

Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 10:26 PM  
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Session on Exodus 6:1-7:7

"God spoke further to Moses, and said to him, 'I am the LORD; and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty (El Shaddai), but by My name, LORD (Yahweh), I did not make Myself known to them. I also established My covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they sojourned. Furthermore, I have heard the groaning of the sons of Israel, because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant!'" (Exodus 6:2-5)

As we approach Exodus 6, things aren't looking so good! The people (the children of Israel) are disappointed that Moses and Aaron hadn't helped them! Moses is disappointed that God hadn't delivered the people! Pharaoh hadn't reacted the way Moses had thought he would! It was time to re-group! (Constable called it "a desperate scenario with a pessimistic backdrop"!)

But Exodus 6 turns it all around! MacArthur gives it the caption: "God promises action!"

In verses 6-9, He gave seven promises (or "I wills") to Moses which He told him, specifically, to pass on to the "sons of Israel"!

1. "I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians"
2. "I will deliver you from their bondage"
3. "I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgment"
4. "I will take you for My people"
5. "I will be your God; and you shall know that I am your God"
6. "I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"
7. "And I will give it to you for a possession"

And, "book-ended" around these seven promises is a declaration from God about who He is, so they could get to know Him better, and trust Him more fully! "I am the LORD!" Yahweh! The God who had appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and had established His covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan! The eternal God now making Himself known to them, as never before, by the name of "Yahweh"! And in such a way to denote the absolute certainty of the fulfillment of His promises!

Peter Enns writes that "the significance of the name (Yahweh) is going to be understood at this pivotal time in Israel's history"! But apparently it had not yet "sunk in" the heads and hearts of the "sons of Israel" since, verse 9 says, they didn't listen to Moses (when he spoke to them of God's promises), "on account of their despondency and cruel bondage"!

Nor had it yet "sunk in," apparently, to Moses! For when God commanded him to once again go and command Pharaoh to "let the people go," he again expressed reluctance and doubt! "If the people didn't listen to him, why would Pharaoh?" Besides, "my lips are uncircumcised"! (The "circumcision issue" had already almost cost Moses his life--and his wife--as we learned in Exodus 4:24-26!)

It is interesting that "the LORD's" command to Moses, to "speak to Pharaoh"--and that Moses' reference to his "uncircumcised lips" (in verses 10-12)--would be repeated (again), perhaps for emphasis (in verses 28-29), but (strangely) separated by a "selective genealogy" of the "heads of Israel"!

The selective genealogy includes only three of the twelve sons of Jacob (or tribes of Israel), included apparently to establish the credibility of Moses and Aaron, through Levi, as God's divinely appointed messengers (or prophets) to the children of Israel! But the association of the "sons of Levi" with the "sons of Reuben," and the "sons of Simeon," raises questions about the "unsavory background" of all three tribal fathers, as described by Jacob in the "blessings" and "prophecies" he ascribed to each of them before he died (in Genesis 49:3-7). Perhaps the real reason for this digression in the text is to emphasize (as MacArthur notes) that God's choice of Moses and Aaron has "nothing to do with an exemplary lineage," or their "goodness"! (And a reminder, from John 1:13, that those who are "begotten" of God are not "born of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God"!)

And so, this passage is not a tribute to the goodness of Moses or Aaron--and yet Exodus 7 opens with the LORD, in His unrelenting plan for Israel's deliverance, declaring that He would "make Moses as God to Pharaoh (Moses as God?) and your brother Aaron as your prophet...who shall speak to Pharaoh all that I command you...and that the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD (Yahweh!) when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst!"

And our lesson ends with Moses and Aaron (finally!) getting to know "the LORD"--and (as verse 6 says) "doing as He commanded...when they spoke to Pharaoh"! Wow!

D.L. Moody once said that "Moses spent forty years in Pharaoh's court thinking that he was somebody; forty years in the desert learning that he was nobody; and forty years showing what God can do with somebody who found out that he was nobody"!

Moses and Aaron, and the sons of Israel, and Pharaoh and the Egyptians would all learn about "the LORD"! And so must we!

We bless you, Lord God of the ages! Your name will be exalted! Yahweh, holy is your name! Blessing and honor, glory and power; unto the LORD be praise! (Sing along!)

Lowell