

Exodus 6

Read Exodus 6:1-9: Sometimes God has to use *brute force* to move reluctant people. The idea is to not let ourselves fall into that trap. Do not procrastinate. It is a shame that there must be so much destruction to get prideful men to release their control. God is going to ramp up the severity of his plagues, until there is a release by Pharaoh. We see the same thing throughout the Old Testament and in Revelation. God uses a progressive scale. He would rather bring something to our awareness instead of bringing harsh circumstances to bear, to force our hand. He won't violate our will....but he knows how to change our will.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. ⁹Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. (Psalm 32)

I am reminded of the ongoing military action called Operation Epic Fury. The United States and Israel began the process of removing the evil regime by taking away Iran's weapons. That was not enough to get them to surrender. Next, we had to take down oil production, which is contrary to our long-term goals, but necessary to stop their cash flow and evil alliance involvements. Similarly, God does not want to harm the Egyptian people with these plagues, but Pharaoh will essentially force God to take harder and harder actions. The Egyptian people sympathize with the Hebrews; that is why they load up the children of Israel with treasure and provisions as they leave the country.

God allows Pharaoh to reject him. God is manipulating what Pharaoh is predisposed to do to his own timing. God wishes that nobody perish, but he also knows in advance what they will do. Instead of a mere rejection to God's command; it turns this situation into a billboard of God's power to the world. Mocking God is a very bad idea. Today we have crazy counterculture people essentially mocking God. All you have to do is to observe them to see what Sodom and Gomorrah must have been like. Today we are seeing this travesty of virtual ideals play out in our cities.

God is reintroducing himself to the world. Elohim is the generic name for God. It is the uni-plural reference to God. Today, the Jews only refer to him as Hashem (the name). God states here that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob knew him as El Shaddai (The LORD Almighty). God is implying here that this is more of a title. He is clarifying that his actual name is Jehovah. That name means *the self-existent one*. It is important to confirm that he is the same God that their ancestors worshipped. It is interesting that in Genesis 12 God is actually called Jehovah as

well. How can that be if they did not know that name yet? We know that Moses actually wrote Genesis; from the scrolls that were handed down. Was the name Jehovah used as a subsequent writer's inspired insertion? Regardless, God wants as close of a relationship with us as possible.

¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. (John 15)

Being a moral leader is not the same as knowing God. We also need to make sure that we are not substituting good works or other things for a personal relationship with God.

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (Matthew 7)

God refers here to his covenant with the children of Israel. What covenant is that? It included the gift of the land of Canaan.

I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. (Genesis 12 various)

We would do well to remember that God has held a special place for Israel and their supporters. There is a growing antisemitism sentiment in the USA. This is supernatural and demonic. Even the black Ethiopian Jews who were isolated from European influences experience antisemitism amongst the African tribes and peoples. Our legislators consider the risks of standing with Israel without realizing that this may be the only reason that God has preserved our country.

God did not mention the covenant he made with Noah, as it was not applicable here. God was reminding the children of Israel that he had given the land of Israel to them as an everlasting inheritance. This is called a unilateral covenant, since only God has a performance requirement. This is different from the future Mosaic Covenant; which is bilateral. The Law of Moses was based on contingencies per level of obedience.

Read Genesis 6:10-13: Moses felt that he would not be successful demanding that Pharaoh let the children of Israel go worship in the wilderness. After all, the Hebrews had ignored and mocked him. He also was not a good speaker. God restated the command to Moses and Aaron. Bringing in Aaron into this task would create all kinds of future problems. God provides where he guides. I can lose sleep worrying over how I will accomplish something challenging. It is better to ask that God's will is done. I find that the seemingly impossible tasks are over before I know how they are going to happen. It is to God's glory to use an uncertain person. I tend to do better when I am uncertain and prayed up, than when I am confident without prayer.

Read Genesis 6:14-30: Part of demobilization from Goshen, Egypt includes the establishment of organizations and groups and the command structure. 600,000 men equate to around 2.5 million people. Mobilizing and moving that many people without communication technology or voice amplification is an impossible job. Each tribe must break down by clan, family group, etc..

The bible is not an exhaustive family tree. It is intended to provide adequate detail for the bloodline of the Messiah. There are only three tribes mentioned: Reuben, Simeon, and Levi. Not all 12 tribes. Secondly, the tribal and family group leaders are different than they are in Numbers. Exodus 6 is really describing the original sons who were born around the time when Israel entered Egypt; not the current leaders. These are more like the clans within those tribes. Numbers chapter 1 describes each tribal leader who will report and lead their tribe at the time of the Exodus.

The 3 Levite clans (Gershon, Kohath and Merari) will soon become important for the division of the various tabernacle responsibilities. Of special note is a family under the Kohath clan of Levi. Amram married his aunt Jochebed. This couple had Moses, Aaron and Miriam. Close-family marriage was not an issue before the Mosaic Law outlawed this practice. Previously, it was necessary. This detailed lineage is necessary to lay out the family of Moses, as well as the Aaronic priesthood. We see that Korah is Moses' cousin, who will eventually feel entitled to take over leadership for Israel, with some 250 other leaders. That ends disastrously. The point is that God chooses and anoints whom he will. When we assume that we are more able to lead than God's chosen vessel we are working against God's plan.