

## **Open your Bibles to Exodus 6:28-7:7.**

- We're continuing our study of the book of Exodus.
- This morning we will read of how God gave a command to Moses and Aaron to speak to Pharaoh on His behalf.
- And we'll be considering how God's words to them should encourage the us as we speak on His behalf to sinners.

## **Brothers and sisters, God has given a message to His Church.**

- That message is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Our Lord has commissioned us to go and tell the world about sin and salvation, eternal death and eternal life, judgment and redemption.
- He has called us to go into the world and declare that Jesus Christ is the only Savior of sinners.
- We who have believed the Gospel are to tell it SO THAT others might come to know the Living God.

## **Now, what does this have to do with Moses and Aaron and Exodus?**

- We, the Church, speak on God's behalf to sinners.
- We take His Word and tell what He has said.
- Having been given a message from God, the Church is something of a body of prophets.
- And in our text today, we will see God re-commission Moses and Aaron to speak to Pharaoh on HIS BEHALF.
- They will be God's prophets. His mouthpieces to Pharaoh.

**And God, in His kindness, knew that this would be**

### **a difficult job.**

- So, in our text this morning, He spoke some encouraging words to those men.
- The way ahead would be difficult and frustrating at times.
- But, as we will see, God armed Moses and Aaron with knowledge and His promises ahead of time.
- He told them, in so many words, that the success of the Exodus didn't depend on them and their ability to convince Pharaoh of their message.
- The Exodus depended on GOD and His unfailing ability to do all His holy will.
- Moses and Aaron were to just say whatever God told them to say.

### **This morning, I hope to encourage you with regard to evangelism.**

- I want to encourage you to be faithful to speak God's Word on His behalf.
- I want to encourage you with the truth that even the unbeliever's sinful rejection of God is part of His plan.
- And I want to encourage you that, sooner or later, in one way or another, every man, woman, and child who has ever or will ever live, will one day confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord. **THE WORLD WILL KNOW THE LORD.**
- May God bless the preaching of His Word.

**If you would, and are able, please stand with me now for the reading of the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God.**

## **Exodus 6:28-30**

[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?"

[1] And the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet.

[2] You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land.

[3] But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt,

[4] Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment.

[5] The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them."

[6] Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the LORD commanded them.

[7] Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.

**(PRAY)**

***Our Most Gracious God,***

***•We desire to understand, believe, and obey your***

*Word.*

- *But we are weak in mind, faith, and will.*
- *So we ask now that you would be merciful to us for Christ's sake, and grant us grace to do these things.*
- *Please, make us teachable. And teach us by your Holy Spirit working through your Word.*
- *Convict us of sin, and grant repentance.*
- *Reveal our guilt, and show us our Savior.*
- *Encourage us with your promises, and strengthen our wills to walk in your ways.*
- *Grant that we, believing on Christ afresh, would have reformation of life, to the glory of our Triune God.*
- *Glorify yourself in us today.*
- *We ask these things in Jesus' Name and for His sake.*
- *Amen.*

### **1.) We'll begin by briefly looking back at 6:10-13.**

- You'll remember that God had told Moses to tell the Israelites of His covenant promises of freedom, adoption, and the land of Canaan.
- Moses told them what God had said, but they wouldn't listen to him.

### **Looking at vv10-12, we see that Moses then became discouraged again.**

- When God recommissioned Moses to go and tell Pharaoh to free the Israelites, Moses said, "Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?"
- Moses basically said, "The Israelites didn't listen to me. So why should Pharaoh listen to me? And you know

I can't speak well. I can't do this. ”

**Moses was discouraged again.**

- He thought it was no use to speak to Pharaoh.
- But what Moses had forgotten was that he wasn't the one who would really be “speaking.”
- GOD will do the talking THROUGH Moses and Aaron.
- So Moses' disability didn't really matter.
- God would take care of it all.
- And so, in v13 God gave the same charge and told them to go and speak to Pharaoh.

**Basically the same situation comes up in vv28-30.**

- It's probably the same conversation and not a new one.
- The genealogy in vv14-27 interrupted the narrative. So vv28-30 is a quick recap as the narrative resumes.
- But there is one difference: This time, Moses' complaint sets the stage for God to speak more about Aaron and reaffirm His promises to save Israel and judge Egypt.

