

GET READY! Sunday, November 3, 2013
Unifying Topic: GOD PREPARES FOR DELIVERANCE

Lesson Text

I. God Knows (Exodus 3:7-9)

II. God Delivers (Exodus 3:10-17)

The Main Thought: Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt: And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey. (Exodus 3:16-17, KJV).

Unifying Principle: When people are called to a new challenge, they must overcome their fears. How can they overcome their fears? Before Moses could lead the people to freedom, God had to repeatedly assure Moses that He would be with Moses in all the trials to come.

Lesson Aim: To show how God personally delivered the children of Israel freedom from the Egyptians.

Life aim: To remind us that God is a deliverer and is able to set us free from any bondage that we might have.

- 3:7 And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;
- 3:8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.
- 3:9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.
- 3:10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.
- 3:11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?
- 3:12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.
- 3:13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?
- 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I Am That I Am: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I Am hath sent me unto you.
- 3:15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.
- 3:16 Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt:
- 3:17 And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

HISTORY:

Exodus 3:1-6 ¹After being chased out of Egypt and away from his Hebrew people, Moses is out shepherding sheep for his Midianite father-in-law, Jethro. Out in the wilderness, Moses stumbles upon "the mountain of God" known as Mount Horeb (also known as Mount Sinai--Exodus 19:11). There, at the mountain, Moses encounters an unquenchable burning bush. The angel of the Lord had appeared to him in a flame of fire in the midst of a bush. Its flames burned, but did not consume the bush. Moses couldn't believe his eyes. He had to come closer to inspect this bush. Fire is a common biblical symbol of God's presence. God speaks to Moses calling his name twice from the burning bush. Moses answers to his name by saying "here am I." Moses had to take off his shoes in that place. Coming into God's presence, he was expected to show divine reverence unto a holy God on holy ground! Humility had to be shown in the place he was now standing in! God revealed Himself to Moses—"I am the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." And at that moment, upon hearing the voice of the Almighty God, "Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to

¹ http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=135
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

LESSON:

Exodus 3:7-9 God Knows

3:7 And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;— God tells Moses of His intimate knowledge of Israel's (His people) affliction. He has seen, has heard, and has known.

1. "I HAVE SURELY SEEN THE AFFLICTION OF MY PEOPLE."
2. "I HAVE HEARD THEIR CRY."
3. "FOR I KNOW THEIR SORROWS."

The Israelites, had been praying and asking for a long time, but God now let's Moses know that He knows of their cry because of the harsh and cruel taskmasters and that their sorrow comes from the slavery in Egypt.

3:8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. God now gives an important promise.

4. "AND I AM COME DOWN TO DELIVER THEM."

They were in the hands of the Egyptians. It's time to bring them **out of** that land **into** a good land; a land that's large, flowing with milk and honey. Many different tribes were living in Canaan already, but God had promised very definitely to give Canaan to His people.²The land of Canaan belonged to Israel since the day God promised it to Abraham.

3:9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. God notices and hears the cries of the afflictions of Israel; their sorrows; even the secret sorrows are known. Their cries have broken through the wall of bondage into the heavenly sphere. God even sees the affliction and oppression they endured, however, the highest and greatest of their oppressors are not above Him. Even now, those whom God, by His grace delivers out of a spiritual Egypt, He is able to bring them to a heavenly Canaan. We are grateful that God knows and is well able to help in our time of need.

Exodus 3:10-17 God Delivers

3:10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt. God could do it all by Himself, but it is God's plan to work with and through people - we are workers together with Him (2 Corinthians 6:1). God let's Moses know that He was going to do it, but He still wanted to use Moses. God begins to tell Moses of His plan to send him to Pharaoh in Egypt, (yes, the place he had ran from). This is Moses' true purpose; his true assignment. Instead of him trying to do it all by himself before; his inadequacies are God's possibilities. God says "*Come Now...*"

3:11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?— Moses' question and God's reply:

1. Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh? 40 years before, Moses thought he knew who he was—a prince of Egypt; a Hebrew; he was God's chosen instrument to deliver Israel. After forty years of chasing sheep around the desert, Moses didn't have the same self-assured confidence that he had before.

² <http://www.enduringword.com/commentaries/0203.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

3:12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. This is a certainty!

