

MOSES' GOD-GIVEN MISSION: GO, SPEAK TO PHARAOH EXODUS 06:28–07:07

Introduction

Moses was desperate. The people had just repudiated him, for Pharaoh had begun to persecute the enslaved Israelites more severely than ever before. The increased oppression was due to Pharaoh's reaction against Moses, against his demand that Pharaoh free the people to serve and worship God. Before Moses' demand, their task had been to make the bricks for Egyptian construction projects, and the Egyptians had always furnished the straw necessary to make the bricks. But now, since Moses' demand, Pharaoh was forcing the Israelites to gather their own straw. Moreover, he was insisting that they produce the same daily quota of bricks. This was utterly impossible. The result was tragic: the Egyptian slave-drivers were working the people beyond exhaustion, threatening, cursing, beating, abusing and no doubt killing some.

Consequently, the people blamed Moses and wanted him out of their lives. They rejected and repudiated him; they wanted nothing to do with him, not anymore. In their minds, Moses had brought nothing but trouble to them, severe trouble that could even cause a holocaust: the king was so angry that he could take up the sword and slaughter them (see Exo 5:21).

Moses was crushed, broken, desperate. What could he do? There was only one thing, the very same thing that we have to do when we face crushing problems. Moses got alone with God and poured out his soul. This we saw in the last passage (Exo 5:22-23). Now, we come to God's answer to Moses. This great passage shows how God helped Moses and met his need. It shows how God will help us and meet our need. This is: *The Great Encouragement and Message Given to Moses: Deliverance and Freedom*, Exodus 6:1-7:7.

- I. God's personal encouragement to His messenger (vv. 1-5).
- II. God's personal encouragement to His people (vv. 6-9).
- III. God's great message to the king (vv. 10-12).
- IV. God's great messengers and their family tree: chosen by God's grace alone (vv. 13-27).
- V. God's great message is to be proclaimed only by God-called men: God recalled Moses (vv. 28-7:5).
- VI. Moses and Aaron obeyed God (vv. 6-7).

I. Exodus 06:28–07:05 God's Great Message is to Be Proclaimed Only by God-Called Men: God Recalled Moses

God's great message is to be proclaimed only by God-called men: God reinforced Moses' call, gave him a second call. Why did God give Moses a second call? Why was it necessary for God to confront Moses again and tell him what to do? Because of the

awesome task God had given Moses to do. Moses was as all of us would be: crushed, broken and desperate. Pharaoh had severely reacted against God's message. The king was reacting with a vengeance, oppressing God's people beyond measure:

=> forcing more and more laborious work out of them

=> having them lashed and beaten when they failed to meet impossible daily quotas

=> having the weak and sick killed so they would not have to be fed and kept up

Who was to be blamed for Pharaoh's vengeful reaction? The people accused Moses. They blamed and repudiated him. It was this that had crushed and broken Moses. He feared returning to Pharaoh, feared that he might arouse the wrath of Pharaoh even more. This was the reason God had to give Moses a second call. God had to reinforce — spell out in no uncertain terms — what His dear servant was to do. God knew that Moses needed to be lifted up and assured, that he needed to be encouraged, that he needed to have his God-given call reinforced. Thus God met His dear servant, met him face to face and recalled him to the ministry. Note four facts.

1. God's second call to Moses was given in Egypt (v. 28). God told Moses that he was to go to Pharaoh with the message of God Himself, that he was to go and declare all that God gave him to say.
2. But note: Moses again argued against God's call, argued just as he had at God's first call (v. 30). Moses questioned God, speaking with faltering lips. Since he was not eloquent and Pharaoh had rejected him before, why would Pharaoh listen to him now? (See notes, Exo 4:10-12; 6:10-12.)
3. God answered Moses by giving him great assurance (Exo 7:1-5). God told Moses five things.
 - a. Moses was to be God's messenger: he was to be as God to Pharaoh, that is, he was to be endued with the very power and authority of God Himself (v. 1).
 - b. Moses was not to be alone; he was to have a fellow-servant: Aaron was to be his spokesman (vv. 1-2). In fact, Aaron would be the one actually doing the speaking. This fact would have encouraged Moses to no end. Knowing that we do not stand alone, that we have a companion in the ministry, always encourages us.
 - c. Now note: God told Moses a fact that he needed to remember: God was going to harden Pharaoh's heart. Why? So that He could multiply His miraculous signs in Egypt (v. 3).
 - d. God restated the fact: the king would not listen to the message; consequently, God was going to lay His mighty hand of judgment upon Egypt — all to deliver and free His people (v. 4).
 - e. God told Moses His purpose: that the Egyptians might know that God is the LORD (Jehovah, Yahweh), the Great Redeemer and Deliverer (v. 5).

II. Exodus 07:06–07 Moses and Aaron Obeyed God

Note that Moses and Aaron obeyed God (vv. 6-7). Moses was 80 years old and Aaron 83 years old when they were called to serve God and declare the message of deliverance and freedom to Pharaoh and the people (vv. 6-7). Imagine! Two aged men being called to stand toe-to-toe against the most powerful nation upon earth.

Thought 1. What a lesson for us! We are never too old to serve God.

Isa 46:4 *Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.*

Thought 2. God meets the needs of His dear servants and people, no matter what the needs are. If we need to be encouraged to serve God, God will encourage us. God will call us to serve Him time and again if needed. God does not want us crushed and broken; does not want us refusing to serve and bear witness for Him day by day. God wants us declaring the glorious gospel of deliverance and freedom to the world, a world lost in sin and shame and doomed to death.

Hosea 6:1 *“Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds.”*

Isa 43:2 *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.*

Isa 6:8 *Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”*

Mat 22:9 *“Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.”*

Acts 26:16 *‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you [Paul] as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.’*

Rom 8:28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

2 Cor 12:9 *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ■*