**But before we dive into that, I want you to see the CHARGE GOD GAVE TO MOSES AND AARON.**

•In v29 we read: “the LORD said to Moses, ‘I am the LORD; tell Pharaoh king of Egypt ALL THAT I SAY TO YOU.’”

- They are to speak. That's it. That's all God tells them to do. They are to TELL Pharaoh all that God says.
- They don't even have to convince him. They just have to tell him.
- God will do the rest. He will handle the results.

- Their only task is to be found faithful to say all that God tells them to say.
- God will take care of the Exodus. Moses and Aaron will simply be messengers of God to Pharaoh.

**Now we turn to see how God encouraged them:**

- God begins by saying, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh...”
- More literally, the text says, “See, I have MADE YOU GOD to Pharaoh...”
- This would’ve been incredibly encouraging to Moses.
- God is saying that, with regard to Pharaoh, Moses is God. Moses has divine authority. When Moses speaks to Pharaoh, God is speaking.
- Now, obviously, Moses didn’t become divine. This is a figure of speech.
- But the impact must’ve been huge for Moses: He has all the authority of God when he goes to confront Pharaoh.

**And catch this:** Pharaoh was considered a god by the Egyptians.

- But God tells Moses, “I have made you God to Pharaoh.”
- Pharaoh, a mere man, claims to be a god. But the true and Living God, Yahweh, has made Moses God to Pharaoh.
- If Moses, a mere man, is as God to Pharaoh, then what is the true God who stands behind Moses and gives him such authority?
- HE IS CERTAINLY AND TRULY ALMIGHTY GOD OVER PHARAOH, EGYPT, AND THE WORLD.

**Catch this, too:** God is using human instruments to do His work. This is really amazing.

- God could've spoken to Pharaoh Himself. But God chose to use men, as His representatives, to do His work!
- God brings fallen, sinful, but believing men to become co-laborers with Himself!
- It was the great privilege of Moses and Aaron to be called into this work. It was their glory to be used by God for this purpose.

**But let's continue:** God is God. Moses is His prophet.

- But now Moses is like God to Pharaoh. So who is Moses' prophet?
- God says, "...and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land."
- Aaron will be Moses' prophet. He will be his spokesman, his mouthpiece.
- God will speak to Moses. Moses will tell Aaron what God said. And Aaron will tell Pharaoh what Moses said.
- So when Aaron speaks as Moses' prophet, he will speak the very Word of God to Pharaoh.

**So here's what we have so far:**

- God has commissioned Moses and Aaron to speak.
- Moses has been given divine authority from God.
- Aaron will function as Moses' prophet.
- And Aaron is to tell Pharaoh "to let the people of Israel go out of his land."

- Sounds easy enough. It's definitely simple enough.
- And since the message carries God's divine authority, that means that Pharaoh will listen. Right?

## **WRONG.**

- God Himself said that Pharaoh would not listen.
- In vv3-4 God says, "But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, Pharaoh will not listen to you..."
- As God has said before, He now says again: "I will harden Pharaoh's heart..."
- He will grant Pharaoh the resolve to continue to do WHAT PHARAOH WANTS TO DO.

**Let's be clear about this:** God won't force Pharaoh to rebel.

- God never causes Pharaoh to act contrary to Pharaoh's own desires.
- Pharaoh is a sinner and wants to rebel. He doesn't want to listen to God's Word. He wants to continue in his wickedness and keep the Israelites enslaved.
- He WANTS to continue in unbelief and rebellion.
- And so, in an act of judgment, God will increase Pharaoh's resolve, to his own destruction.
- God will refuse to change Pharaoh's heart. God will harden him in his sin.
- No matter how fierce God's judgments become, "though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, Pharaoh will not listen to you..."
- God will grant Pharaoh the strength of will to continue on the path of destruction and damnation.



**NOTE:** This is what God does to every reprobate (non-Elect) sinner.

- He lets them go their own way and grants them the resolve to continue to ignore His warnings, ignore His Gospel, and scorn His wrath.

- He doesn't restrain or change their hearts to fear Him.

- In the Elect, God graciously intervenes and changes their hearts so they fear Him and look to His Son, Jesus Christ, for salvation.

- But in the reprobate, God leaves them as they are and hardens them in their sin unto their own deserved destruction.

**Now, to this, some object and say,** "That is unfair! Sinners can't come to God unless He changes their hearts. So it's unfair for God to not change them and then damn them."

