

God's Name is Yahweh

July 14, 2020

Open: What's the history or meaning of your name?

Read: Exodus 6:1-13

1. In verse 1 God tells Moses, "Now you shall see what **I** will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand, **he** will send them out..." How do you reconcile the role of the two actors (God and Pharaoh) in verse 1? Why would it be important for Moses to see what God is doing through Pharaoh?
2. In verses 2-3 we're told that God is now revealing His name to His people. In light of what God is about to do, why would this be significant? How does knowing God's name contribute to our capacity for intimacy with God?
3. From what God says in verses 4-8, what sort of relationship is God planning for Israel and Himself? Given that the Israelites would often resist God, why would God continue to pursue a relationship with them?
4. Verses 4-8 provide a concise summary of how God established the Israelites as a people and what He intended for them. How would you describe the way in which God established us as a people and what He intends for us? What happens if we forget truths like these?
5. Why would a "broken spirit and harsh slavery" keep the people from listening to Moses (v. 9)? How have you seen personal wounds or trials keep you or others from embracing God's truth? What can help with overcoming this?
6. Given the resistance that Moses encountered from Pharaoh in chapter 5, it must have seemed to everyone that seeking escape from slavery was a lost cause—a point Moses raised in Exodus 6:12. Are there situations in which you (or the church) have given up on serving and obeying God because it seemed like a lost cause? How can we find our way back when this happens?

Apply: How will your understanding of God based upon this passage change the way you pray, think or act this week?

Pray: Ask God to help us walk in line with His plan and purpose for our lives, embracing His promises and trusting in His power to make us who He intends us to be.

Exodus 6:1-13

¹ But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

² God spoke to Moses and said to him, "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. ⁴ I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. ⁵ Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶ Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'" ⁹ Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

¹⁰ So the LORD said to Moses, ¹¹ "Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land." ¹² But Moses said to the LORD, "Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?" ¹³ But the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt. (ESV)