

As we open to Exodus chapter six, we find Moses in a place that many of us recognize all too well: the place of deep discouragement. He had stepped out in faith, he had done exactly what he thought God called him to do, and instead of a grand victory, everything fell apart. Pharaoh didn't let the people go; he made their lives more miserable.

How often does that happen in our walk with the Lord? We feel a nudge from the Spirit to start a ministry, to share the gospel with a neighbor, or to step out in a new area of service, and suddenly—chaos. The neighbor gets angry, the ministry hits a wall, and we find ourselves crying out like Moses did at the end of chapter five: *"Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You have sent me?"*

### **The Challenge of the Enemy**

I believe that whenever you decide to move for God, you draw a target on your back. Satan isn't going to sit idly by while you invade his territory. He wants to discourage you right at the starting gate. He'll make you question your calling. He'll use people—sometimes even fellow believers—to challenge you, just as the children of Israel challenged Moses, saying, *"You've made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh."*

When you exercise the gifts the Spirit has given you, expect resistance. If you step out to give a word of exhortation or prophecy, the enemy will whisper, *"Was that really God, or just your own imagination?"* Moses was at that breaking point. He felt like a failure. But notice how God responds. He doesn't scold Moses for his despair; He reminds Moses of His character.

### **"I Am the LORD"**

In Exodus 6:1-2, the Lord says to Moses:

*"Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."* Then God adds these four powerful words: *"I am the LORD."*

We get so caught up in trying to "manage" God's work. We think we're in the driver's seat. We treat God like a cosmic vending machine or a robot that should jump when we command. But God stops Moses—and He stops us—and says, *"Wait a minute. I am the Lord. I am the One in control. I am the One governing these events."*

When we forget that He is the Lord, we fall into the trap mentioned in Romans 1:21: *"Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God."* We start living as if God is our servant, rather than us being His.

### **The Bigness of Your God**

Do your problems feel like a mountain today? Does that obstacle in your life look like Everest? We need the perspective of the early church in Acts 4:24 who prayed, *"Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them."*

If you want to know how big your God is, look at the stars. Consider the constellation Orion. Look at the star Betelgeuse. It is roughly 400 million miles in diameter. If you hollowed it out, you could fit our sun in the middle and have the earth rotate around it with room to spare! God spoke that into existence. David said in Psalm 102:25, *"Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands."* If God can place stars into space, He can handle your mortgage. He can handle your broken relationship. He can handle Pharaoh.

### **A Relationship of Intimacy**

In Exodus 6:3, God tells Moses that while Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob knew Him as *El Shaddai* (God Almighty), they didn't know Him by His name Jehovah (the "Becoming One") in the same way Moses would.

Now, they knew the name, but they hadn't lived the *experience* of it. To the patriarchs, God was the powerful Creator. But to Moses and the Israelites, God was about to become their Deliverer, their Provider, and their Friend. He was coming close.

God wants that same intimacy with you. He doesn't want to be a distant impersonal "Force" or a "Higher Power." He wants to be your Father. When I hear people pray, *"O Thou Mighty Creator of the Universe,"* it sounds a bit distant. But when someone cries out, *"Abba [Daddy], Father, I'm in trouble,"* that speaks of relationship.

My grandkids don't wait for an appointment to see me. They burst into my presence and say, *"Grandpa, I need an ice cream cone!"* They have priority because of relationship. Through Jesus Christ, you have that same access. You can come boldly to the throne of grace to find help in your time of need.

### **The Seven "I Wills" of God**

In **Exodus 6:6-8**, God gives seven magnificent promises to His people. These are not "maybe" statements; they are "I will" statements:

1. **I will bring you out** from under the burdens.
2. **I will rescue you** from their bondage.
3. **I will redeem you** with an outstretched arm.
4. **I will take you as My people.**
5. **I will be your God.**
6. **I will bring you into the land.**
7. **I will give it to you as a heritage.**

A promise is only as good as the person making it. Men fail. "Cousin Pringles" in our lives promise us gold watches and never show up. But God says, "I am the LORD." He bookends these promises with His own identity. He is the guarantee.

## Application and Challenge

**For the Believer:** Are you like the Israelites in Exodus 6:9? It says they didn't listen to Moses because of *"anguish of spirit and cruel bondage."* Sometimes we are so beaten down by life that we can't even hear the promises of God.

My challenge to you is this: Stop looking at the "Pharaoh" in your life and start looking at the "I AM." Don't let your circumstances dictate your theology. God has promised to deliver you, to redeem you, and to bring you into a place of spiritual fullness. Trust His "I wills" today.

**For the Seeker:** Maybe you've realized today that you don't have that relationship. You know there's a God, but He feels millions of miles away.

The reason Jesus came was to close that gap. He shed His precious blood on the cross to pay for your sins—the things that separate you from a holy God. He didn't stay in the grave; His resurrection declares once and for all that He is God, Savior, and Lord. He wants to bring you out of the bondage of sin and into the family of God.

Will you receive Him today? Simply say, *"Lord Jesus, I'm a sinner in need of a Savior. Thank You for dying for me. I believe You rose again. Come into my life and be my Lord."*