

Exodus 6

Written by K B Napier

Wednesday, 07 March 2018 14:11

I still remember the war-cry from preachers I used to sit under long ago... stand firm! Fight the enemy! God is with us! But, I seem to remember that they were times of relative peace, with no formidable enemies on the horizon. I wonder how fast they would stand today?

I ask because when the charismatic 'Toronto Blessing' came, almost no Christian leader stood against it. Then, along came Muslim extremists, and still no stand. Now we have the hedonistic and far more serious threats coming from homosexuals. Again, very few make a stand. What a difference if all Christians stood as one against this tide of filth and evil!

Empty words? I hardly think so, for I have stood publicly against each of the above wicked movements, to my personal cost. And the costs keep on coming. Therefore, I am qualified to speak as I do, my spirit bearing many scars.

Is this arrogance? Hardly! I call for warriors of God to fight the enemy, and I am currently in the thick of battle. But I have no strength of which to boast. Any strength I have is of the Lord. It has to be because in my person I am scared witless by the sheer strength of those who hate the Lord! Though I face the enemy full-on, my body has gone to jelly. Mine is not an occasional signing of a petition, or a mumbled complaint in a corner, but a full-scale war. Almost no-one in my home town stands with me. Thank God, a few stand with me in the ministry itself. And I can tell you, the fight is indeed fearful, churning my stomach to nausea.

I feel no pride in this, for, as a person, I fail miserably. I should be far stronger than I am, for Christ is my Captain. Instead, I fear and I quake. Yes, I stand and fight, but I loathe the weakness of my human frame. Do you understand what I am saying?

In this chapter, God repeatedly commands Moses to do something. He assures him that divine power and authority will be his. Yet, he holds back. I understand his reaction, though I cannot approve of it, because I know what he is thinking and feeling! Can we hold back when God commands? Of course we can. I have just described my own reactions as proof.

In the past I have entered spiritual battle with guns blazing, and palpable power and godly authority. Yet, right now, things are different, and I feel a failure. Why? I do not know. I do know

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I am undergoing a severe trial and it is not yet over. Nor do I see the end of it. Therefore, I have to fight on, regardless of my fears and failures. This shows, I think, that every battle for the Lord is different. What applied then may not apply now. That is how it is. Do YOU fight for the Lord? Are you honest enough to admit personal failing? And yet, do you trust? God uses us all in a variety of ways... and our personal strength does not come into it. It is all of Him alone.

Verse 1

1.

“Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.”

Moses complained to God, but God, in His mercy and grace, ignored the complaint and gave Moses assurance. NOW you will see what I will do to Pharaoh! Today, as we are surrounded by so many enemies of the Lord, Christians have an assurance... he is not blind and deaf to His people. They call upon Him for help and He will give it. As with Moses, His response may not be anything we have envisaged, but He *will* act! Like Moses we will complain and become afraid, but God will act, no matter what we say or do. He cannot allow evil men and women to dominate the world without punishment and wrath.

God told Moses that far from keeping the Hebrews in Egypt, Pharaoh will want to get rid of them strongly. But it will only come about by God's actions and will. Will God thus take hold of our modern-day enemies? Will God deal with them in such a way as to make them want to agree somehow with God in the way they act towards us? We must pray for such a response.

Verses 2 - 9

1.

“And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD:

2.

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.

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3.

And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.

4.

And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.

5.

Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

6.

And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

7.

And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD.

8.

And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage.”

God again spoke to Moses: *“I am the Lord”*. That is *“I AM... Jehovah”* (‘the existing one’, from *haya* h, meaning to exist or ‘to be’). This is repeating His former statement that He is ‘I AM’, one of the most profound statements in scripture.

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God reminds Moses that He has previously appeared to his ancestors, but was not then known to them as Jehovah. They knew God as 'God Almighty', or '*el Shaddai*'. This describes God as most-powerful. Now, God was revealing one of His other names to Moses, Jehovah.

God restates that He gave His promises to the patriarchs, and these included giving the Hebrews the land of Canaan. Formerly, they (through their ancestors) had to travel through the land because they were foreigners, but they would soon own it as their inheritance.

He continued, saying that He has heard the cries of the Hebrews in their slavery, and would now bring about the keeping of His promise concerning Canaan.

God then told Moses to go back to the Hebrews with another message... 'I will bring you out of bondage and will save you. At the same time I will issue great judgments upon the Egyptians.' The idea of the stretched-out arm is typical language, referring to the ability of God to reach anywhere and to do anything, the arm being a symbol of strength. God would bring His wrath to bear upon those who would enslave and ill-treat His people. In the same way today, God judges whole nations that defile His people, Christians. Will this happen today, in our lifetime? I do not see why not.

Throughout my ministry I have had so-called 'critics' trumpeting their foolish jibes. They have no idea that God is real, and that He will one day crush them underfoot without any qualms whatever. They are already doomed, though many of them have won earthly victories against us. God help them, for their end will be far worse than anything they could have endured in this world, because their punishment will be eternal, without respite.

