



# *Exodus*

*From Slavery to Freedom*

*Lesson #3*

**Jim Hoffman**

---

---

# Moses Approaches Pharaoh

- Ex 5:1 Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert.'" 2 Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go." NIV
- Pharaoh asks 'who is the Lord?' – this is the arrogant response of a man of power by the world's standards.
- Pharaoh has been oppressing the people of God while God has been working to preserve them. (an ongoing struggle for believers)

---

# Moses Approaches Pharaoh

- Make note of Pharaoh's words "I do not know him and I will not obey him".
- Both statements were true at the time, but would be remedied.
- In this respect Pharaoh is like all men – we think we can ignore God if we want like He is somehow optional, but nothing could be further from the truth.

---

# Moses Approaches Pharaoh

- Ex 6:5 You can be sure that I have heard the groans of the people of Israel, who are now slaves to the Egyptians. And I am well aware of my covenant with them. 6 "Therefore, say to the people of Israel: 'I am the Lord. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. 7 I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. 8 I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the Lord!"

NLT

---

# Moses Approaches Pharaoh

- That is a list of great promises – however, at the time it did not look like Moses was on the right track at all.
- After his first request of Pharaoh the Israelite's work was made harder and they were not thrilled with Moses.
- In the face of that evidence God details who he is, what he has done in the past, and what he will do in the future.

---

# Moses Approaches Pharaoh

- ***The faith lesson for us – do not evaluate the promises of God based upon your present circumstances.***
- Gideon's circumstance was a small army against a mighty foe – the results were not based upon logic, numbers, and strategy, but upon God's faithfulness.
- Moses step of faith in confronting Pharaoh looked like it backfired, but that seems irrelevant to God – he knows what he can and will do.

---

# Moses Approaches Pharaoh

- Moses is discouraged – but God will encourage him.
- Ex 6:1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country." NIV
- Pharaoh was a powerful man, and one that vowed to ignore God's commands – but in the end God will cause him to obey.

---

# Moses Approaches Pharaoh

- Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases. NIV
- It seems there are many things God allows to run their course and others that he directs from His throne.
- ***Faith lesson – we are never powerless in a situation whether it's financial, physical, or spiritual.***



---

# Moses Approaches Pharaoh

- Ex 6:2 God also said to Moses, "I am the Lord. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them. NIV
- Before God was known as the almighty El-Shaddai, but now for the first time he reveals himself as Jehovah.
- Jehovah is used in Genesis, but that was Moses writing historically after this exchange.

---

# Moses Approaches Pharaoh

- Ex 7:1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. 2 You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country. 3 But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt, 4 he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites. 5 And the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it." 6 Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded them. NIV

---

# Hardened Hearts

- God reveals the entire plan to Moses – including Pharaoh’s stubbornness and God’s hardening of Pharaoh’s heart.
- 15 times in Exodus we read that Pharaoh’s heart was hardened – sometimes it was hardened by himself and other times it was hardened by God.
- A hardened heart – a deliberate resistance to God, His truth, and His will.

---

# Hardened Hearts

- Josh 11:20 For it was the Lord himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the Lord had commanded Moses. NIV (all the kings of Canaan)
- Dan 5:20 But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. NIV (Nebuchadnezzar)
- Heb 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. NIV

---

# Hardened Hearts

- The same sun that shines down on the earth that hardens the clay is the same sun that melts the wax.
- “Such passages (hardened hearts) must be interpreted in the light of the Divine character and the Holy scriptures taken as a whole; we know therefore that God never deals unjustly or arbitrarily with His creatures, whose own free actings are always the cause of their downfall and punishment” Dr. James Gray

---

# Hardened Hearts

- “God did not create fresh evil in the heart of Pharaoh. All along he prevented him from becoming more evil than he was. He restrained the evil in the man’s heart so that greater evil did not occur. But evil is always destructive and will not do good. When it is unchecked, it will do greater evil. This is what God did, he simply removed his restraining influence in the king’s life so that more hardness than was there already produced resistance to God. It is a telling story.” Dr. James Schambach

---

# God's Intentions

- God expressed his purpose in what was about to take place in two ways:
  - He was going to deliver Israel out of slavery.
  - He was going to reveal himself to the Egyptians.
- Ex 7:4-5 I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites. 5 And the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord NIV

---

# God's Intentions

- Throughout history God has never sought to be unknown – rather he seeks to be known.
- The very people who oppressed his people, the Egyptians, were still on God's list to be known by him.
- There will never be a valid argument along the lines of 'I did not know'.



---

# God's Intentions

- Since God knew and advised Moses that Pharaoh would not heed the first plagues - have you ever wondered why God did not go right to the Death Angel?
- Possibly because –
  - Those plagues showed the power of God and thus revealed Him.
  - It showed His mercy in offering the Egyptians things less severe than losing their children.
  - He wanted the Egyptians to know and trust Him.

---

# God's Intentions

- It also seems that God was offering a serious and detailed answer to Pharaoh's initial question of 'who is the Lord?'.
- By the time the ten plagues have been unleashed Pharaoh will know the Lord is God – that he is more powerful than any 'god' he had conceived before.
- God knew Pharaoh would not trust Him, but he certainly gave him every chance to do so.

---

# Power

- Ex 7:7 Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh. 8 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 9 "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a miracle,' then say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,' and it will become a snake." 10 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. 11 Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: 12 Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. 13 Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the Lord had said. NIV

---

# Power

- Moses and Aaron approach Pharaoh and Aaron's rod becomes a snake. **(the power of God)**
- Pharaoh's magicians throw down their rods and they too become snakes. **(the power of Satan)**
- Aaron's snake eats the snakes of the magicians. **(the power of God)**
- Greater is He who is you, than he who is in the world.

---

# Counterfeit Power

- Satan has been interested in imitating God since his fall from heaven.
- Remember it was his desire to be like God that got him thrown out of Heaven in the first place.
- He has counterfeit miracles, counterfeit prophets, and counterfeit messages even today.

---

Questions / Comments