

Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death
Exodus 6:1 – 7:13
Berean Baptist Church
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INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been called to do something hard? Has a plan ever started out badly and gotten worse? This is where Moses is now! His first attempt to speak with Pharaoh was a disaster. Moses went into Pharaoh to free Israel, but now Israel is under harder bondage, in deeper despair and filled with anger at Moses. Moses is distraught and pours out his heart honestly before God

This is not the first time that Moses questioned his calling, and it will not be the last time. God has an answer for Moses, it may not be the answer that he expects, but it is the answer he needs. Moses must hope in God. When times are darkest, when no one else believes, we must hope in God.

You must hope in the Lord and bravely be about the work that He had called you to!

Exodus 6:1-9 The God of Our Salvation

Vs 3 Abraham and Sarah (Gen 14:22; 16:2), Isaac (Gen 26:22), and Jacob (Gen 27:20) all used the divine name, so how is it that “by My name LORD I was not known to them?”

God's people begin using the name "I AM" for the Lord during Adam's lifetime; they may have learned this from Adam (Gen 4:25-26). But to use a name is different than to have a name declared to you. By declaring His name for the first time in Scripture, God introduces a new level of revelation to mankind. Before these events, only a few people knew God, and they knew Him from far-off. But now God will declare His power to the Nations, He will answer Pharaoh's snide question: "who is the LORD?" And God will be personally present with multitudes of His people.

God is saying that although His people may have known about his special name before, now He himself was declaring it.

Vs 4-8 The “I” in Vs 5 is very emphatic “I Myself have heard and remembered.” God has declared His name inaugurating new dispensation where His presence will be known more fully by His people. Soon Israel will see God working in a very personal way, look at the what the Lord says next...

I am the Lord(6)
 I will bring you(6)
 I will rescue you(6)
 I will redeem you(6)
 I will take you(7)
 I will be your God(7),
then you will know that I am the Lord (7)

God declares His name LORD, pronounces his four mighty works of redemption so that He will be their God and they will know Him by that name: the LORD. Even today the traditional Passover supper involves drinking four cups; one for each of the four works of redemption in this passage.

Vs 8-13 “I swore” – literally "I raised my hand" again, a very personal picture of a God who makes and keeps covenant. Moses tells this all to the people, but Israel is too deep in the bitter hardship to listen.

Moses must press on, but he is also doubting.

Moses fears and the people won't listen, but God is working.

You must be bravely about the work of the Lord because God works and keeps promises whether or not people listen.

Exodus 16:14-25 The God Who Is Faithful Throughout Generations

Vs 14-16 This genealogy gives the family of Reuben and Simon as the elder sons but its main focus is on the family of Levi. This generation establishes that both Moses and Aaron are of Levi. It shows that the nation has been preserved through dark days and that God still knows and cares for individuals.

Vs 17-25 Genealogies usually, or always, show God's faithfulness. Levi's generation went into Egypt fulfilling the prophecy that God gave to Abraham in Genesis 15... "Vs 16 But in the fourth generation, they shall come hither again:" It has now been four generations and the Exodus is happening according to God's perfect timing.

Hope in the Lord because He is faithful to His promises throughout all generations.

Exodus 6:26-7:13 The Battle Begins

Vs 26-7:7 Now that we have been reminded of God's promises and the history of Israel through the genealogy, the narrative picks back up by repeating the situation. Moses now has authority, as though he were God, to afflict or relieve Egypt with plagues. But He is only to speak as God commands him.

Hope in the Lord because he will use evil and resistance for good.

Vs 7:8-7:13 Compare the sign of Aaron and the sign of the Egyptians. Aaron one man with one staff, the Egyptians were many with many staffs. Aaron simply threw his rod down and it became a snake, the Egyptians had to work some sort of enchantment to produce a similar effect.

And finally, Aaron's snake devoured the Egyptian's. Do not be dismayed with evil shows counterfeit power because God's power is greater!

By ancient tradition, the two chief Egyptian magicians were named Jannes and Jambres (2Timothy 3:8).

CONCLUSION

God still calls His people to stand against the world, to serve Him in the face of resistance, and to declare His message of freedom to hard-hearted people. There will be times when you are discouraged, there will be times when those around you are discouraged, and there will be times when evil stubbornly resists. In all of these hard things never forget that God knows, cares, and goes with you!

When terror overtakes you, focus on the Lord and do the next right thing He has put in your power to do. When terror overtakes those that you serve with, declare God's goodness press onward. When evil confronts you head-on, you must stand knowing that God fights with you.

You must hope in the Lord and bravely be about the work that He had called you to!