Moses was to tell the people that they would be under God's wing of protection, and he would be their God. They would come to know Him as Almighty God, Who exists whether or not others believed in Him or accepted Him. And, He would free them from their captivity, so that they would at last live in the land prepared for them. Canaan was their heritage!

As commanded, Moses went back to the elders and gave them God's message. But, they did not listen. They could not see beyond their current enslavement and cruelties. As the writer of this study I know what they mean, for I have also been guilty of failing to grasp God's promises! During the most heinous of cruel attacks, which have been sustained over long periods, I have

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succumbed to my own imaginings, thinking that this was as good as it could possibly get! I could not see an end to the evils, as if my faith was locked in a tiny box, where God was either curtailed in my mind, or left out altogether.

It is always easy for Christians who have not known afflictions, illness or attacks, to speak of faith. But, would they be just as foolish as me/others if they were under continual attack and vicious evils? God is Great. He is 'el Shaddai. He exists because He exists, and is Almighty! But, we are human and fail miserably at times. Oh that the Lord would fill us all with incredible assurance and forgive our stupidity.

Verses 10 - 27

1.

“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2.

Go in, speak unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, that he let the children of Israel go out of his land.

3.

And Moses spake before the LORD, saying, Behold, the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me; how then shall Pharaoh hear me, who am of uncircumcised lips?

4.

And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, and gave them a charge unto the children of Israel, and unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

5.

These be the heads of their fathers' houses: The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel; Hanoch, and Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi: these be the families of Reuben.

6.

And the sons of Simeon; Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman: these are the families of Simeon.

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7.

And these are the names of the sons of Levi according to their generations; Gershon, and Kohath, and Merari: and the years of the life of Levi were an hundred thirty and seven years.

8.

The sons of Gershon; Libni, and Shimi, according to their families.

9.

And the sons of Kohath; Amram, and Izhar, and Hebron, and Uzziel: and the years of the life of Kohath were an hundred thirty and three years.

10.

And the sons of Merari; Mahali and Mushi: these are the families of Levi according to their generations.

11.

And Amram took him Jochebed his father's sister to wife; and she bare him Aaron and Moses: and the years of the life of Amram were an hundred and thirty and seven years.

12.

And the sons of Izhar; Korah, and Nepheg, and Zichri.

13.

And the sons of Uzziel; Mishael, and Elzaphan, and Zithri.

14.

And Aaron took him Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab, sister of Naashon, to wife; and she bare him Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

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15.

And the sons of Korah; Assir, and Elkanah, and Abiasaph: these are the families of the Korhites.

16.

And Eleazar Aaron's son took him one of the daughters of Putiel to wife; and she bare him Phinehas: these are the heads of the fathers of the Levites according to their families.

17.

These are that Aaron and Moses, to whom the LORD said, Bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their armies.

18.

These are they which spake to Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring out the children of Israel from Egypt: these are that Moses and Aaron.”

Once again, God commanded Moses to go to Pharaoh to demand the release of the Hebrews. And, once again, Moses complained to God that if the elders would not listen to him, what chance did he have of Pharaoh listening? He said to God that his lips were ‘uncircumcised’, ‘are / ; meaning unholy and useless in this context.

This time God totally ignored what Moses said and simply continued with His instructions. He gave them a ‘charge’, **tsavah**, over the children of Israel. That is, Moses and Aaron were appointed as the leaders of God’s divine plan for the people. The same command was related to Pharaoh. This underlines a very plain fact, that when it comes to God’s word we are NOT to discuss or debate it, we are just to speak it. God’s word bears no negotiation. It is powerful and authoritative and must be obeyed.

The heads or chiefs of tribes are then listed in some detail, and were the tribes Aaron and Moses were to get released (verse 26). God then gave another word: “*Bring out the children of*

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Israel from Egypt according to their armies.”

That is, their

tsaba'

, or hosts, large numbers. But, it also literally means 'armies', for the whole nation-to-be would constitute a standing army of nearly a million people. Today, Christians must also remember that whilst we may at the moment be coming under the threat of enslavement by evil governments and peoples, we are, nevertheless, a vast army. Now is the time to don our full armour and to fight on God's side! This is not sabre-rattling, but a call to spiritual arms! Though I write this study I am still fearful of what could happen to me. Yet, I must not allow that fear to rule my responses, for 'el Shaddai is with me!

Verses 28 - 30

1.

“And it came to pass on the day when the LORD spake unto Moses in the land of Egypt,

2.

That the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, I am the LORD: speak thou unto Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say unto thee.

3.

And Moses said before the LORD, Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh hearken unto me?”

The chapter ends with a summary of what happened – God spoke to Moses and Aaron, and commanded him to speak again to Pharaoh. But, in his fear, or maybe humility, he complained that he was unworthy to do so. We are all unworthy in our own merits. Our merit is only in Jesus Christ!

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