

***Pastor Jeremy M. Thomas***  
***Fredericksburg Bible Church***  
*107 East Austin*  
*Fredericksburg, Texas 78624*  
*830-997-8834    jthomas@fbgbible.org*

**C0610 – March 8, 2006 – Ex 6:2-7:7 – The Credentials Of YHWH, Moses, & Aaron**

Last week we learned from the narrative the importance of doing God's will in God's way in God's timing. Moses and Aaron commanded Pharaoh, in YHWH's name, to let the people go. This failed for two basic reasons. First, Aaron did not have permission to go and speak to Pharaoh. Second, Moses commanded Pharaoh but he was supposed to ask permission of Pharaoh (3:18). This command angered Pharaoh because he did not know YHWH and besides, he was a god in Egypt and would not be commanded by an unknown YHWH. As a result of this failure, Moses and Aaron resort to YHWH's means of asking permission (5:3). But it was too late. Pharaoh was already angry. Moses and Aaron wanted to go to the wilderness. Pharaoh told them to go to work. However, because the Hebrews were so numerous Pharaoh feared that Moses and Aaron's dreams of deliverance would spread through the Hebrew camps. A rebellion could be disastrous and cause disruption to the static permanence of Egypt. Therefore, Pharaoh devises a plan to turn the Hebrews against Moses and Aaron. In a word; more work. The Hebrews want to go to the wilderness. Pharaoh will make them go get their own straw. They would have to run around Egypt gathering their own straw and yet the daily quota of bricks would not decrease. When the quota was not met the Hebrew foremen were beaten by the Egyptian taskmasters and they went to Pharaoh asking "why do you treat your servants this way? This is the fault of your own people. Pharaoh then lynched his plan by saying, "you say, let us go to the wilderness to sacrifice to YHWH. I say, go now and work." They knew that Pharaoh only knew YHWH's name because of Moses and Aaron. As a result, when they left Pharaoh's presence they attacked Moses and Aaron on the way out and called down YHWH's judgment on them. Pharaoh's plan had worked, the foremen's irritation lashed out on Moses and Aaron and their words fell into disrepute. As a result of the failure of this HVP gimmick Moses retreats to YHWH to ask Him why they have met with such failure. YHWH comforts Moses and assures him that now He will effect the deliverance by compulsion.

Moses has still failed to grasp who YHWH is and the importance of doing things YHWH's way and in YHWH's timing. This HVP failure is an example of what happens when we try to accomplish God's will in our own strength and timing. We only aggravate the situation and increase our bondage. The following chapters are an example of DVP victory that comes by accomplishing God's will in His strength, His way, and in His timing. However, before we can see YHWH's deliverance Moses has to be reminded of who YHWH is, what YHWH has promised and that YHWH alone is sufficient for the deliverance.

#### A. YHWH's Declaration (Exod 6:2-8)

<sup>2</sup> God spoke further to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD;  
<sup>3</sup> and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but *by My name, LORD, I did not make Myself known to them.*  
<sup>4</sup> "I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they sojourned.  
<sup>5</sup> "Furthermore I have heard the groaning of the sons of Israel, because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.  
<sup>6</sup> "Say, therefore, to the sons 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 their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.  
<sup>7</sup> 'Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.  
<sup>8</sup> 'I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you *for a possession; I am the LORD.*'"

Sailhammer wrote, "This small section of narrative...sketches out the argument of the whole Pentateuch. God made a covenant with the patriarchs to give them the land of Canaan (Ex 6:4). He remembered his covenant when he heard the cry of the Israelites in Egyptian bondage (v. 5). He is now going to deliver Israel from their bondage and take them to himself as a people and be their God (v. 6). He will also bring them into the land which he swore to give to their fathers (v. 8). The die is cast for the remainder of the events narrated in the Pentateuch."

In 6:2-8 I found a chiasm. The chiasm begins (A) and ends (A') with who God is: **I am YHWH**. The central idea of the chiasm (D) is YHWH's deliverance.

- A I am YHWH (6:2)
- B Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (6:3)
- C Bondage (6:5)
- D YHWH's Deliverance (6:6)
- C' Bondage (6:7)
- B' Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (6:8)
- A' I am YHWH (6:8)

After some time elapsed between verses 1 & 2 God (*elohim*) spoke to Moses again **and said to him, "I am YHWH"**. In other words, let me remind you of who I am. Since one's name signifies one's character, God is reminding Moses of His characteristics embodied in the name YHWH. YHWH means "the eternally existent One who is boundless in activity in history".<sup>i</sup> So, YHWH is reminding Moses that He is eternal and He is immanent.

