

Moses – part 6

The Lord made Moses a god to Pharaoh
by Victor Torres

The Egyptian king reacted severely after Moses and Aaron confronted him and told him that he must let God's people go. The Pharaoh is a symbol of our old man who will not let go of his throne without a fight. The Lord must subdue this old man. He is the only one who can do this. Without Him, we will continue to be a slave of our flesh.

Exo 5:14 (CEV) The bosses beat the men in charge of the slaves and said, "Why didn't you force the slaves to make as many bricks yesterday and today as they did before?"

Exo 5:15 Finally, the men in charge of the slaves went to the king and said, "Why are you treating us like this?"

Exo 5:16 No one brings us any straw, but we are still ordered to make the same number of bricks. We are beaten with whips, and your own people are to blame."

Exo 5:17 The king replied, "You are lazy--nothing but lazy! That's why you keep asking me to let you go and sacrifice to your LORD.

Exo 5:18 Get back to work! You won't be given straw, but you must still make the same number of bricks."

Exo 5:19 The men knew they were in deep trouble when they were ordered to make the same number of bricks each day.

Exo 5:20 After they left the king, they went to see Moses and Aaron, who had been waiting for them.

Exo 5:21 Then the men said, "We hope the LORD will punish both of you for making the king and his officials hate us. Now they even have an excuse to kill us."

Exo 5:22 Moses left them and prayed, "Our LORD, why have you brought so much trouble on your people? Is that why you sent me here?"

Exo 5:23 Ever since you told me to speak to the king, he has caused nothing but trouble for these people. And you haven't done a thing to help."

While we continue to suffer under the rule of our flesh, we all tend to forget about God's promises to us. Like Moses, we all accuse God of doing nothing to help: "You haven't done a thing to help".

But like Moses, we will all witness God's mighty hand.

Exo 6:1 (ESV) 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."

Exo 6:2 God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD.

God is showing us His mercy when He destroys our old man with His mighty hands.

Psa 136:10 (MKJV) To Him who struck Egypt in their first-born (our old man); for His mercy *endures* forever;

Psa 136:11 and brought Israel (our new man) out from among them, for His mercy *endures* forever;

Psa 136:12 with a strong hand, and a stretched out arm; for His mercy *endures* forever;

This is how the story of Moses, and the nation of Israel, pertains to us and how God works in our lives. Everything that happened to them is a symbol of what happens to us. This includes their suffering as we also suffer when our flesh rules us. But you'll notice the phrase being repeated in that whole chapter of Psalms. His mercy endures forever. This means He is doing everything out of His love for us, not to be a mean and merciless God.

Exo 6:2 (KJV) And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I *am* the LORD:

Exo 6:3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by *the name of God Almighty*, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

This verse is taken by some and made into a whole religion. And that's how many of the false religions of this world are formed; by taking one verse in the Bible and basing their beliefs out of it. They don't consider the whole message of the Bible, and so they make wrong conclusions of what these verses are trying to say. The point being made here is that God reveals His character, His name, to us more and more as we get to know Him better through His words. The point is not whether what to call our church.

Exo 6:4 (CEV) I made an agreement and promised them the land of Canaan, where they were living as foreigners.

Exo 6:5 Now I have seen how the people of Israel are suffering because of the Egyptians, and I will keep my promise.

Exo 6:6 Here is my message for Israel: "I am the LORD! And with my mighty power I will punish the Egyptians and free you from slavery.

Exo 6:7 I will accept you as my people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I was the one who rescued you from the Egyptians.

Exo 6:8 I will bring you into the land that I solemnly promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and it will be yours. I am the LORD!"

Exo 6:9 When Moses told this to the Israelites, they were too discouraged and mistreated to believe him

And we go through this phase also. We get so discouraged that we can't hear those messengers sent by God to encourage us. But the Lord finishes everything He starts.

Exo 6:10 (CEV) Then the LORD told Moses

Exo 6:11 to demand that the king of Egypt let the Israelites leave.

Exo 6:12 But Moses replied, "I'm not a powerful speaker. If the Israelites won't listen to me, why should the king of Egypt?"

Exo 6:13 But the LORD sent Aaron and Moses with a message for the Israelites and for the king; he also ordered Aaron and Moses to free the people from Egypt.

When we bring God's words to people, we are like Moses and Aaron. We are freeing them from a spiritual prison. It is nerve-racking for some of us to speak about the words of God, but we are commanded to be ready to give an answer when someone asks us what we believe.

1Pe 3:14 (CEV) Even if you have to suffer for doing good things, God will bless you. So **stop being afraid and don't worry about what people might do.**

1Pe 3:15 Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. **Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope.**

1Pe 3:16 **Give a kind and respectful answer** and keep your conscience clear. This way you will make people ashamed for saying bad things about your good conduct as a follower of Christ.

The apostle Peter wrote all these verses because he knew that like Moses, we will be afraid on how people will react to our beliefs. We all naturally want to fit in and so when we see that what we believe is different, our tendency is to hide it. The apostle Peter also warns us against the opposite side, of being too pushy about our beliefs. He says give a kind and respectful answer, and most importantly "keep your conscience clear". This means always act according to

what you believe. Actions speak louder than words. Your good conduct is your preaching to them.

In the beginning of the book of Exodus, we learned that Moses is a descendant of Levi, one of the sons Jacob. The following verses trace Aaron's and Moses' relation to Jacob.

Exo 6:14 (CEV) The following men were the heads of their ancestral clans: The sons of Reuben, Jacob's oldest son, were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

Exo 6:15 The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman.