- God actually anticipates such an objection in Romans 9:18-21. There the Apostle says:

- "So then He (*God*) has mercy on whomever He wills, and He hardens whomever He wills. You will say to me then, 'Why does He still find fault? For who can resist His will?' But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, 'Why have you made me like this?' Has the potter no right over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?"

**Friends, God is God. And He is free to do as He wills.**

- Grace cannot be demanded. And sinners do not deserve grace.

- God has mercy on whom He wills. And He hardens whom He wills.
- He has the right to do that. He is God. And we have no right to accuse the holy One of wrongdoing.
- There is more that could be said about this. But that's all I'll say for now.

**In the text, God says that He will harden Pharaoh's heart so that he will not listen no matter how many signs and wonders God does in Egypt.**

- These "signs and wonders" refer to what we often call the Plagues of Egypt.
- But really, they are SIGNS. They will point to God's supremacy over all the gods and power of Egypt.
- God will destroy them all, one by one.
- His signs and wonders will reveal something of His nature to all those who see and hear of them.
- But even though God does this, Pharaoh won't listen.

**But Pharaoh would not win.**

- Though his heart was hardened against God, he would eventually give up and free the Israelites.
- He would withstand the first nine Plagues. But then God would strike so severely that Pharaoh would break.
- In vv4-5 we read, "...Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them."

**God will lay His hand on Egypt.**

- This is violence. Force. Hostile action.
- God is going to throw down on Egypt.
- He will execute “great acts of judgment” against Egypt.
- He will punish the nation that enslaved His People.
- He will weigh their sins of enslaving and killing His firstborn, Israel, and judge them appropriately.
- He will, in the end, strike down the firstborn in every house in Egypt that does not repent and obey Him.

**NOTE:** This is what God does to all unrepentant sinners.

- For all who do not turn toward Christ in faith, He judges them justly and executes an appropriate response: DAMNATION.

**But by judging Egypt, God will** “bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt.”

- They would go free.
- But they wouldn’t leave running or disorganized or in a panic. They would leave as an army (hosts).
- God, the mighty warrior, would wage war on Egypt and it’s gods. And the result would be that His People leave as a victorious army marching behind God, their King.

**But there is an even greater purpose in all of this.**

- It wasn’t ONLY to judge Egypt and free Israel.
- The purpose of the Exodus is this: So that people “shall know that I am the LORD.”
- Whether it be to their salvation, or to their destruction, God’s goal was that all people would know that He is the LORD.

- That He is sovereign. That there is no one like Him and no one beside Him. That He alone is God.

**The Israelites would know. And many would become true believers and worshippers of God.**

- The Egyptians would know. But most would know too late and be destroyed in their unbelief.

- But catch this: Some Egyptians would know and actually JOIN ISRAEL in the Exodus.

- Exodus 12:38 says, “A mixed multitude also went up with them...”

- When the Israelites left Egypt, a mixed multitude joined themselves to Israel and left Egypt, believing on the God of the Israelites.

- God’s purpose in the Exodus would be realized. The world would know that He is the LORD.

**Now we come to our final verses:**

- “Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the LORD commanded them. Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.”

- They did EXACTLY as God commanded them.

- And what was that? Remember v29: “...tell Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you.”

- And so they did. The text is emphatic about this. With exactness, they were faithful to speak.

- There were no more questions. No more objections.

- They began to entrust the work to God, relying upon His grace, and did as He commanded.

**In summary, we see in this passage that God was**

## **encouraging Moses and Aaron to speak to Pharaoh:**

- God commissioned them again.
- He gave Moses authority as God over Pharaoh.
- He gave Aaron to Moses to speak on his behalf.
- He told that Pharaoh's refusal was part of His plan.
- He promised to judge Egypt and free Israel.
- And He said that Egypt would know that the LORD is God when it was all said and done.
- And it was with THIS KNOWLEDGE that Moses and Aaron went and spoke all that God had said.

## **2.) Now, what does this text speak to us?**

- Well, first, it reminds us that We Must Be Faithful to Our Calling as the Church.
- Just as Moses and Aaron were to be faithful to God's command to speak, we must do the same.

## **Brothers and sisters, God calls us (believers) into His work today.**

- He calls us to speak His Word to the world.
- He calls us to be co-laborers with Him in the work of salvation, declaring Christ to all.
- And this is our great privilege. Not only have we been forgiven of our sins and made God's children, but He has also made us useful to Himself, in a sense.
- Not all the world is called to work with God. Only His Church of which you are members by grace.

