character jumped out to you in these chapters, and how does it change your view of Him?