



EXODUS - WEEK 6

The Purpose of Promises

Opening prayer

Prayer for the persecuted church:

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Erick Cobb and Covenant Grace Church.

Closing prayer

INTRO: Promises are tricky things | Promises are only as good as the person who promises | Subjective promises vs. objective promises |

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

John Newton encouraged Christians experiencing trials to meditate upon the doctrine of glorification | Newton's illustration

Big Idea: God gives us promises that we might experience Him fulfilling those promises.

Exodus 6:1

6 But the Lord said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh;

It's vital that we see God do something, that we witness God working in our lives, for the sake of our children. The generation that does

not witness the power of God is the generation that forsakes God.

Judges 2:7;10

⁷ And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel.

¹⁰ And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another

generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.

Exodus 6:1-2

for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land.”² God spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the Lord.

Good News: Our relationship with God is defined by who He is.

Notice that God says this over and over to Moses — “I am the Lord,” which tells us something about our relationship with the Lord.

First, God defines Himself.

Second, our relationship with God is defined by who He is, not by who we are. That’s comforting, because it means your relationship with the Lord is not based upon your performance. It’s not based upon what you can do for Him, but upon what He has

done for you. If that's not how you view your relationship with the Lord, then you will struggle to be accepted by God based upon merits or works rather than grace through Christ.

Exodus 6:3

³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them.

God reveals Himself to us in His own good time at His own pace. Now does this mean Moses knew God in a greater way than Abraham and Isaac? Does it mean that we know God better than Moses because we have the revelation of Christ?

Now, think carefully. If you're nodding your head yes inside, realize that you're saying you know God better than Moses through whom God parted a sea. Do you know God in that way? Do you have a deeper knowledge of the gospel than Moses at that time?

Hebrews 3:1-6

3 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ² who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house.

³ For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴ (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)

⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶ but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

I believe the idea here that God is communicating to Moses is rather, “I did not manifest Myself to them in the way that you and this people will soon see.”

God told Moses how He would act. Now, Moses and the people are going to see God act. That's the idea. "God would now be known by His name, Yahweh, that is a God performing what He promised." (Matthew Henry)

The point is this, we can know something about God, but when we actually experience what we know about God it takes us to a deeper place of knowing.

God gives us promises that we might experience Him fulfilling those promises.

It takes us out of the realm of only knowing God by hearsay.

It's one thing to know about something. It's something altogether to experience what we know about a given subject. You can study all the details of what it takes to jump out of a plane and parachute safely to the ground, but

that's altogether different than actually jumping out of a plane and pulling the ripcord. (Now, personally, I don't find anything enjoyable that might kill me.)

Exodus 6:4-8

⁴ I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. ⁵ Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶ Say

**therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am
the Lord,**

**We stake everything we are and everything we
believe on Who God has revealed Himself to
be — the Lord, the Sovereign Ruler of all
things, Creator of time and space.**

**and I will bring you out from under the
burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver
you from slavery to them, and I will redeem
you with an outstretched arm and with great
acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you to be my**

people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.”

Bid idea: God gives us promises that we might experience Him fulfilling those promises.

Every single human being has need of these same promises today. Now, the only way we can trust that these promises will come about is if God is the Lord. Promises are only as good as the one making the promises.

So what are these promises and how do they apply to us today?

1. I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians (**freedom from oppression**)

2. I will deliver you from slavery (deliverance from bondage)
3. I will redeem you (vindicate, clear of blame)
4. with an outstretched arm (power outside yourself)
5. with great acts of judgment (objective justice in the universe)
6. I will take you to be my people (adoption)
7. I will be your God (Lordship)
8. you shall know that I am the Lord your God (subjective, experiential)
9. I will bring you into the land (journey, He will take you to a new place in your life)

10. I will give it to you for a possession.
(inheritance)

Why don't we always experience the promises of God?

⁹ Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

Discouragement brings about unbelief.

Luke 8:22-25

²² One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they set out, ²³ and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. ²⁴ And they went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵ He said to them, “Where is your

faith?” And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?”

Exodus 6:10-13

¹⁰ So the Lord said to Moses, ¹¹ “Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land.”

Notice that the Lord doesn't rebuke the people in their discouragement. He takes the offensive against their enemies.

¹² But Moses said to the Lord, “Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?”

Discouraged people don't focus on the promises of the Lord. “I can't even get these people who know you to listen. How am I

going to get this person who doesn't know you to listen?"

“Where is your faith?” The same thing could be asked of Moses here. He had faith. He just wasn't applying it to the circumstances he was in.

¹³ But the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

God reasserts His promises.

He promised them He would do this. Now, to see Him do this they actually have to trust God in the circumstances they are in. How do they show they trust God? They do what He said. He gave them a charge — bring the people out of Egypt.

He shows us that Bill Belichick, coach of the New England Patriots, has one thing right — do your job.

Now we come to this list of names — a genealogy. It has been said that reading “a genealogy surely must rank alongside a root canal or a trip to the DMV on the last day of the month.”

The numbering of God’s people during the wilderness wanderings shows that while they aren’t as innumerable as the stars in the sky *yet*, God has made Abraham a great nation and isn’t done fulfilling this promise to him and his descendants (Num. 1–4.)

Genealogies trace the history of God's promises to real people. Real promises fulfilled in the lives of real people.

¹⁴ These are the heads of their fathers' houses: the sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi; these are the clans of Reuben. ¹⁵ The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman; these are the clans of Simeon. ¹⁶ These are the names of the sons of Levi according to their generations: Gershon, Kohath, and

Merari, the years of the life of Levi being 137 years. ¹⁷ The sons of Gershon: Libni and Shimei, by their clans. ¹⁸ The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel, the years of the life of Kohath being 133 years. ¹⁹ The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. These are the clans of the Levites according to their generations. ²⁰ Amram took as his wife Jochebed his father's sister, and she bore him Aaron and Moses, the years of the life of Amram being 137 years. ²¹ The sons of Izhar: Korah, Nepheg, and Zichri. ²² The sons of Uzziel: Michael, Elzaphan, and Sithri. ²³ Aaron

took as his wife Elisheba, the daughter of Amminadab and the sister of Nahshon, and she bore him Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ²⁴ The sons of Korah: Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph; these are the clans of the Korahites. ²⁵ Eleazar, Aaron's son, took as his wife one of the daughters of Putiel, and she bore him Phinehas. These are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites by their clans.

These genealogies tie Aaron and Moses to God's history of redemption.

²⁶ These are the Aaron and Moses to whom the Lord said: “Bring out the people of Israel from the land of Egypt by their hosts.” ²⁷ It was they who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt about bringing out the people of Israel from Egypt, this Moses and this Aaron.

Now, we have historical leaders who lead a historical people out of captivity from Egypt by the promises of a living God.

28 On the day when the Lord spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, 29 the Lord said to Moses, “I am the Lord; tell Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you.” 30 But Moses said to the Lord, “Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips. How will Pharaoh listen to me?”

Well, the answer was already given to him. “I am the Lord. That’s why you can tell this unbeliever what’s going to happen.” A promise is only as good as the one who gives the promise.