Further, God said, **and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty** (Gen. 17:1; 28:3; 35:11; 43:14; 48:3). The name **God Almighty** is *el shaddai*,<sup>ii</sup> which literally means "God, the mountain one".<sup>iii</sup> This name reveals God's power and might, or we would simply say "omnipotence". This was the name by which the patriarchs knew God. Thus, the name of God during the patriarchal period was *El Shaddai*.

**but by My name, YHWH, I did not make Myself known to them.** This does not mean they did not know of this name (used 7,102 times in the OT). It simply means they did not know the meaning of the name. But **YHWH** had made known the meaning of this name in Exod 3:14ff. **YHWH** means "the eternally existent One who is boundless in activity in history". So, YHWH is reminding Moses that He is eternal and He is immanent. Thus, the name of God during the Mosaic period would be **YHWH**, His memorial name to all generations (Exod 3:15).

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Character</b>
<b>Patriarchal Period</b>	<i>El Shaddai</i>	God, the mountain one	Omnipotent
<b>Mosaic Period</b>	<i>YHWH</i>	I am who I am	Eternal & Immanent

Since God revealed the meaning of His name including the element of "boundless" or "unceasing" activity in history the Israelites can know that "Whatever the situation or need...God will 'become' the solution to that need." **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob** knew

Me to be omnipotent but now you know Me to be eternal in nature and boundlessly active in history (immanence). Thus, you can rely upon Me. You don't need to effect the deliverance, leave that to Me, I AM WHO I AM, who you are is beside the issue!

v 4, **I have also established My covenant with them.** He's referring to the covenant He made with Abraham and repeated to Isaac, and to Jacob, the line of promise. He says **I established My covenant** signifying it is a unilateral covenant (one way covenant). One way covenants are like one way street signs. It is illegal to go the opposite way. There is only one way to go and that is to YHWH's fulfillment. Since He made a one way agreement He will not go the other way. He will fulfill His covenant promises. So, YHWH is reminding Moses of His historic promises. Has YHWH yet fulfilled these covenant promises? No, therefore, YHWH will effect these promises through Moses. The core promise of YHWH's covenant was **to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they sojourned.** Have **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob** been given all the **land of Canaan** for an everlasting possession (Gen 17:8) yet? No. Is God faithful to His promises? Yes (Heb 6:17ff).

**Furthermore** (v 5), in other words, if that isn't enough, **I have heard the groaning of the sons of Israel, because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage and I have remembered My covenant.** This recalls 2:24. God heard the prayers of the **sons of Israel** that were offered **because** of the Egyptian **bondage**. Remember, God allowed their bondage to increase so that Israel would pray to Him so that He could effect their deliverance. God conditions some of His actions on human prayer but He sets up the circumstances in advance. When it says God **remembered** His **covenant** it does not mean He forgot it. God's covenant promises are always before Him but His action of putting them into effect is not. Now, movement toward fulfillment is about to take place.

In verse 6 Moses is given a commission in light of these revelations, **Say...to the sons of Israel, 'I am YHWH, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. 'Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God. and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession; I am the LORD.'**" There are seven **I will** statements in these verses. The phrase **I will** from YHWH's lips always mean unconditional promises (e.g. Gen 12:1-3; 2 Sam 7:9-16). These seven **I will** statements are what Moses is to tell the **sons of Israel**.

Seven <b>I will's</b>	Three Basic Promises
I will bring I will deliver I will redeem	OUT OF BONDAGE IN EGYPT
I will take I will be	ADOPTION
I will bring I will give	THE PROMISED LAND

This section is tremendous, full of unconditional promises of God. All that YHWH promises to do for the sons of Israel, Moses is to say to them. The land is mentioned three times in this section. The section closes with the statement **I am YHWH** to assure them that His promises would be fulfilled.

PRINCIPLE: When unconditional promises are made it doesn't matter who you are. The issue is "Who is God?" Moses and Aaron failed to appreciate who God is in ch 5. After failure they, as well as us, have to return to the question "Who is God?" because failure is always a result of misunderstanding the answer to this question. God never fails. We fail when we don't rely on Him. Our failures are a result of relying on our own strength, our own methods, and our own timing. When we truly know who God is we won't rely on our own strength, methods or timing but on His. The greatest success is God, the greatest failure is man. The one doctrine that is found on every page of Scripture is the Doctrine of God. This is why we teach line by line, verse by verse. As such, it is impossible not to learn something about God every week. The more we learn about Him the easier it is to trust in Him and not ourselves. Our ability to walk by faith stands in direct proportion to our knowledge of the One we are to have faith in! Israel and Egypt will learn more about YHWH during the plagues.

