

Lesson 8 – Exodus 6:1 - 7:7

Moses has just experienced his second defeat. The first was on the way to Egypt when God met him and threatened to take his life (kill him, perhaps with an illness) because of his willing disobedience to the command of circumcision. God cannot use a half-surrendered life. Once he dealt with that God healed him and let him go.

The second defeat was in his first appearance before Pharaoh. He and Aaron were carried away with their own self-importance, skillful rhetoric, and perhaps (in Moses case) his own personal charisma or reputation. In their self-absorption they forgot to do the miracles as God commanded and had reminded them to do time and time again. Now Moses is depressed and defeated. He feels God failed to fulfill his promises and it made Moses look bad before the people.

As we enter into chapter 6 God once again defends His Name and His Promises. In the middle of the chapter is an awkward insertion of the genealogy of Moses and Aaron (verses 13-27). We must ask ourselves, why the genealogy and why is it placed here? The answer is in the text itself, repeated three times in verse 26-27)

“This is the same Moses and Aaron to whom the Lord said bring the Israelites out of Egypt by divisions. They were the ones who spoke o Pharaoh king of Egypt about brining the Israelites out of Egypt. It was the same Moses and Aaron.”

Add to this that the genealogy is an emphasis that both Moses and Aaron had credentials as from the Tribe of Levi, thus making them priests of God by call and by ancestry.

*And no man takes this honor unto himself,
but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. (Hebrews 5:4)*

God was assuring the people of Israel that though Moses and Aaron initially failed yet they were called of God and ordained of God by birth to be God’s instruments of deliverance from Egypt.

Before we deal with God’s Name and His Promises in Chapter 6 through Chapter 7:7, let me point out **two comments sandwiched in the chapter**. They are the comments of Moses, still being intimidated, depressed and lacking in any faith that God would do what He said.

Verse 12

*But Moses said to the LORD,
"If the Israelites will not listen to me,
why would Pharaoh listen to me,
since I speak with faltering lips?"*

Verse 30

*But Moses said to the LORD,
"Since I speak with faltering lips,
why would Pharaoh listen to me?"*

It seems that God wants us to see clearly that Moses is not the hero of this story – GOD IS!!! It not Moses faith (he had little), nor his abilities (he had none), nor his courage (he was a coward). God wants to get all the glory. Thus, chapter 6 is about God’s Strength, Name and Promises.

1. “My Mighty Hand and Outstretched Arm”

It is amazing how often God refers back to His “mighty hand and outstretched arm” and the majesty of His name. The two run together hand it hand.

Exodus 3:19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him.

Exodus 32:11 "O LORD why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?"

Deuteronomy 3:24 "O Sovereign LORD, you have begun to show to your servant your greatness and your strong hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do the deeds and mighty works you do?"

Deuteronomy 4:34. Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by miraculous signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?

Deuteronomy 5:15. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.

Deuteronomy 6:21. Tell him: "We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand."

Deuteronomy. 7:8. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery,

Deuteronomy 7:19

You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the miraculous signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm, with which the LORD your God brought you out. The LORD your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear.

Deuteronomy 9:26. I prayed to the LORD and said, "O Sovereign LORD, do not destroy your people, your own inheritance that you redeemed by your great power and brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand."

Deuteronomy 11:2. Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the LORD your God: his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm;

Deuteronomy 26:8. So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders.

Deuteronomy 34:12. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

1 Kings 8:42-43

For men will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm--when he comes and prays toward this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.

2 Chronicles 6:32-33

As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm--when he comes and prays toward this temple then hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.

Nehemiah 1:9-10

I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.

Psalms 136:11-12

And (You) brought Israel out from among them His love endures forever... with a mighty hand and outstretched arm; His love endures forever.

Ezekiel 20:33-34

As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I will rule over you with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath. I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered--with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath.

**God wants us to know what He repeats throughout the Scriptures,
"It is not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord." -- (Zechariah 4:6)**

God loves to show Himself strong on our behalf!

1 Samuel 17:47 *And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.*

Psalms 20:7 *Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.*

Isaiah 31:1 *Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!*

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

2. “I Am the Lord” – Eight Times repeated

Pay particular attention to things that are repeated as you read the Scriptures. It is repeated for a reason. God’s Name is repeated eight times here in this passage and again in chapter 7

1. 6:2 ...God also said to Moses, "**I am the LORD.**
2. 6:3 ...as **God Almighty** (El Shaddai)
3. 6:3 ...My Name **the LORD** (YHWY or Jehovah)
4. 6:6 ...Say to the Israelites: **I am the LORD,** and I will bring
5. 6:7 ...that **I am the LORD** your God,
6. 6:8 ...I am **the LORD**
7. 6:29 ...he said to him, "**I am the LORD**
8. 7:5 ...And the Egyptians will know that **I am the LORD**

We add to these references all the other times in the Old Testament Scriptures when God says, “I am the LORD.”

