

February 25 - Exodus 6

Chapter five ends with this statement from Moses, "You have not delivered Your people at all." Moses was right in tracing the afflictions which had come upon the Hebrews to God Himself, for all things are "of Him and through Him" (Rom. 11:36); but He certainly did wrong in questioning the Almighty and in murmuring against the outworking of His plans. But it is written, "For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust", and again, "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy" (Ps. 103:14,8). Fully was that manifested on this occasion. Instead of chastising His servant, the Lord encouraged him; instead of setting him aside, He renewed his commission; instead of slaying him, He revealed Himself in all His grace.

The Lord made no answer to Moses' impatient queries but re-affirmed His immutable purpose. The defiant Pharaoh might insist I will not let Israel go (5:2), but the Most High declared that he should, and that he would even drive them out of his land. There was no need for Moses to be alarmed or even discouraged: the counsel of God would stand, and He would do all His pleasure (Isa. 46:50). This is a sure resting-place for the heart of each of us today, and for every Christian too. No matter how much the Enemy may roar and rage against us, he is quite unable to thwart the Almighty — "There is no wisdom, nor understanding, nor counsel against the Lord" (Prov. 25:30). This is the high ground that the Lord first took in encouraging the drooping heart of His despondent servant. God said, 'For under compulsion (with a strong hand) he (Pharaoh) will let them go, and under compulsion he will drive them out of the land" (v.1). There were no "ifs" or "perhaps" about it. The event was absolutely certain because God had eternally decreed it. Similar is the assurance God gives His servants today: "So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth. It will not return unto Me empty, but it will accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the matter for which I sent it" (Isa. 55:11).

There is much for us to learn in this. We defeat ourselves by being occupied with the difficulties of the way. God has made known to us the triumphant outcome of good over evil, and instead of being harassed by the fiery darts which the Evil One now hurls against us, we ought to rest on the assuring promise that "the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (Rom. 16:20). Just as the covenant God made with Abraham guaranteed "a heritage" (Ex. 6:8), so the covenant which the Father made with the Son (Hebrews 7:22) has an inheritance connected with it for us, even an inheritance which is "imperishable and undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven" for us (1 Pet. 1:4). May our faith so grasp this truth now that we shall live in the enjoyment of it.

Beloved so much of our confidence, peace, and trust in the Lord is to be based on the reality that He is a covenant keeping God. Look at how verse 5 ends, "...and I have remembered my covenant." Then He begins with seven proclamations intended to encourage and strengthen. "Therefore to the sons of Israel, I am the Lord, and (1) I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and (2) I will deliver you from their bondage, and (3) I will redeem you with a outstretched arm, and with great judgments: And (4) I will take you for My people, and (5) I will be your God; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And (6) I will bring you in unto the land, which I swore to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and (7) I will give it you for a possession: I am the Lord" (vv. 6-8). Again, don't miss that it is because of His covenantal promises that we can count on the ultimate outcome. When Jesus told His disciples to get into the boat and go to the other side of the lake, they had no reason to doubt that they would make it to the other side (Luke 8:22-25). As the story unfolds a fierce storm arises and their faith wavers terribly. Jesus said, "What is wrong with your faith? Didn't I tell you we would get to the other side? His Word is enough!