



YEAR 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People

Module 3—Exodus

Lesson 4: God Promises His People Deliverance Again—Exodus 6

BIBLICAL REFLECTION

(A theological and biblical reflection on today's Scripture passage.)

GOD'S STORY

As background to Exodus 6, Moses and Aaron took the quite life-threatening step of appearing before Pharaoh and explaining the Lord wanted the Hebrews to stop being Egypt's slave labor force. Specifically, God had said it was time to let "His" people go—people that Pharaoh was sure belonged to him. Instead of listening, Pharaoh told the Israelites to increase their labor by making their bricks without straw.

At the end of chapter 5, Moses started to complain by telling God that this plan only made things worse. He essentially told God, "You haven't delivered your people at all." Upon hearing this, God quickly put Moses in his place by reminding him of who He is and the promises He's made:

- I am the Lord.
- I appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- I established a covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan.
- I heard the groaning of my people who are enslaved to the Egyptians
- I have remembered my covenant.

The subtext here is not that God is telling Moses these things to impress him, but to remind Moses He's a God who is faithful and keeps His word. He again promised Israel:

- I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
- I will deliver you from slavery.
- I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and great acts of judgment.
- I will take you to be my people.
- I will be your God.
- You shall know I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from the yoke of Egypt.
- I will bring you back to the land I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- I will give it (the land) to you as a possession.

God closed this long list of promises by again stating, "I am the Lord." Moses took this message to the Israelites, but only to find that they were so broken in spirit that God's promises fell on deaf ears. Because of their disbelief, Moses again became discouraged and relents in taking the same message to Pharaoh.

OUR STORY

We could probably all think of a time in our walk with Jesus that life was just about enough to bring us down. For whatever reason, things just were not going our way and one more straw would break this camel's back. For some, it may have been after a loss of a loved one, a rough end to a relationship, the loss of a job, or worse.

Whatever the situations in life are that bring us down and chip away at our trust and faith in God, we can look at this passage in Scripture. God shows us who He is, what He's doing, where He's working and what He would say to us. He hasn't changed the spirit of His promises, even centuries later.

God is not a different God for a different time. He is the Lord, and while there may be eras when He has to come down harder on our rebellion than other eras, He is always working a plan for our lives. It has been said that hard times bring out the best in some and the worst in others. While that may be true for us humans, our Heavenly Father does not change or falter with the changing of the wind. He is faithful.

OTHERS' STORY

The horrific side of this story is posed in a big "what if" situation. What if the story consisted of a nation of people who had no faith or a faithful God to deliver them? What if there was no promise of a Promised Land? Even worse, what if after a round or two with Pharaoh Moses had to deliver the hard news to the people that nothing was changing?

Such questions remind us that we are often moments away from a bleak, dark life. When you're not going through this, others are. It's a place that many live daily oppressed by the world, broken in spirit, with no one to speak truth, and little hope for their lives and situations.

When we're going through this, we also face the stance of others against us who want to mock us for our hardship. Some will take a stance of "Where is your God now?" when hard times come down in our lives. The truth is it's easy to be faithful and praise God when things are going well, but others see more of God when the going gets rough. Our witness and credibility often can become on display better when the heat of life melts everything else away.

THE WORLD'S STORY

The Bible's promises and covenant don't seem to carry the same kind of respect in today's culture when compared with past cultures. It's easy for the world to look at a passage like this and deconstruct it or call it allegorical, even though God has rattled off promise after promise He has fulfilled. Part of the problem is that many religious, political, and social leaders have paved their way on a road of broken promises. We also have countless websites we can go to where anyone's opinion about God seems as valid as someone else's views.

The world's view of this type of language is rarely founded by context and more by apathy. People complain about Christianity online, but if you offer to have a personal conversation with them they freeze up. As we relate to the world around us about what the Lord has done in the past or what He might do in the future, it's imperative to understand that what we do says more about who Jesus is to us than what we say He is to the world.