We have compiled these expressions in a **DOCUMENT TITLED “I AM THE LORD”** so that you can read it yourself. This phrase is repeated 16x in Exodus, 45x in Leviticus, 12x in Isaiah, 67x in Ezekiel and numerous other times throughout the Old Testament.

Why should we read these multiplied statements? Because “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17) As you read these passages with your eyes and hear them with your ears God begins to strengthen you faith. READ THEM!!!

This is why it is so important that the people of God READ the Word of God every day. It builds your faith. We have included another **DOCUMENT OF BIBLE READING** in a year.

Isaiah = repeated 12x

- Isaiah 42:8 **I AM THE LORD** that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.
- Isaiah 43:3 For **I AM THE LORD** your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior: I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for you.
- Isaiah 43:11 I, even **I, AM THE LORD**; and beside me there is no savior.
- Isaiah 43:15 **I AM THE LORD** your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.
- Isaiah 44:24 Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, and he that formed you from the womb, **I AM THE LORD** that makes all things; that stretches forth the heavens alone; that spreads abroad the earth by myself;
- Isaiah 45:5 **I AM THE LORD** and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded you, though you have not known me:
- Isaiah 45:6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. **I AM THE LORD** and there is none else.
- Isaiah 45:18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he has established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: **I AM THE LORD**; and there is none else.
- Isaiah 48:17 Thus saith the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; **I AM THE LORD** thy God which teaches you to profit, which leads you by the way that you should go.
- Isaiah 49:23 And kings shall be your nursing fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers: they shall bow down to you with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of your feet; and you will know that **I AM THE LORD** for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.
- Isaiah 51:15 But **I AM THE LORD** your God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is his name.

3. “I Will” – God Affirms His Promises – 6:6-8 and 7:3-4

There are seven “I Will’s” in these words to Moses. God is making an everlasting promise to Moses. To this point Moses has been leaning on his own abilities, education, and charisma. God is emphasizing that that it is “*not by might nor by power*” that God will deliver the Israelites but by His mighty hand and outstretched arm.

Chapter 6:6-8

1. *I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.*
2. *I will free you from being slaves to them, and*
3. *I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.*
4. *I will take you as my own people, and*
5. *I will be your God.*
6. *I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.*
7. *I will give it to you as a possession. **I am the LORD.**”*

Then **you will know** that **I am the LORD** your God,
who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

Chapter 7:1-7

1. *I will harden Pharaoh’s heart*
2. *I will multiply my miraculous signs and wonders*
3. *I will lay my hand on Egypt with mighty acts of judgment*
4. *I will bring out by divisions, my people the Israelites*

And the ***Egyptians will know that I am the LORD***
when I ***stretch out my hand against Egypt.***

God says “**I am the LORD**” with a mighty hand and outstretched arm to prove that “**I will...**” *do all that I have promised.*”

“I AM THE LORD...I WILL DO ALL I PLEASE.”

In my recent studies in Genesis, Exodus, Jeremiah, and Isaiah have reminded me of the powerful name of the Lord. God repeats it over and over "I AM THE LORD!" and following closely after the declaration of "I AM" comes "I WILL." ---Why? Because the LORD, who IS, WAS, and ALWAYS WILL BE, wants you to know that "He is the same yesterday, today and forever." His promises are true, just as He is true and faithful.

God’s promises to Israel are always true, though they delay, they will come true. Too often we too, begin to think that the Lord has failed us or that he didn’t fulfill His promise to save the day. God wants Moses to know that **HE DOES NOT LIE and HE DOES NOT FAIL.**

- **Numbers 23:19** *God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?*
- **Psalms 145:13b** *The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.*
- **2 Corinthians 1:20** *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.*

Listen to a few of the LORD's Promises to Abraham and His Seed

Genesis 13:14-17 14.

The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.

Genesis 15:13-16, 17-21

Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. 17 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates-- the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."

