

When “I Am” becomes “I Will”

3.8.2020

Message 9

Exodus Series

Exodus 6:2–27 (CSB)

GOD PROMISES FREEDOM

²Then God spoke to Moses, telling him, “I am the LORD. ³I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but I was not known to them by my name ‘the LORD.’ ⁴I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land they lived in as aliens. ⁵Furthermore, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are forcing to work as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant.

⁶“Therefore tell the Israelites: I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from the forced labor of the Egyptians and rescue you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and great acts of judgment. ⁷I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from the forced labor of the Egyptians. ⁸I will bring you to the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.” ⁹*Moses told this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their broken spirit and hard labor.*

¹⁰Then the LORD spoke to Moses, ¹¹“Go and tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go from his land.”

¹²But Moses said in the LORD’s presence: “If the Israelites will not listen to me, then how will Pharaoh listen to me, since I am such a poor speaker?”

¹³Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them commands concerning both the Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt to bring the Israelites out of the land of Egypt.

GENEALOGY OF MOSES AND AARON

¹⁴These are the heads of their fathers’ families:

The sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel:

Hanoch and Pallu, Hezron and Carmi.

These are the clans of Reuben.

¹⁵The sons of Simeon:

Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin,

Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman.

These are the clans of Simeon.

¹⁶These are the names of the sons of Levi

according to their family records;

Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

Levi lived 137 years.

¹⁷The sons of Gershon:

Libni and Shimei, by their clans.

¹⁸The sons of Kohath:

Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

Kohath lived 133 years.

¹⁹The sons of Merari:

Mahli and Mushi.

These are the clans of the Levites

according to their family records.

²⁰Amram married his father's sister Jochebed,

and she bore him Aaron and Moses.

Amram lived 137 years.

²¹The sons of Izhar:

Korah, Nepheg, and Zichri.

²²The sons of Uzziel:

Mishael, Elzaphan, and Sithri.

²³Aaron married Elisheba,

daughter of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon.

She bore him Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

²⁴The sons of Korah:

Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph.

These are the clans of the Korahites.

²⁵Aaron's son Eleazar married

one of the daughters of Putiel,

and she bore him Phinehas.

These are the heads of the Levite families by their clans.

²⁶It was this Aaron and Moses whom the LORD told, "Bring the Israelites out of the land of Egypt according to their military divisions." ²⁷Moses and Aaron were the ones who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt in order to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

Introduction to the Text:

A. At this place in Exodus, we are on the verge of the great plagues.

1. Soon, God's power and wrath will be unleashed upon Egypt.
2. Miraculous signs and wonders will be displayed.
3. These signs and wonders serve a couple of purposes:
 - a. One, they are God's judgment upon the cruelty of Egypt.

1. For 400 years, Egypt has oppressed God's people.

2. Even though God had predicted and allowed this to take place, Egypt's actions still carried consequences.

3. God allows us to sin and even knows that we will sin, yet that does not relieve us of our responsibility and consequences.

b. Another reason for the upcoming signs and wonders is to demonstrate God's Covenantal power.

1. A promise or contract has no value if there is not power to fulfill that promise or contract.

2. God had promised that He would deliver Israel from Egypt into the Promised Land.

3. The 10 plagues served as proof of God's power to deliver upon His promise.

B. Before God deals with Egypt, God must reassure His people.

1. It can be a scary thing to move from slavery to freedom.

a. In fact, the second half of Exodus is all about teaching slaves how to live in new-found freedom.

b. When all we have ever known is slavery, the unknowns of freedom feel like a curse.

c. Some of you find yourself witnessing with friends and family who have lived a life far from God for all their lives.

1. And you wonder "why can't they see that Jesus is better!"

2. Why won't my friend or husband or kid give their life to Jesus.

3. Sometimes, the answer is that they cannot picture a life different than what they have lived.

4. Hope is the picture of a better tomorrow and without Jesus we have no hope.

5. It's possible that the person you want to see saved the most literally cannot picture a future without their present slavery and bondage.

2. Broken people cannot heal themselves.

a. The Hebrews were a broken people.

b. Before God would deliver them, He had to heal them.

c. Israel's healing began with a revelation of God.