2. I will certainly be with you: God's reply is intended to take Moses' focus off of himself and onto where it should be - on God. Therefore, God never answered the question "Who am I?" Instead, He reminded Moses "*I will certainly be with you.*"

The issue here is not who Moses is, but whose he is. God, the "*I Am*" has sent him, and it is God who will be with him. In fact God doesn't want us to be free-lancing. God wants us to be depending upon Him to accomplish whatever He has called us to do. The task seemed impossible, humanly speaking, but with God, all things are possible (Gen.18:18). God assured Moses that He would lead the people back to serve Him upon this mountain, the sign was given. "*...and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee.*" The sign was the "*mountain*"; the same mountain Moses is encountering God at, at this very moment. This was to be the sign that God had sent Moses. They were to meet at the same mountain again when he brought the people out of Egypt.

3:13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?— Moses still had several questions for God; he doubts his ability; he sensed he needed credentials before he came before the children of Israel; what name should he give when the people ask?; what was God's Name? Well why would the Israelites need to ask the name of the God who has sent Moses to deliver them? Two reasons:

1. **First**, due to their worship of other (Egyptian) gods (Josh. 24:14), they may wonder which of their gods is answering their prayers.
2. **Second**, one's name is a description of one's character. If Moses' authority is wrapped up in the God who has called and commissioned him to lead Israel out of Egypt, then he may need to be able to describe the character of this God to assure them of God's willingness and ability to lead them into the land of blessings. The name by which God chooses to identify Himself would capture the essence of His character and being.

3:14 And God said unto Moses, I Am That I Am: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I Am hath sent me unto you. God replied, "I AM THAT I AM" ..."*I AM hath sent me unto you.*" It means "*I AM The One Who is*" and is preferred over "*He Who causes to be.*" God expressed the unchanging, eternal, self-existence of His being. He is able to act at will, to keep promises, and to redeem Israel. Yet, He is unsearchable.

- ³The "I AM" is the God who is, that is, the God who exists. There were many "*no gods*" in both Egypt and Canaan, which were worshipped, but in contrast to all of these "*gods*" was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is the God who is, the only true God.
- The "I AM" is the God who exists independently. Theologians speak of God as self-existent. God is the Creator, but has no creator. He exists apart from any dependence upon anything or anyone. He is a God who does not need help, either to exist or to accomplish His will. Thus, there is nothing which can prevent God's will from being accomplished.
- The "I AM" is the God who exists independently and unchangeably. As the "I AM," God is not the God who was anything, in the sense that He changes. Whatever He was, He continues to be, and He will be forever. Therefore, whatever God has begun to do He will bring to completion, because there are no changes which necessitate any alterations in His original plans and purposes.

3:15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations. There was no mistake about it, God mentions to Moses "*the children of Israel*" in all three verses (v13-15). That was Moses' Divine Committed assignment. After four hundred years in Egypt, Moses had the job of announcing that now was the time for the children of Israel to go back to Canaan, and take the land God promised to their fathers. The children of Israel probably had no desire to return to the Promised Land; all they wanted was to be made more comfortable in Egypt. Forty years before, when it seemed that Moses had everything going for him, and he tried in his own effort to help them, the people of Israel rejected him as a deliverer for the nation. Surely, he must be wondering why they would listen to him now, when it seemed he had nothing going for him. God makes it clear that His Name was to be remembered forever. This was to be a memorial for to all generations for He was committed to His children.

3:16 Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt:— This is a direct command unto Moses: "*Go, and gather the elders of Israel together.*" The elders were known as "*the bearded ones*" which indicated the age and wisdom needed to lead. ⁴When Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were mentioned to these elders, they were being reminded that God had made a covenant with them. They would be reminded that the prophecy was being fulfilled that God had spoken to Abraham (Gen.15:13-14) and Joseph had spoken of to his brothers before he died (Gen.50:24). God had been silent to them over 400yrs., but He was aware that terrible things were happening to His people. He had watched and hovered over them, but now He has come down to keep His covenant; He appears to Moses, their soon to be deliverer.

3:17 And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey. God is yet reminding Moses again of His promise to bring them out of the affliction of Egypt, and bring them into the land of milk and honey, Canaan, where all these other tribes of people are already living. He's letting Moses know that He is not slack on His promise. It will happen.

SUMMARY:

⁵God hears the complaints of Israel and tells Moses to intervene, via the burning bush on Horeb. God tells Moses that God will bring Israel to the area of Canaan out of Egypt; God will do it through Moses. Moses doubts his ability, but God reassures him that He will be with him. God names Himself "I AM." Moses is to gather the elders and tell them of God's plan:

APPLICATION:

The thing you have been praying for is about to happen. Are you ready for it? Are you in expectancy about it happening? If God had spoken it, it will come to pass. Now get in position to receive it!

⁴ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/Exodus/06.html>

⁵ <http://home.uchicago.edu/~ahkissel/exodus/exsummary.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>