

## A Leader for the Exodus

Exodus 1:1 – 7:7

Key Verse 3:8

"So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey-the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites."

In the book of Exodus, we learn the God of salvation. In the example of Israel, we see how God redeems a people from slavery to train them to become a kingdom of priests and holy nation. God's hope for our country and continent is also to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. In Exodus chapters 1 to 7, we learn what God is doing to redeem his people. God had mercy on the enslaved Israelites and sent them a leader, Moses. God also calls leaders today to be sent for the exodus of young people. May God give us the spiritual desire to accept God's calling and lead young people out of the slavery of sin.

### 1. The preparation of a leader (1:1 – 3:22)

1:1 says, "These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family:" God called Abraham and promised him to make him a great nation (Gen 12:2). God used Joseph for salvation during the famine in Canaan, so that 70 descendants of Jacob came to Egypt. Verse 7 says: "... but the Israelites were fruitful and multiplied greatly and became exceedingly numerous, so that the land was filled with them." The faithful God fulfilled his promise to Abraham, so that the people of Israel grew in Egypt and increased in number. Let us look at verse 8. Another king came up over Egypt. He regarded the Israelites only as potential enemies. He had slave masters put over them, who oppressed them with forced labor. But the suffering under the new king, too, belonged to God's plan (Gen 15:13). Let us read verse 12: "But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites." God remained faithful to his promise. The people also became stronger in the midst of suffering and affliction. Let us look at verses 13 to 16. The Israelites were mercilessly forced to serve Pharaoh. Pharaoh ordered two Hebrew midwives to kill the newborn sons of the Israelite people. But the midwives feared God and let the children live (17). Pharaoh then issued a cruel order to throw all male babies into the Nile (22). How did God prepare his work of redemption in this dark time?

Let us read 2:1-3: "Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile." In this cruel time God began to prepare a liberator for his people. He was Moses, whose parents saw him with the eyes of faith. Like all parents, they saw that their baby was a beautiful child. But beyond that, they also saw that God would use him as a great man of faith and a servant of God. Not to follow Pharaoh's commandment was to risk their lives. But Moses' parents overcame all external pressure and kept him hidden for three months. When the child cried too loudly, they placed him in a basket and put him among the reeds on the bank of the Nile. They did their best to make Moses a great spiritual leader. God's gracious hand was over Moses. His life was saved as he was found by Pharaoh's daughter and given to his mother to be breastfed. Here we learn not to abandon our children and students to the spirit of the time, but to do our utmost to raise them like Moses, as leaders in God's work of salvation.

Verse 11 says, "One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people." Until he was 40 years old, Moses was brought up by Pharaoh's daughter and taught in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. He became mighty in word and deed (Acts 7:21-22). He had received the best training and now all doors were open to him. Everyone expected him to begin his global career. But at this very moment he decided to be mistreated with the people

of God (Heb 11:25). God blessed his decision of faith and made him the leader of the people of God.

Verse 15 says, "When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well." Moses had slain an Egyptian in order to save his people. Moses' deed became known and came before Pharaoh. Moses fled and came to the desert of Midian. Moses, who could have led a wealthy life, had now arrived in Midian. God used these 40 years in Midian to teach Moses humility and to prepare him as a shepherd and leader for the exodus of an entire people.

Let's read verses 23 to 25: "During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them." The Israelites cried out to God in their slavery and their cry came before God. They recognized their complete helplessness. Slavery in Egypt was unbearable. They must have thought that God had forsaken them. In fact, God saw their misery and prepared a leader for them in Moses long before that. God heard their lamentations and remembered his covenant. Now after 40 years of palace training and 40 years of desert training the time had come to call Moses to the practical mission of God.

Let's look at 3:1-2. Moses was, as always, feeding the sheep of the priest Jethro. All of a sudden he noticed a burning bush that was not consumed by the fire. It was the angel of God. Let us read verse 4: "When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." Now God called Moses and revealed himself to him as the God of his father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob (5-6). God remained faithful to the promise he had made to his ancestors and now called Moses to save his people through him. Moses could no longer believe that he would be able to save his people. But God intervened in Moses' life. God had a rescue plan and wanted to use Moses for it.