1. God interrupts the excuses with a revelation of Himself.

A. Back and forth, God's people and God's leaders complain.

1. They complain about God's methods.

2. They complain about God's timing.

3. They complain that they do not have what it takes.

4. Throughout, the Hebrews have NO hope that God will do what He promised.

B. God steps in and makes an amazing declaration.

1. He says that your fathers knew me as God Almighty (El Shaddai).

2. But, to you I have revealed my name, YHWH or I Am.

3. In other words, God was saying "I am going to lead you like never before. You are going to know me like never before. I am going to act like never before."

4. The Exodus would usher in a new revelation of God.

5. The Israelites entered Egypt knowing God in one way and would leave Exodus knowing God in a totally new and deeper way.

a. Some of you have been living in an Egypt season.

b. God is going to use this season to reveal Himself in a way that you never could have known otherwise.

c. Every place God leads you has a specific lesson that can only be learned in that place and that season.

1. Egypt, Midians, Red Seas, Wildernesses, and Promise Lands are all tools God uses to teach His people.

2. God uses each place as an opportunity to reveal a different facet of Himself to us.

2. God chooses this time to emphasize that He is the one who will bring deliverance from Egypt.

A. 6 times God says He will do something.

1. I will bring you out.

2. I will redeem you.

3. I will take you as my people.

4. I will be your God.

5. I will bring you.

6. I will give you the land as a possession.

B. Moses and Israel were complaining about what they couldn't do when it had nothing to do with their power or ability.

1. It wasn't up to their power, their wisdom, their strategy.

2. It was God who would redeem them, God who would bring them, and God who would give them the victory.

a. It's not up to me. **Say this with me.**

b. It's up to God!

C. We too often make this all about us.

1. When we do, we complain when we lose.

2. You were not designed to face life alone.

a. When God created Adam and Eve, in the perfect place and perfect setting, God met Adam and Eve daily in the Garden.

b. God never intended for us to depend upon Him in only the hard things.

c. He never intended for us to walk through life alone.

3. If God created humanity to walk with Him in the Garden, it makes sense that God intended for humanity to walk with God in the desert.

a. God wants to walk along-side you in the good and the bad.

b. The soft and the hard.

D. The upcoming battle was never Israel vs Pharaoh it was God vs. Pharaoh.

1. This was never only about Israel.

2. It was about God.

3. The battle you are facing is not about you and the enemy but God and the enemy.

4. Your circumstances, your pain, and your suffering are the battleground that God uses to display his glory!

E. Last week as I was in my car, I had the following Word come to me:

1. I hate seeing you go through the pain, the suffering and the trouble you are going through. But I'm excited about watching the miracles that are coming.

2. I'm excited about the display of God's power being manifest in your life.

3. I'm excited about the victory is coming.

4. I hate that you are going through trials and tribulations, but I can't wait to celebrate with you when God shows up!

5. Does this word resonate with anybody today?

3. How will I know that God is going to do what He has promised?

A. Does anybody think it is weird that the story is interrupted by a genealogy?

1. Why would God interrupt the story by telling about Moses' lineage?

2. I believe this genealogy is listed here to demonstrate God's faithfulness in the past.

3. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

a. The God of Levi, the God of Korah, and the God of Amram is the same God that was getting ready to fulfill his promise.

b. The same God that was with their fathers, is with them now, and will be with them tomorrow.

c. In English the verbs could be said like this:

1. God was,

2. God is,

3. God will.

d. He is Past, Present, and Future.

B. How can we know God will be with us today and tomorrow? By looking at what He has done in the past.

1. The same God who was faithful to those who have gone before will be faithful to us today.

2. I am a pessimist by nature but an optimist by grace.

a. I believe God still has big things in store because I have seen what He has done in the past.

b. It is not in God's nature to break a covenant.

3. The Assemblies of God was founded in 1914, at a time when the world was beginning to tear apart at the seams.

a. From 1914-1918, millions would die in what we call WW1.

b. Yet, in the midst of that, God poured out His Spirit and power in incredible ways.

c. As we look around at a world that is still coming apart, I am hopeful because I know that when times seem the darkest, God shines the brightest.

d. It was incredible dark in Egypt before God set Israel free.

e. It was incredibly dark at Calvary before Jesus arose from the Grave.

f. It may be incredibly dark today, but it presents a powerful opportunity for God to move in a remarkable way.

