

God Promises Deliverance, Exodus 4-7:13 (August 7, 2022)

Recap the situation:

Israelites have been in Egypt for about 400 years, are now a slave nation within Egypt, and are so numerous that the Egyptians fear they may support some enemy and defeat them.

To reduce the Israelite population, Pharaoh commands that all Israelite male babies are to be killed at birth – and commands the Egyptians (midwives) to assist.

When Moses is born, his mother puts him in a basket on the Nile, where he is then rescued by Pharaoh’s daughter, and raised in the royal palace.

Moses kills an Egyptian overseer and flees to the land of Midian.

Moses marries Zipporah, daughter of Jethro (the priest of Midian), has a son named Gershom, and takes the job of tending his father-in-law’s sheep.

One day, on Mount Horeb, he sees a burning bush that is not consumed (acacia bushes, ignited by lightening or caravan fires was not unusual, but this was). It is God!! God tells Moses to take off his sandals.

God says: “I have seen the affliction of my people...

“I have heard their cry...

“I know their sufferings...

“I have come down to deliver them...

Moses questions God	#1	Ex 3:11	Who am I (why me)?
	Answer	Ex 3:12	
<i>¹² And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”</i>			
	#2	Ex 3:13	What name shall I tell the people?
	Answer	Ex 3:14	
<i>¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” (Also could translate as I am <u>what</u> I am; I am <u>because</u> I am, or I will be what I cause to be.)</i>			
	#3	Ex 4:1	How can I prove that the real God sent me? - do you feel that your life does not measure up to your testimony?

	Answer	Ex 4:2-9	(3 signs) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turn Moses' rod into a snake & back into a rod. 2. Infect his hand with leprosy and then cleanse it. 3. Change the water of the Nile into blood.
<p>² The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod."³ And he said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. ⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, "Put out your hand, and take it by the tail"—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand—⁵ "that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you." ⁶ Again, the LORD said to him, "Put your hand into your bosom." And he put his hand into his bosom; and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, as white as snow. ⁷ Then God said, "Put your hand back into your bosom." So he put his hand back into his bosom; and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. ⁸ "If they will not believe you," God said, "or heed the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. ⁹ If they will not believe even these two signs or heed your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it upon the dry ground; and the water which you shall take from the Nile will become blood upon the dry ground."</p>			
	#4	Ex 4:10	I do not speak well (in Chapter 6 Moses refers to "uncircumcised lips," which means stammering – speech impediment)
	Answer	Ex 4:11-12	I made your mouth; I will be with your mouth and teach it what to say.
<p>¹¹ Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him dumb, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?" ¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."</p>			
	#5	Ex 4:13	Please send someone else
	Answer	Ex 4:14-17	God got mad and said Moses' brother, Aaron should go with him
<p>¹⁴ Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well; and behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you he will be glad in his heart. ¹⁵ And you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. ¹⁶ He shall speak for you to the people; and he shall be a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. ¹⁷ And you shall take in your hand this rod, with which you shall do the signs."</p>			

	What excuses do we make?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No time - Insufficient money - What will others think? - ... <p>We want to be spectators and recipients, not actors and participants.</p>
Preparing to meet Pharaoh	Moses leaves Jethro	Ex 4:18-20	Moses followed protocol: gets permission from his employer & patriarch of the family.
	How do you explain Pharaoh's "hard heart"?	Ex 4:21-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jews considered the heart as the base of intelligence, or will; not emotions. - "Hardened" refers to strong/stubborn, heavy/unresponsive, and severe/obstinate - Despite Man's poor choices, God is sovereign and His plan will be accomplished
	Why do you think God almost killed Moses?	Ex 4:24-26	Apparently Moses' wife did not want their son circumcised and Moses had not been strong and insisted on fulfilling God's requirements.
God trains Aaron		Ex 4:27-31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Imagine the meeting between brothers who have not seen each other in years. - How would you respond if your brother/sister told you of a vision from God and they wanted your help in freeing the slaves in Darfur?

²⁷ The LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went, and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. ²⁸ And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which he had sent him, and all the signs which he had charged him to do. ²⁹ Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. ³⁰ And Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. ³¹ 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.