Verse 7 says, „The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering." God shared with Moses his heart for the people who were tormented under the bondage of Pharaoh. Let us read verse 8: "So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites." God had great mercy on them and had come to save them from the wretched slavery of Egypt and to lead them to the land he had promised their forefathers.

What does this story mean to us? On the surface, most people in Europe are doing well. But the Bible teaches that all people are slaves to sin. So many people are desperate and lonely. Why are there so many who fall into different addictions? Young people who should be full of hope and have great potential cry out inwardly for salvation.

My friend is ambitious to become a successful manager. God has come down to free him from the dominion of his ego and restore his relationship with God. Outwardly he seems to lack nothing, but inwardly his soul cries out for liberation from the lie of atheism. God wants to save him from the dominion of sin and make him a holy people.

Our God has great mercy on the people of Europe who suffer from slavery to sin and wants to bring them salvation. God wants to give them his good and wide land and use them as a kingdom of priests for world mission. God's plan is to spiritually awaken them through one-to-one Bible study and give them the glorious kingdom of God as their eternal inheritance.

Let us read verses 9 and 10: "And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." God called Moses for the great task of being the

leader of the Exodus. It was not Moses who had chosen this task, but God wanted to send Moses to Pharaoh and bring about the exodus of his people through him. God had a burning shepherd's heart for the salvation of his people. But God does not work alone. He wanted to use a weak man Moses to fulfill his plan of salvation.

Here we learn God's heart to free all people from the bondage of sin. To this end, God prepares leaders and calls them for his work of salvation. God is preparing leaders among us - the next generation - through the GLEF and calling us to continue his work of salvation.

As a young man, all I did all day was try to satisfy the evil desires of my youth in the Internet and through the love of girls. But God came to save me from slavery to sin and give me new, eternal life in him. Through my shepherd, God gave me his word from Deut 6:5 and helped me to leave my old godless life and personally accept God's grace of salvation. God, the Lord, became my new and true object of worship. How great is God's grace for changing me and calling me to be a leader for the exodus of the young people on campus.

Let's look at verses 11 and 12. Moses felt unable to accomplish this great task. But God promised him that he would be with him and that they would sacrifice to God on that same mountain after leaving Egypt. When Moses asked God his name, he replied, "I am who I am". And he said, "I AM has sent me to you". (3:14) God revealed himself as the eternal God who is, and who was and who is to come (Rev 1:8). Just as God had revealed his omnipotence and grace to his ancestors, so he would show himself to the Israelites.

In this section we have learned about God's heart and plan of salvation. God had mercy on the Israelites and prepared a leader, Moses, for the Exodus. In a completely hopeless time, God intervened in his redemption story by preparing a man as the leader for his people. God's heart is that the students in Germany and Europe will be liberated from the dominion of sin and raised as his vast army. God's will for us is to understand his heart and accept his call by interceding for sheep and the pioneering of 1700 universities in Europe.

## **2. God sends Moses to Pharaoh (4:1 – 7:7)**

4:1 says, "Moses answered, 'What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, "The Lord did not appear to you?"'" God had revealed himself to Moses as the eternal God. God also promised Moses: "I will be with you" (3:12a), "and they will listen to you" (3:18a). Despite encountering the living God and his promises, Moses remained distrustful of God and his own people. The rejection of his own people made him fatalistic. In his unbelief, he limited the omnipotence of God. How did God help Moses?

Let's look at verses 2 through 9. God gave Moses three signs that would give him confidence for his coming mission in Egypt: 1. a staff that became a snake when Moses threw it on the ground and became a staff again when Moses grabbed it by its tail; 2. Moses' hand that became leprosy like snow when he put it into the bulge of his garment; 3. the water from the Nile that became blood. Through these signs, God helped Moses to overcome his inner fear and to trust in God's omnipotence and help. In our mission life, we need confidence that God is with us and equips us with everything we need for his mission. Inner fear paralyzes and prevents God's work. We can solve our fear problem in Jesus alone by repenting of our self-occupation and unbelief. Our Almighty God sends us to the campuses to challenge the Pharaoh of false teachings. With certainty that God is with us, we can fulfill God's mission by leading students out of slavery to sin through one-to-one Bible study.

How did Moses react to the words of God? Let's look at verse 10. Moses had the excuse that he was slow of speech and tongue. God did not give up on Moses. Let us read verses 11 and 12: "The Lord said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." With great patience and love, God served Moses and encouraged him

by planting faith in the Almighty Creator in his heart. Moses should learn not to look at himself, but at the Almighty God.