Genesis 26:3-4

Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed,

Genesis 28:13-15

*There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "**I am the LORD**, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and I will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."*

Genesis 46:1-4

*So Israel set out with all that was his, and when he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night and said, "Jacob! Jacob!" "Here I am," he replied. "**I am God, the God of your father,**" he said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again. And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes."*

Exodus 23:30-31

Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land. "I will establish your borders from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the desert to the River. I will hand over to you the people who live in the land and you will drive them out before you.

Jeremiah 33:19-26

The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: "This is what the LORD says: 'If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night no longer come at their appointed time, then my covenant with David my servant--and my covenant with the Levites who are priests ministering before me--can be broken and David will no longer have a descendant to reign on his throne. I will make the descendants of David my servant and the Levites who minister before me as countless as the stars of the sky and as measureless as the sand on the seashore.'"

Listen to a few of the LORD's "I will's" to you and me...

Isaiah – God says, "I Will ...

- *Be with you - Isa 41:10*
- *Answer you - Isa 41:10*
- *Help you - Isa 41:10*
- *Hold you - Isa 41:10*
- *Hold your hand - Isa 41:13*
- *Walk with you thru fire - Isa 43:1-2*
- *Make a way in the desert - Isa 43:19*
- *Blot out your transgressions - Isa 43:25*
- *Pour water on the thirsty - Isa 44:3*
- *Give you treasures - Isa 45:3*
- *Carry you - Isa 46:4*
- *Do all I please - Isa 46:10*
- *Answer you - Isa 49:8*
- *Not forget you - Isa 49:15*
- *Contend for you - Isa 49:25*
- *Give you beauty for ashes - Isa 61:1-3*
- *Act on your behalf - Isa 64:3-4*

Jeremiah - God says "I will...

- *Answer you - Jer. 33:3*
- *Heal you - Jer. 33:6*
- *Forgive you - Jer. 33:8*
- *Restore you - Jer. 33:11*
- *Fulfill my promises to you - Jer. 33:14*
- *Be your righteousness - Jer. 33:16*
- *Prosper you - Jer. 33:26*

*"My purpose will stand,
and I will do all I please...*

*What I have said, that I will bring about;
What I have planned, that I will do."*

Isaiah 46:10-11

Application

God's Reputation – Mighty God

The Egyptians had over 3000 gods. Pharaoh said it well, "I do not know The Lord." – He knew over 200 major deities he sacrificed to and prayed to. He didn't need another god. He had plenty. But God, JEHOVAH, the I AM was proving a difference between himself and the gods of the Egyptians. God was introducing himself to Pharaoh, the Egyptians and to his people. His strong hand and outstretched arm was an important part of proving He was not a god afar off, or a theological god, or a fantasy god, HE WAS GOD ALMIGHTY! So today, God does not want to be a god afar off. He doesn't want to be a theoretical god, or a theological god. He wants you to know Him as the REAL GOD, God Almighty who proves himself with his mighty hand and outstretched arm.

God's Name is Exalted Above All Gods

When the Egyptians had 3,000 gods they probably thought they had enough. But in the next chapter we will see that God's purpose is to destroy the gods of Egypt. Take some time to read over the names and descriptions of the gods of the Egyptians in next week's lesson. It will be very insightful. The God of Israel is not just one more god to put on the wall. He is the ONLY TRUE GOD. There is no other. In our materials online we give you a study of what the Bible says about idols and the gods of the nations. Be sure to read through next week's material and consider the greatness of our God and that all the other gods of this world are just make believe, they are idols. One of the Hebrew words for idols means "nothing" or "empty."

God's Promises are YES and AMEN

God is a God of promises. He fulfills His promises. It is part of His claim to fame. No other God can fulfill any promises. No other God can speak. Only Jehovah speaks to His people and assures them of His intent and purposes for them. Take some time this week to go over some of the great promises of God in Scripture and be sure to memorize a few, post them on your refrigerator, or highlight them in your Bible. God is faithful. Though His answers may delay, they will come through in the end.

Discussion Questions

The purpose of these questions is to start a conversation and sharing of our own experiences and thoughts on the subject.

1. Have you ever seen a miracle? Has God ever dramatically answered prayer for you?
2. How often do you retell that story? Why don't you tell that story?
3. A great personal exercise is ask the Lord to help you remember all the miracles and answers to prayer you have experienced and then write them down in a book of remembrance.
4. Do a word study of the word "remember" as used in Scripture.
5. Do you ever get tired of waiting for God to fulfill a promise he made to you? Tell us about it. How long have you been waiting?
6. Write down 10 personal promises you have claimed or are claiming from God's word.