	To whom did they demonstrate & were they convinced?		The elders of the people. Yes; and when they heard that the Lord “had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshipped.”
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The meeting with Pharaoh	Did this go well?	Ex 5:1-9	Not at all well:
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Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.’”² But Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should heed his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover I will not let Israel go.”³ Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us; let us go, we pray, a three days’ journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest he fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword.”⁴ But the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get to your burdens.”⁵ And Pharaoh said, “Behold, the people of the land are now many and you make them rest from their burdens!”⁶ The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen,⁷ “You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as heretofore; let them go and gather straw for themselves.⁸ But the number of bricks which they made heretofore you shall lay upon them, you shall by no means lessen it; for they are idle; therefore they cry, ‘Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.’⁹ Let heavier work be laid upon the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words.”

	What was Pharaoh’s response?		Let them make bricks without straw
	Why did Pharaoh punish them thusly?	Ex 5:15-21	If you have so much time that you want to go out into the desert to worship your god, then I’ll fill your time with work.
	How did the people respond?		They turned against Moses
	What did Moses do?	Ex 5:22-23	Questioned God: why did you ever send me & now you have not delivered your people as you promised?

	What is God's response?	Ex 6:1-8	God reaffirmed His promise of deliverance & even said Pharaoh will <u>drive</u> the people out.
<p>¹ <i>But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, yea, with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."</i></p> <p>² <i>And God said to Moses, "I am the LORD. ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty,^[a] but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. ⁴ I also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they dwelt as sojourners. ⁵ Moreover I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold in bondage and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶ Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and <u>I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment, ⁷ and 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 has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'</u></i>"</p>			
	How does this compare with Paul's words to Romans re God's wrath on the unrighteous?	Rom 1:18-25	What are your thoughts here?
<p>¹⁸ <i>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;</i></p> <p>¹⁹ <i>Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.</i></p> <p>²⁰ <i>For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:</i></p> <p>²¹ <i>Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.</i></p> <p>²² <i>Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,</i></p>			

²³ *And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

²⁴ *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

²⁵ *Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

Moses tries again	How do the Israelites respond?	Ex 6:9-13	“they did not listen to Moses because of their broken spirit and their cruel bondage.” If the children of Israel won’t listen to me, why will Pharaoh?
	What did God do?		¹³ <i>But the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, and gave them a charge to the people of Israel and to Pharaoh king of Egypt to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt.</i> - Gave Moses a charge to the people and to Pharaoh to bring the people out of Egypt.
Next meeting with Pharaoh	God’ preface	Ex 7:2-5	God told Moses to go back to Pharaoh to demand release of the people, but God will harden Pharaoh’s heart so the God will have an opportunity to show off His power.
	The meeting	Exodus 7:6-13	

⁶ *And Moses and Aaron did so; they did as the LORD commanded them.* ⁷ *Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.*

⁸ *And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,* ⁹ *“When Pharaoh says to you, ‘Prove yourselves by working a miracle,’ then you shall say to Aaron, ‘Take your rod and cast it down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent.’”* ¹⁰ *So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did as the LORD commanded; Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent.* ¹¹ *Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers; and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same by their secret arts.* ¹² *For every man cast down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods.* ¹³ *Still Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them; as the LORD had said.*

Comparison (paraphrased from Jack Finnegan, *Let My People Go*, Harper and Row, New York, 1963, pp. 45-46):

Pharaoh	Moses
Enslaved a people	Liberated people (concerned for human justice, human relations)
Ruled a people	Led a people
Not unreligious – it gave him privilege	Had a knowledge of the will of God

Recap:	Who raised the issues / concerns?		Moses
	Who resolved the problems?		God
	Name other examples of God-empowered people		- David vs. Goliath - Sampson - Elijah vs. Ahab & Jezebel - Paul vs. Christian-stoning Jews
	What hardens hearts?		Daily decisions; what you decide today influences the choices you will have available tomorrow and what you decide on them.
	What does this tell you?	John 14:12-14	

¹² *Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.* ¹³ *And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.* ¹⁴ *You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*

God doesn't call the able; He enables the called.

References:

1. Dunnam, Maxie, "Exodus," from Mastering the Old Testament, Lloyd J. Ogilvie, General Editor, Word Publishing, Dallas, TX, 1987.
2. Harper Study Bible, Revised Standard Version, Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, MI, 1985.

3. NIV Bible on-line: www.Biblegateway.com

Bible Readings:

1)Exodus 3:12	2)Exodus 3:14
3)Exodus 4:2-9	4)Exodus 4:11-12
5)Exodus 4:14-17	6)Exodus 4:27-31
7)Exodus 7:6-13	8)John 14:12-14