## **B. The People's Response (6:9)**

**<sup>9</sup> So Moses spoke thus to the sons of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses on account of *their* despondency and cruel bondage.**

Now, here are some people who don't have a clue who God is and could care less who God is. They can't get their eyes off their circumstances! These kinds of people are a dime a dozen. These are the people who don't have time to study the word of God each day. These are the people who are always complaining about something. These are the people who think they are self-sufficient. These are the people who hold grudges. These

are the kind of people who get so angry that they actually make their circumstances worse by trying to bully through them. The people had fallen into **despondency**, a state of depression. The other factor was the cruel bondage that resulted from Moses and Aaron's HVP gimmick in chapter 5.

PRINCIPLE: Everyone God commissions on a path of great importance runs into obstructions. I don't know how many times I have seen a believer finally get a zeal for truth and then all of a sudden all sorts of obstructions are thrown in the path. They set up an hour each day for Bible study and all sorts of things start coming up to divert us from studying. Suddenly we don't have time for that. The obstructions divert them from the path of righteousness and they give up. People are prone to following the path of least resistance.<sup>iv</sup> But only the great leaders persevere through the obstructions and enjoy ultimate success. Moses became a great leader.

### C. YHWH's Command & Moses Excuse (6:10-12)

<sup>10</sup> Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

<sup>11</sup> "Go, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the sons of Israel go out of his land."

<sup>12</sup> But Moses spoke before the LORD, saying, "Behold, the sons of Israel have not listened to me; how then will Pharaoh listen to me, for I am unskilled in speech?"

We've heard similar excuses before from Moses. Earlier he said, "Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue" (4:10). Now a more drastic statement is made, if the **sons of Israel have not listened to me, how will Pharaoh listen to me, for I am unskilled in speech**. In other words, if I can't even win over Hebrew slaves, how can I win over the King of Egypt. It is clear from this that Moses is still not aware of who the King of the Universe is. If he were clear on this he would know the issue was not his speech but God's power.

Before we introduce the principle let's review the seven objections of Moses.

"Seven distinct objections were raised by Moses as reasons why he should not undertake the arduous task to which he was called. They have been thus epitomised [*sic*]: Lack of fitness, 'who am I, that I should go?' (iii. 11); lack of words, 'what shall I say?' (iii. 13); lack of authority, 'they will not believe me' (iv. 1); lack of power of speech, 'I am not eloquent' (iv. 10); lack of special adaptation, 'Send by whom Thou wilt send' (iv. 13);

lack of success at his first attempt, 'neither hast Thou delivered Thy people at all' (v. 23); lack of acceptance, 'the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me' (vi. 12)."

Lack of fitness	“who am I, that I should go?”
Lack of words	“what shall I say?”
Lack of authority	“they will not believe me”
Lack of power of speech	“I am not eloquent”
Lack of special adaptation	“send by whom Thou wilt send”
Lack of success at first attempt	“Thou hast not delivered Thy people”
Lack of acceptance	“the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me”