4. Notice that how the people of God responded to God's revelation.

A. The people did not listen, could not believe, because of their broken spirit and hard labor.

1. For me the key phrase is "their broken spirit".

2. The goal of the enemy was working:

a. Break their spirit, break their hope, and they wouldn't have what it takes to be a threat.

b. Pharaoh was close to winning because the people no longer had the spirit to hope.

B. Could it be that the enemy of your soul is orchestrating all kinds of junk in your life so he can keep you distracted, tormented, and broken?

1. For some of us here today, our spirits are broken.

2. It is hard to describe what that looks and feels like, but something inside of you is resonating with that term.

- a. You're tired and no amount of sleep will fix it.
- b. You're anxious but have no idea why.
- c. What used to bring you joy now feels burdensome.
- d. Your disposition and personality has changed.
- e. You no longer plan ahead but just try to survive the day.
- f. While these all can be signs of depression, which often has a biological and physiological root, they can also be signs that our spirits have been broken and not in a good way.

3. If that is you today, don't feel guilty and don't feel condemned.

- a. God knows perfectly how to love people who are broken in spirit.
- b. Isaiah 42 is quoted by Matthew in Matthew 12:18–21

**¹⁸ Here is my servant whom I have chosen,
my beloved in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.**

**¹⁹ He will not argue or shout,
and no one will hear his voice in the streets.**

**²⁰ He will not break a bruised reed,
and he will not put out a smoldering wick,
until he has led justice to victory.**

²¹ The nations will put their hope in his name.'

c. A bruised or broken reed had no value, yet Jesus won't break that.

d. A smoldering wick offers no light, yet Jesus won't extinguish it.

e. Jesus declared the poor in Spirit to be blessed.

f. That's because victory is not dependent upon our condition, our power, or our strength but is dependent upon God.

C. The same God who led a broken people victoriously out of Egypt is the same God that is going to lead you and I into victory as well.

Closing. **Broken people cannot heal themselves.**

A. The people of God were broken, oppressed, and in slavery.

1. Thankfully, God didn't tell them to get their act together and go whoop Pharaoh.

2. Instead, God told them to watch what God will do.

B. Some of you have been trying to heal yourself.

1. Heal yourself of your past sins.

2. Heal yourself of your defects (remember Moses complained about not being able to speak clearly).

3. Heal yourself of your brokenness and lostness.

C. Today, I think the Lord is wanting to encourage us by saying:

1. **I never intended for you to heal yourself, deliver yourself, or save yourself: I sent Jesus to do that!**

2. Maybe you feel too broken, too tired, to lost, or too stuck to experience victory in your life.

a. God says, "I never meant you to deliver yourself.

b. I never meant for you to take that responsibility upon yourself.

c. Your task is to love and trust Jesus.

d. He will heal you, rescue you, and deliver you.

3. Your impending victory is dependent upon God's strength not yours.

D. This morning, I want to pray for those of us tired of fighting in our own strength.

1. You're tired of taking one step forward, and two steps back.

2. You're tired of feeling like you aren't good enough or strong enough so why even try.

3. You are ready for a revelation of God's power and strength to show up in a huge way.

If I have described you, here in just a moment, will you join me up front while we pray, worship, and seek God together?

Today, God wants to reassure His people of His strength, power, and authority over our lives and our world.

Rebuilder by Carrolton wrote this song.

Lyrics

Through the rubble and the wreckage,
I'd forgotten who I was
You reached out for my hand
And found me in the dust
My soul had given up
But You wouldn't leave me undone

Rebuilder
My walls were crumbling
Restorer
You brought the light into the room
And filled my lungs
So I could learn to breathe again
My shelter
My warmth in the coldest night
My Helper
You held me up till I could stand
On the promise that You are
Rebuilding me

I have seen the dawn
Start to break between the cracks

The beginnings of a day
I never thought would come to pass
You brought me back to life
You are the morning in my life