



EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 6:1-13

1 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, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land." **2** God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the Lord. **3** I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, 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 lived as sojourners. **5** Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. **6** Say therefore to the people 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 slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. **7** I will take you to be 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** I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.'" **9** Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

10 So the Lord said to Moses, **11** "Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land." **12** But Moses said to the Lord, "Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?" **13** But the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt.



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DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 6:1-13

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As a young teen, I accepted the promise of God that he would save me through Jesus Christ, but I didn't fully believe that he would.

I am a middle child in a family of five children. I was not the first; I was not the baby. I didn't get the best grades or excel in any particular sport or activity. My three sisters were, and are still more beautiful than I. We were in a handful of families that lived well below the poverty line inside a prominent and wealthy community, which made it hard to fit in at school and socially. As a teen, I joined a gang in an attempt to bring my own sense of social justice. When that ended badly, I moved a few thousand miles away and started a family. Amazingly true to His character, God kept His promise. He called me back to Him (and to Texas) when I was 30. In all the years between, I was constantly searching for who I was.

I only tell you all this so you can see how much I identify with Moses. He was a Hebrew boy, raised in Egyptian castles, who attempted to define justice for himself, and who finally ran away from it all to start a new life. Losing his identity in all the years in between, he even failed to circumcise his son as a Hebrew (Exodus 4:25). So, I'm not so hard on Moses for his sixth objection (verse 12). I get it. And boy, have I ever felt the feeling of being "unfit" for the task that God has called me to. This is especially true when I see acts of obedience to bring people together that quickly fizzle (verse 9).

However, the heart of this story and mine is in God's covenant to save humanity (Genesis 12:3). It is not my covenant, or the people's covenant, but God's covenant. He never fails on His promise. He repeats "I will" seven times in verses 6-8, reassuring us that He will keep His promise even as we fail to keep ours (2 Timothy 2:13). The paragraph ends with the LORD giving Moses and Aaron a "charge" (verse 13). No more excuses; it's time for business.

As Christ followers, we can accept the challenge. According to 1 Peter 2:9, God has fulfilled His promises and we are to "proclaim His excellencies because once we were not His people; but now we are God's people." We are able to do this even now because of His covenant, not because of our abilities (Hebrews 9:15). Because He is with us (Exodus 3:12), we have the privilege to proclaim His good news (Luke 4:18). His covenant existed before me; His covenant will exist after me. Therefore, the rock-solid place for my identity to lie is in trusting Him.



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Questions:

1. Have you been holding onto your identity in family, social status, career, or vocation instead of in God's promises?
2. Ask a friend or coworker what they think you love most. Take that answer and prayerfully consider if you have misplaced at least a part of your identity. Share with your Journey Group or other biblical community..
3. If you ran into an unbelieving friend from school, would you be fearful to share the gospel message with them? Why?