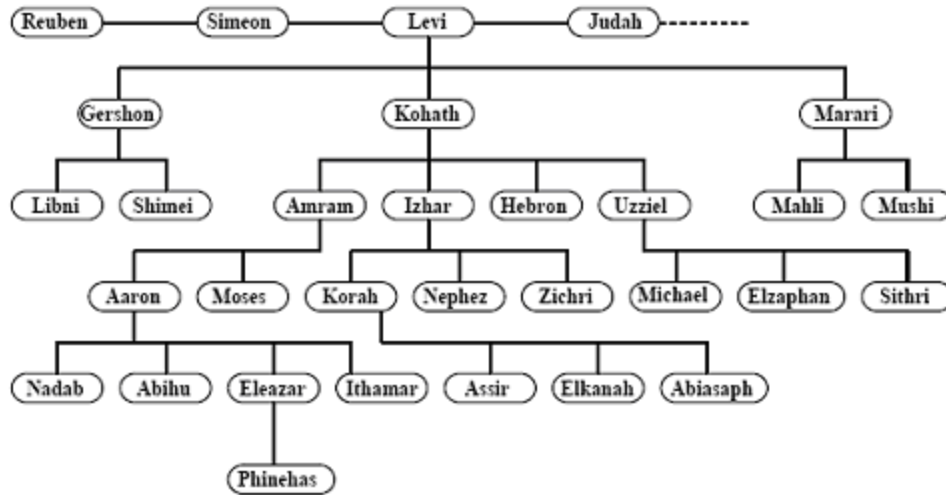
PRINCIPLE: It matters very little who you are. What matters is who is with you. We are insufficient. We lack all sorts of things. He is completely sufficient. He lacks nothing. When we fear the King of the universe we have no fear of the kings of men. This kind of thinking is what enabled Martin Luther to stand before councils of men that could take his life and yet speak with boldness and courage. Luther understood that “one man and God is always a majority”. Numerically, Moses and Aaron appeared to be the minority but, in fact, since YHWH was with them they were the majority. When you realize your own insufficiency and God’s sufficiency there will be victory. There is no need to fear men. You need only fear the God who made men. No one can trust God when they fear men. When we don’t trust God that is called sin (Rom 14:23). Trust the King of the universe and watch Him work the results, even over the kings of the earth. This brings glory to God and not to men.

#### **D. YHWH Charges Moses & Aaron (6:13)**

**<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, and gave them a charge to the sons of Israel and to Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt.**

Up to this point, Moses had been given Aaron as a mouthpiece to the sons of Israel but now he is given authority to appear before Pharaoh. They disobeyed this injunction in 5:1 when they went together to Pharaoh. YHWH’s hopes were that Moses would gain confidence after seeing that the Israelites believed (4:28-31) and that he would carry out the meetings with Pharaoh alone and would be the deliverer. However, Moses was not yet ready and YHWH graciously provides Aaron so that it will be both Moses and Aaron who **bring the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt.**

### E. The Family Tree of Moses & Aaron<sup>v</sup> (6:14-27)



This family tree is given to reveal who these men were and their place among the tribes of Israel. The tribes of Reuben and Simeon are mentioned only to give the place of the tribe of Levi as the third tribe. The first two tribes of Israel are not dealt with anymore. The rest deals with the third, the tribe of Levi and in particular the place of Aaron and Moses in the tribe. The other names found among Levi are mentioned now as they play a part later in the Torah and we can return here to find out their status. If you notice there are four generations between Levi and Moses. This coincides with the prophecy in Gen 15:16 that they would return to the Land in the “fourth generation”.

<sup>26</sup> It was *the same* Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said, "Bring out the sons of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their hosts."

<sup>27</sup> They were the ones who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt about bringing out the sons of Israel from Egypt; it was *the same* Moses and Aaron.

So, the final point of the genealogy is to point out that it was this **Moses and Aaron** who **spoke to Pharaoh about bringing out the sons of Israel from Egypt** and not another Moses and Aaron.

### F. The Story Resumes (6:28-30)

<sup>28</sup> Now it came about on the day when the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt,



**<sup>29</sup> that the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "I am the LORD; speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I speak to you."**

**<sup>30</sup> But Moses said before the LORD, "Behold, I am unskilled in speech; how then will Pharaoh listen to me?"**

This is simply repeating the events just before the genealogy interrupted the narrative and is placed here to get us back into the story.

### **G. YHWH's Detailed Instructions (7:1-6)**

**<sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I make you *as* God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet.**

**<sup>2</sup> "You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall speak to Pharaoh that he let the sons of Israel go out of his land.**

**<sup>3</sup> "But I will harden Pharaoh's heart that I may multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.**

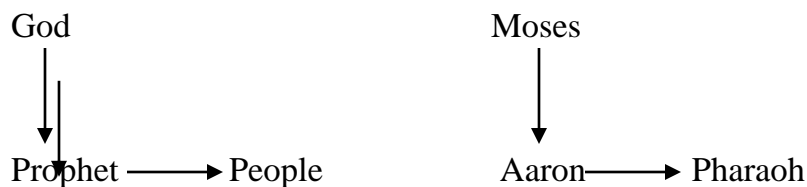
**<sup>4</sup> "When Pharaoh does not listen to you, then I will lay My hand on Egypt and bring out My hosts, My people the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt by great judgments.**

**<sup>5</sup> "The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst."**

**<sup>6</sup> So Moses and Aaron did *it*; as the LORD commanded them, thus they did.**

**<sup>7</sup> Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three, when they spoke to Pharaoh.**

To further answer Moses' objection of unskilled speech (lit. uncircumcised lips) YHWH said that Moses would be **God to Pharaoh** and **Aaron** would be his **prophet**. The point is that Moses would not have to do much talking. As God instructs His prophets so Moses would instruct his prophet Aaron in all that he should say to Pharaoh. As such, Moses would be **God to Pharaoh**.