## **Reason with me for a moment:**

- God spoke through prophets in past times.
- Then God spoke finally in His Son, Jesus Christ.
- Christ commissioned Apostles to speak His message,

His Gospel on His behalf.

- The commission of the Apostles has been handed down to the Church today.
- The message of Christ, the prophets, and the Apostles are recorded in Scripture.
- And so, it is our responsibility, by God's calling, to take those words, the very Word of God, to the world.

**Just as God called Moses and Aaron to speak to Pharaoh, God calls us to go and speak to little "pharaohs" ever day.**

- The Lord Jesus Christ has given us the Great Commission: "All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

**Brothers and sisters, we are to go into the world and preach the Gospel.**

- We are to go and tell people of their sin against God. To set the Law of God before them.
- We are to declare God's holiness and hatred of sin. His just wrath against sin and promise to damn the wicked.
- We are to warn men of the horrors of Hell and that they deserve to go there for their sin.

**And we are to tell them of God's great mercy and love given through Jesus Christ alone.**

- That God the Son came into the world to save

sinner.

- That the sinless Jesus perfectly obeyed God in order to give His righteousness to those who believe.

- That the sinless One took upon Himself the sins of all who would ever believe on Him.

- And that He went to a cross, offering Himself to the judgment and wrath of God, suffering and dying as a substitute for sinners who would trust in Him.

- That Jesus Christ bore the guilt and condemnation of God in the place of those who would believe.

- And that God raised Him from the dead on the third day, proving that His sacrifice was accepted by God and that He Himself had no sin.

**And we are to then, having declared this message, offer eternal life to sinners through Jesus Christ.**

- We are to say with Christ, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

(Matthew 11:28)

- “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.” (John 6:37)

- “...this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise Him up on the last day.” (John 6:40)

- “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

**We are to say with the Apostles, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved...” (Acts 16:31)**

- “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no

sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

•“...by Him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.” (Acts 13:39)

•“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

### **We go into the world, and we speak the Word of God to sinners.**

•Our job is to take God’s truth OUT THERE. To all the “pharaohs” of the world. To every sinner who will hear us.

- We take it to our unconverted children in the home.
- We take it to the workplace.
- We take it to the school.
- We take it to the family gathering.
- We take it to the dinner with friends.
- We take it to the streets.

### **And when we speak the Word of God, God is speaking through our mouths!**

•Like Moses, when we declare God’s Word faithfully, we have divine authority, for it GOD WHO SPEAKS.

•Moses once said that he desired all God’s people to prophesy. And in the New Covenant, that has happened.

- God’s Spirit has come upon us all!
- There is, as it were, a “prophethood of all believers.”
- Not that every Christian is called to be a preacher or



pastor, but that every believer is one of God's messengers, called by God to declare His Word.

- Every single Christian is called by God to declare the Gospel and speak the truth of Scripture!

**And listen: OUR ONLY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO SPEAK!**

- If you faithfully declare the Gospel, you are successful in your job.

- Moses and Aaron were told that Pharaoh wouldn't listen. But they were to go and speak anyway.

- Success in this work is measured by how faithful you are to speak all that God has commanded you.

- Even if nobody ever comes to faith through your proclamation of Christ crucified, you are still successful.

- Why? Because you spoke as God commanded.

- If you are faithful to speak, then you can say, echoing v6, "I did so; I did just as the Lord commanded me."

**Let me encourage you who are intimidated by this:**

- YOU WILL NOT FAIL TO BE SUCCESSFUL...if you measure success by God's standard.

- And that standard is FAITHFULNESS to the message.

**Christian, SPEAK!**

- Has God not given you a word for the world?

- Has God not placed you in the midst of unbelievers?

- Has God not promised to be with you always?

- YES! He has! So speak!

**Has God asked you to do the impossible?**

- Has God asked you change the hearts of sinners?
- NO! He has simply told you to go and speak.
- The results are up to Him.
- So speak! You can tell people the Gospel.

**Let me give a warning to those of you who are reluctant to speak.**

•When God commissions one of His People to speak and they refuse, He will not hold them guiltless.

•God gave the prophet Ezekiel a message. And then He threatened Ezekiel with this:

•“If I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him NO WARNING, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, BUT HIS BLOOD I WILL REQUIRE AT YOUR HAND. But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but YOU WILL HAVE DELIVERED YOUR OWN SOUL.” (Ezekiel 3:18-19)

•If you refuse to speak, if you scorn this commission from God, He will hold you accountable. There will be blood on your hands.