Exo 6:16 Levi lived to be one hundred thirty-seven; his sons were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

Exo 6:17 Gershon's sons were Libni and Shimei.

Exo 6:18 Kohath lived to be one hundred thirty-three; his sons were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

Exo 6:19 Merari's sons were Mahli and Mushi. All of the above were from the Levi tribe.

Exo 6:20 Amram lived to be one hundred thirty-seven. He married his father's sister Jochebed, and they had two sons, Aaron and Moses.

Exo 6:21 Izhar's sons were Korah, Nepheg, and Zichri.

Exo 6:22 Uzziel's sons were Mishael, Elzaphan, and Sithri.

Exo 6:23 Aaron married Elisheba. She was the daughter of Amminadab and the sister of Nahshon; they had four sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

Exo 6:24 Korah's sons were Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph.

Exo 6:25 Aaron's son Eleazar married one of Putiel's daughters, and their son was Phinehas. This ends the list of those who were the heads of clans in the Levi tribe.

Exo 6:26 The LORD had commanded Aaron and Moses to lead every family and tribe of Israel out of Egypt,

Why did God want all these ancestry to be traced? Does He want us to focus on physical things? Is it really important from what race you came from? To God it is not. "The flesh profits nothing" we are told in Joh 6:63. His words are mainly

spiritual in nature.

The point God is trying to teach us in the verses above is in verse 26. God is teaching us that He chooses certain men, in this case Aaron and Moses, to lead God's people.

Exo 6:26 (CEV) The LORD had commanded Aaron and Moses to lead every family and tribe of Israel out of Egypt,

Why is this an important point? Because there comes a time in our life that we doubt those people chosen by God to lead us. We don't want to be led by anyone; we want to be the leader. Korah, who is mentioned above, rebelled against Moses and Aaron at one point and was gravely punished. Aaron and Miriam at one point also questioned their brother Moses, and they were also swiftly punished.

Exo 6:27 (CEV) and so they ordered the king of Egypt to set the people of Israel free.

Exo 6:28 When the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt,

Exo 6:29 he said, "I am the LORD. Tell the king of Egypt everything I say to you."

Exo 6:30 But Moses answered, "You know I am a very poor speaker, and the king will never listen to me."

Despite Moses' self-doubt, the Lord reassured Moses of what will happen.

Exo 7:1 (KJV) And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

Another teacher in the body has written an excellent article about this verse and I encourage all the parents who are listening to read it. It's called "Bring Up Your Children in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord". It's a great article that teaches us that just as Moses is a god to Pharaoh, parents are gods to their children who needs to be patient with them just as God has been patient with us during our rebellious years. In the next verses, we will again see that it is God who is making the Pharaoh stubborn, so it is a good reminder for us parents to always remember that when our children are disobeying us, it is really God who is making them this way.

Exo 7:1 The LORD said: I am going to let your brother Aaron speak for you. He will tell your message to the king, just as a prophet speaks my message to the people.

Exo 7:2 Tell Aaron everything I say to you, and he will order the king to let my people leave his country.

Exo 7:3 – 4 But I will make the king so stubborn that he won't listen to you. He won't listen even when I do many terrible things to him and his nation. Then I will bring a final punishment on Egypt, and the king will let Israel's families and tribes go.

Exo 7:5 When this happens, the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.

Exo 7:6 Moses and Aaron obeyed the LORD

Exo 7:7 and spoke to the king. At the time, Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron was eighty-three.

Exo 7:8 – 9 The LORD said, "Moses, when the king asks you and Aaron to perform a miracle, command Aaron to throw his walking stick down in front of the king, and it will turn into a snake."

Exo 7:10 Moses and Aaron went to the king and his officials and did exactly as the LORD had commanded--Aaron threw the stick down, and it turned into a snake.

Exo 7:11 Then the king called in the wise men and the magicians, who used their secret powers to do the same thing--

Exo 7:12 they threw down sticks that turned into snakes. But Aaron's snake swallowed theirs.

Exo 7:13 The king behaved just as the LORD had said and stubbornly refused to listen.

Exo 7:14 The LORD said to Moses: The Egyptian king stubbornly refuses to change his mind and let the people go.

Exo 7:15 Tomorrow morning take the stick that turned into a snake, then wait beside the Nile River for the king.

Exo 7:16 Tell him, "The LORD God of the Hebrews sent me to order you to release his people, so they can worship him in the desert. But until now, you have paid no attention.

Exo 7:17 "The LORD is going to do something to show you that he really is the LORD. I will strike the Nile with this stick, and the water will turn into blood.

Exo 7:18 The fish will die, the river will stink, and none of you Egyptians will be able to drink the water."

Exo 7:19 Moses, then command Aaron to hold his stick over the water. And when he does, every drop of water in Egypt will turn into blood, including rivers, canals, ponds, and even the water in buckets and jars.

Exo 7:20 Moses and Aaron obeyed the LORD. Aaron held out his stick, then struck the Nile, as the king and his officials watched. The river turned into blood,

Exo 7:21 the fish died, and the water smelled so bad that none of the Egyptians could drink it. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.

Exo 7:22 But the Egyptian magicians used their secret powers to do the same thing. **The king did just as the LORD had said--he stubbornly refused to listen.**

When our children refuse to listen to us, we must remember that it is the Lord who has given them this rebellious nature. But it doesn't mean that we should not punish them. We clearly see how the Lord punished the Pharaoh through Moses. However, it does mean that we should exercise self-control and mercy as