Even though Pharaoh was considered a deity, when Egyptian prophets spoke to him they spoke in the name of their gods. Now, Moses will appear before Pharaoh as a god and his prophet, Aaron will speak to Pharaoh. But Moses will not be like the Egyptian gods in

one respect. The Egyptian gods were dumb, they could not speak. But Moses will **speak all that YHWH commands** him. So, Moses will speak short, concise and powerful statements while Aaron will give the long speeches.

Verse 3 gives a further answer to Moses objection that he is unskilled in speech. It is not Moses speech that will result in Pharaoh letting the people go. It is Moses speech that will be instrumental in YHWH hardening **Pharaoh's heart**. The purpose of the hardening is **that I may multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt**. God will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel (Gen 12:3). Because of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart manifested in his stubborn refusal to let Israel go YHWH will curse Egypt with great signs and wonders. The **signs and wonders** referred to here are the 10 plagues. Pharaoh and Egypt were ripe for judgment. Pharaoh said, "I do not know YHWH" but through the 10 plagues Pharaoh and the Egyptians will learn who YHWH is. We see the Egyptians learning this lesson throughout the plague sequence (cf 8:19; 9:20, 27; 10:7).

Verse 6 shows that **Moses and Aaron** were obedient this time. They were disobedient to YHWH the first time they appeared before Pharaoh which resulted in failure (5:1ff). From here on out they will be obedient and enjoy success. They give up on HVP gimmicks as a means to obtaining God's ends and obey DVP commands.

PRINCIPLE: Obedience always results in victory.

The last verse reveals that Moses was 80 and Aaron was 83. Often the Bible states the age of a hero when some momentous event begins to transpire. "D. L. Moody wittily said that Moses spent forty years in Pharaoh's court thinking he was somebody; forty years in the desert learning he was nobody; and forty years showing what God can do with somebody who found out he was nobody."<sup>vi</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The most important question to answer properly is "Who is God?" Moses struggled with this issue. He continually slid back into thinking that God was insufficient. We have to continually be reviewing the doctrine of God. When we are reminded of who God is we naturally are reminded of who we are. God is all powerful, mighty, eternally existing and boundlessly active in His creation. When you need help what are you going to do? Are you going to assume that you have to come up with a solution? Some HVP gimmick? Or are you going to call on the One who is all sufficient and has DVP solutions? God,

because He is personal, answers prayer. He is a dynamic God in this respect. His character is immutable (it never changes) but His in-time operations are dynamic. You have a choice to make in each circumstance.

1. Doctrine of God. When unconditional promises are made it doesn't matter who you are. The issue is "Who is God?"
2. Doctrine of Calling. Everyone God commissions on a path of great importance runs into obstructions.
3. Doctrine of God. It matters very little who you are. What matters is who is with you. We are insufficient. We lack all sorts of things. He is completely sufficient.
4. Doctrine of Obedience. Obedience to God's commandments always results in victory. Disobedience always results in failure. We only irritate and agitate the situation.
- 5.

---

<sup>i</sup> This is the name God revealed to Moses in the burning bush when Moses asked for His name and God answered, "I AM WHO I AM" and later identified this name with YHWH, His name forever and His memorial name for all generations.

<sup>ii</sup> Shaddai evokes the idea that God is able to make the barren fertile and to fulfill His promises. The LXX sometimes translates it *pantokrator* or *Vg omnipotens* "almighty," (Wenham, 20).

<sup>iii</sup> *shaddai* may be related to the Akkadian word *sadu* that means breast or mountain or both (cf BKC, 58.)

<sup>iv</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Path\\_of\\_least\\_resistance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Path_of_least_resistance)

<sup>v</sup> Gershon is similar to Gershom, the name of Moses first son.

<sup>vi</sup> [www.soniclight.com](http://www.soniclight.com)

[Back To The Top](#)

Click [Here](#) to return to other lessons.

[Return to Fredericksburg Bible Church Web Site](#)