Let's look at verses 13 to 17. Moses still hesitated to accept the calling and made God angry by saying, "My Lord, please send someone else." God, however, helped Moses by giving him his brother Aaron as a coworker. God encouraged Moses again and again.

Let us read 5:1: "Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert.'" Because God had given Moses and Aaron his authority, they could stand before the mighty Pharaoh in obedience of faith and proclaim the message of God: "Let my people go!" God commanded that his people should make a clear decision and completely abandon their old life in Egypt. Without a clear decision to end our old life, we cannot live a new, changed life. This is also God's message today for lost people, to whom we should courageously proclaim.

Let us look at verses 2 to 4. Pharaoh rejected the message of God. His disobedience to God was a direct result of his arrogance and unrepentance. In verses 5 to 13, Pharaoh commanded the Egyptian slave drivers of the people and their Israelite overseers to oppress the Israelites even harder. Here we see the wickedness of Pharaoh. First, he accused the servants of God (5), then he claimed that the people were lazy (8). He did not accept that the Exodus was God's message and will, and was too arrogant to place himself under God's dominion. This is the cruel face of Pharaoh who does not acknowledge God's rule, despises God's servants and oppresses God's people.

Let us look at verses 19 to 23. Moses was again rejected by Pharaoh and his people. Moses was desperate because, contrary to his expectation, the suffering of the people was only greater and the people were not saved. But when he returned to God, God encouraged him and raised him up again.

Let us read 6:1: „Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country." God told Moses that Pharaoh would be under the control of God's strong hand. The Exodus was accomplished only by the strong hand of God. God continued to accompany Moses patiently and with great love, so that Moses would experience the strong hand of God.

In verses 10 to 13, God sent Moses again to Pharaoh. Again, Moses looked at himself and replied that he could not speak. God carried Moses and helped him to the end. In this chapter it says six times "God talked with Moses...". This shows that God sought fellowship with his servant Moses, spoke with him and helped him to trust in God's help. God wants us, too, to get to know him deeply and personally, so that we develop a deep love relationship with him in the moment of despair and also to grow in his heart for the young people of our generation.

Let us read 7:1: "Then the Lord said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet." Moses had said several times that he could not speak well and that Pharaoh would not listen to him (4:10; 5:23; 6:12,30). Although God encouraged him again and again, Moses still felt too helpless. But just at that moment God sent him again as his messenger to the arrogant Pharaoh. Moses was even to be like God to Pharaoh, because God had appointed Moses as his deputy, with his authority. In this way, God helped Moses to overcome his inner fear and gain confidence for victory. The Almighty Creator awakened in him a clear spiritual identity as his servant and fulfilling his mission.

Let us read verse 6: "Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded them." Moses and Aaron accepted God's sovereign will, went back to Pharaoh and did as the Lord had commanded them. When they obeyed God's guidance by faith, they were filled with challenging Spirit and gained victory of faith. May God give us his authority and confidence in victory, with which we challenge the Pharaoh of godless humanism and proclaim the word of

God on campus, so that young people may be freed from the dominion of sin and be raised as a vast army of God.

God so loves the students on the campuses that he gave his only Son so that all who believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life. God wants them to turn from the lies of the godless spirit of the times, and wants to give them a new life under his dominion. Thanks be to God for appointing the next generations as shepherds and Bible teachers who may lead students out of the bondage of sin through Bible study and establish them as the holy people of God.

Today we learned that God calls leaders to fulfill his plan of salvation for the lost through them. God had mercy on the Israelites and wanted to save them from Pharaoh's bondage. God prepared a leader, Moses, for this purpose. God carried his inner fear and served him with patient love by sending him again and again to Pharaoh. It is God's sovereign will that he had his servants, whom he has called, fight against the forces of evil, that they defeat the enemies of God and lead the people of God out of their dominion. Our God is the sovereign God who guides his saving work through leaders. He encourages us to understand his heart and accept his calling, to use us as leaders for the spiritual exodus of this generation. Through us, God is establishing 100,000 Bible teachers and 5 million prayer servants and making Europe a missionary sending continent.

Let us read the key verse 3:8: "So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites."