

The Journey
Series 03: Covenant
Week 20: Moses – The Reluctant Leader
We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We Have Been)

Where did we leave off last week?

- Jacob died and was buried in Canaan (small plot purchased by Abraham)
- Joseph and all his generation lived the remainder of their lives in Egypt
- When the famine ended, they didn't return to Canaan (land God had given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob)

Where does God stand on fulfilling His promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)?

- Promise of Land (Abraham's descendants are still in Egypt)
- Promise of Nation (his descendants only number 70 people – not a nation)
- Promise of Leader (Joseph was a great leader, but he died)

BIG Idea

We will continue examining how... **God keeps His promises. What He says, he will do. His word can be trusted.** Why are we continually emphasizing this?

We often lose hope of promises when *time* and *difficult circumstances* are present.

Information (What We Need to Know)

In this lesson we'll see how God, even though things seemed impossible to the Israelites, continued to move His plan forward to fulfill His promises to them.

Let's look at Israel's Condition at the Start of Exodus...

- Five hundred years have passed from Abraham (2000BC) until present (1450BC)
- Israel increased in population and riches (70 people to nation of over 2 million)
Exodus 1:7 (ESV) But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly...
- Israel became slaves in Egypt
Exodus 1:9 (ESV) ...the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. **10** Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” **11** Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them...
- Pharaoh commanded that the newborn sons be killed by the Hebrew midwives
Exodus 1:16 (ESV) “When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him...” **17** But the midwives... let the male children live.

“Pharaoh’s command is consistent with Satan’s plan of Jew-hatred through the centuries, as an attack against God’s Deliverer and plan of redemption. Satan knew that the Deliverer - the Seed of the Woman, the One who would crush his head (Genesis 3:15) - would come from the children of Israel. Therefore, he tried to destroy the whole nation in one generation by ordering all the male children killed.” – David Guzik

- God would keep His promises and preserve Israel

Exodus 1:12 (ESV) But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. **20** ... And the people multiplied and grew very strong.

God’s Response to Pharaoh’s Attack on Israel...

- God protected a newborn son, Moses, who was adopted by Pharaoh’s daughter

Exodus 2:5 (ESV) Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. **6** When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.” **10** When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses...

“God knew Moses would be safe in Pharaoh’s house and what he learned (including domestic and military skills) in Pharaoh’s palace would be important for him to know for his future work as leader.” – Firm Foundations

- Moses shares God’s heart for the circumstance of his people

Exodus 2:11 (ESV) When Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. **12** He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. **13** When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, “Why do you strike your companion?” **14** He answered, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid, and thought, “Surely the thing is known.” **15** When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh...

- God calls Moses to lead Israel out of Egyptian slavery

Exodus 2:23 (ESV) ...the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. **24** And God heard their groaning, and **God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 3:10** “Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Moses and God Converse Back and Forth...

Moses' Objection #1 – "I'm Unqualified"

Exodus 3:11 (ESV) But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

God's Response #1 – "I will be with you. You will bring Israel out of Egypt"

Exodus 3:12 (ESV) He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

Moses' Objection #2 – "Israel won't believe it is You that has sent me"

Exodus 3:13 (ESV) Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

Moses asks for God's name because names often reveal the character of the person. He is asking God to reveal His character so Israel would know that the One who has called Moses is able to achieve the deliverance promised.

God's Response #2 – "Tell them I AM has sent you."

Exodus 3:14 (ESV) God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'" **15** God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.'"

- His is self-existent (He has no beginning or ending and exists by His own power. He never has been or ever will be dependent anything)
- All creation is dependent on God, who always keeps His promises
"He controls all things - Pharaoh, the Egyptians, or Satan could not hold God's people when the Lord, the "I AM," decided to deliver them." – Firm Foundations

Moses' Objection #3 – "Israel won't believe You've sent me."

Exodus 4:1 (ESV) Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The Lord did not appear to you.'"

God's Response #4 – "I will perform miraculous signs through you."

Exodus 4:8 (ESV) "If they will not believe you," God said, "or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign."

Moses' Objection #4 – "I am not eloquent. Send someone else."

Exodus 4:10 (ESV) But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else."

God's Response #4 – "I made your mouth. Aaron will speak for you."

Exodus 4:11 (ESV) Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? **12** Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." **15** You shall speak to him [Aaron] and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do."

Application (What We Need to Do)

Moses and Aaron return to Egypt to appear before the people of Israel.

Exodus 4:29 (ESV) Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. **30** Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. **31** And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

When the Israelites saw the signs, they believed what God said to them through Moses, and praised the Lord for hearing their pleas for deliverance.

"Why were the Israelites wise to listen to and believe God's message given through Moses? Because the Lord will not deliver those who refuse to believe His Word."

What God says, He will do. And what God says, we must believe.

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV) And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.