

## Exodus 6

The terrible results which followed the meeting between Moses and Pharaoh led to disappointment and discouragement on the part of Moses and the Israelites. This discouragement was so real and so deep that when Moses came back with a list of things that God has done and will do, the Israelites wanted nothing to do with it.

You may have noticed that Exodus 6:1-9 is much more about God than it is about Moses and the Israelites or Pharaoh and the Egyptians. There are four statements about God in Exodus 6: 2-5. I highlight the verbs.

1. I **appeared** to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty.
2. I also **established** my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan.
3. I have **heard** the groaning of the Israelites.
4. I have **remembered** my covenant.

All of that points to the fact that **God is personal**. God has revealed Himself with personality, intelligence and will. Those are characteristics that belong to a person. God is not an it. He is a person. A divine person. As such, He is able to have relationships with people.

You should also notice that God speaks with repetition that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This has been mentioned three times before Moses confronts Pharaoh (3:6, 15, 16), and twice more after Moses confronts Pharaoh (6:2, 8.)

**Consider:** *When the circumstances in Moses' life are in upheaval, the one constant will be God.*

The assurance that God gives to Moses is this: God has been moving toward this for 500 years. He can handle a bad day. (Abraham was approximately 500 years before Moses.) This repetition of God of Ab, Isaac, Jacob - is another way of saying, Moses it's not about you, it never has been about you, it never will be about you. Don't make it about you.

It also helped Moses to know that he was part of a bigger story. Bigger than him, bigger than slavery, bigger than Pharaoh, bigger than Egypt and even bigger than Israel. God is working out redemption and He is putting His glory on display.

**Progressive Revelation:** God revealed Himself over time throughout Biblical history. God did not sit Abraham down and tell him everything there is to know about Himself. God revealed more and more of Himself, His plan, His ways over time. God revealed His personal name of Yahweh to Moses but not to Abraham. This is not a change; it's simply more depth.

The four statements about God are followed by a list of seven future 'acts of salvation', all attributed to the LORD:

1. I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.
2. I will free you from being slaves to them.
3. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.
4. I will take you as my people.
5. I will be your God.
6. I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob.
7. I will give it to you as a possession.

You may have noticed in this conversation in Exodus 6, that there's very little new information. God basically repeats Himself from chapter 3 and then adds one key piece of information that's new. Of the seven items in the future acts of salvation, the only one item that's new is this:

***I take you as my people and I will be your God.***

It's as if God saying: From now - You belong to me and I belong to you.  
Redemption is to know God and experience relationship with Him.

Given the context of the situation with Israel enslaved for 400 years, it's a fair question to ask...  
Why did God take so long to do something about it? Why 400 years?

This is my opinion: This is a real-life parable. Real people are enslaved and oppressed by a real power and a real dictator. One of the functions of Egypt and Pharaoh was to demonstrate a real bondage from which God's people were rescued. That picture of redemption carries into the NT.

Jesus broke the power of satan's kingdom and established His own kingdom. We have been rescued from our defeated enemy the devil and his kingdom AND we have been brought into the Kingdom of God.

***For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.***

Colossians 1:13