•So speak, Christian! Be found faithful!

**3.) And know ahead of time that many will reject our message.**

•God told Moses that Pharaoh would not listen.

•Jesus told us the same. We will be hated by the world. Not everyone will believe what we say.

•Some will. But not all.

**But don't let that discourage you.**

- Why? Because God's glory isn't diminished one bit when sinners reject His Gospel.
- He has foreordained whether men will accept or reject His Word.
- God is sovereign over the salvation of sinners.

**Pharaoh's rebellion made it seem, for a while, that he had won against God.**

- But his rebellion was part of God's plan. Even his sin would ultimately serve God's purposes and glory.
- The same is true for every sinner who refuses to come to Christ and be saved.
- Even their unbelief is part of God's plan to glorify Himself in the way that He desires to be glorified.

**Though we do not delight in the destruction of the wicked, nevertheless, even their hostility toward God will glory Him.**

- Psalm 76:10 says, "Even the wrath of man shall praise you."
- God would magnify Himself through Pharaoh's rebellion.
- Pharaoh's sin would increase judgment. And when God judged, all would know that HE is the LORD.
- His rebellion would result in God making much of Himself to the praise of His name.
- The same is true for every sinner who rejects the Gospel unto death.

**How? Fast-forward to the End:**

- God's judgment against the unbelieving will result in His praise and glory.

•Romans 9:22-23 says, “What if God, **desiring to show His wrath and to make known His power**, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, **in order to make known the riches of His glory for vessels of mercy**, which He has prepared beforehand for glory...”

•Even those vessels of wrath, the unbelieving, will serve God’s purpose as He is glorified in making His wrath and power against sin known through judgment.

•And, on the flip side, those who are saved, vessels of mercy, will see what they have been saved from and glorify God for it.

### **God will be glorified in the destruction of the wicked.**

•It may be a hard pill to swallow at first. But that is what He says in His Word.

•He will always be glorified.

•Sinners don’t get the last word. God does.

•So, though we are sorrowful that many will reject our message, we do rejoice that the Judge of all the earth will still be glorified even in that.

### **4.) Brothers and sisters, as you take God’s Word into the world, let me give you one final encouragement:**

•THE WORLD WILL KNOW THE LORD.

•One way or another, the world will know.

•Just as God worked in the Exodus through great acts of judgment in order that the world would know Him, so also God sent His Son into the world to live, die, and be raised, so that the world would know Him.

**All men will one day be convinced and know that the Lord is God.**

- Pharaoh and all Egypt would know by the end of the Exodus.
- And by the End of History, everyone will know that Jesus Christ is Lord.

**Hear me:** There are two ways to know the Lord.

- You can know the Lord in salvation or in judgment.
- But all men will know. That is a fact.
- God will deal with every enemy by either drowning them in the sea of His wrath, or by redeeming them through the Cross of Jesus Christ.
- But every enemy will be dealt with. And everyone will know the Lord.

**One Great Day, everyone will acknowledge the Lordship of Christ.**

•Whether willingly or unwillingly, it doesn't matter. They will do it.

•Philippians 2:10 says, "...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

•Every knee SHALL BOW. Every tongue SHALL CONFESS.

•But, praise be to God, an untold multitude that no man can number will do so before it's too late!

**The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe!**

- Christ lived for your righteousness, died for your sins, and was raised as the Savior of all who will believe!
- Brothers and sisters, many will be saved by the by our proclamation of the Gospel!
- Rejoice and be encouraged! And speak!

**Now let me ask a serious question:**

- Are you in this number?
- Do you confess that Jesus Christ is Lord?
- Have you repented of your sins and turned to Christ in faith for salvation?
- You will someday declare that He is Lord.
- Why not do it now? Why wait until it's too late?
- Turn to Christ and live!

**5.) Brothers and sisters, we have been commissioned by our Lord Jesus Christ to speak.**

- It is our duty. And it is our privileged as the redeemed.
- So we must strive to be found faithful.
- And we must remember that our success is not found in the number of people we see come to Christ.
- Success is faithfulness to speak.

**So as we leave here and go into the world, we go knowing that God will be glorified.**

- Whether they accept or reject Christ, God will be glorified.
- And the world will know the Lord in the end.

**May God grant us love, faith, strength, and courage to speak, that we would be found faithful.**

- Amen.

