

EXODUS 6:1 – 7:6

ALL WILL KNOW MY NAME

What is in a name? This question has been asked time and again.

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet" is a commonly quoted part of a dialogue in William Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet, in which Juliet argues that the names of things do not matter, only what things "are".

But anyone that has read the Bible knows different. There is much to say about a name and it's meaning, especially in Hebrew. Names weren't given arbitrarily. Proper names in the OT were usually very important to the story as well as to the attitude and destiny of the one to whom the name belonged.

God has already told Moses to tell his people that I AM sent him. Today we will read about another name of God.

Last week we finished up chapter five with Moses and Aaron being confronted by the Hebrews taskmasters. Moses and his brother had lost the support of the people when Pharaoh threw them under the bus. He blamed everything on the two brothers. By doing so he caused a division in the camp.

This led to Moses blaming God and questioning Him as to why He had even sent him in the first place.

Now as we begin chapter six we find God encouraging Moses. He does so by shedding more light on the plan and the covenant.

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

God acknowledged that Pharaoh was resistant at present; in fact that was part of the plan. However, by the end of the game Pharaoh would run the Hebrews out of town. In fact, the Egyptians as a nation would beg them to go, even pay them to

leave. This would take time however. Remember, there are plenty of lessons to be learned by all parties involved.

- “Strong hand” = strong arm, power. This was common language at the time among conquering kings. Moses would accomplish his mission as would a conquering king.

2 And God spoke to Moses and said to him: “I am the Lord. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name Lord I was not known to them. 4 I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. 5 And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.

In our English Bibles we see the word LORD but in Hebrew the word is what is known as the Tetragramaton. Today we would pronounce this name of God as either Jehovah or Yahweh. In the ancient Hebrew there were no vowels. But that didn't matter because the Hebrews would not

even pronounce the name of God. It was considered too holy to be profaned by human lips. They would say “Adonai” meaning, “master” or they may just say, “The Name.”

The patriarchs were familiar with the name YHWH, but they weren't familiar with the breadth and scope of its meaning. Many times they would refer to God as El Shaddai – all sufficient God. But here God shows them that YHWH means covenant keeper.

Abraham knew God as a covenant maker. Moses and the Hebrews were further down the time line and as such were able to see God fulfill what He was only able to promise Abraham.

There is an abundance of meaning in a name. This revelation brought new light to the whole scenario. This is why God reminds them in verse 5 that He “remembered” His covenant.

After all those years – especially the years in slavery, they needed to be reminded of the covenant and how they were the recipients of those promises.

For us, God wants to be more than **God Almighty** - He wants us also to know Him as a personal, promise making and promise keeping God, whom we can trust in everything. Believers should ask themselves if they really know God by such names.

(Guzik)

God had remembered His covenant. The question was whether or not Moses would remember his God and recognize Him by His new name.

6 Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. 7 I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. 8 And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the Lord. ''

In an effort to encourage Moses as well as inform him, God told him what he was going to do. These promises came about as seven “I Wills.”

- **I will bring you out**
- **I will rescue you from your bondage**
- **I will redeem you**
- **I will take you as My people**
- **I will be your God**
- **I will bring you into the land**
- **I will give it to you as a heritage**

These phrases, in Hebrew and other languages of the region are known as contract law. They all lend themselves to adoption and all that entails. Under contract law of adoption, there are three basic purposes:

- **To provide a secure way to provide for orphans, abandoned children, and children from families in distress.**

- **To provide children for couples with none of their own.**
- **To provide an heir for an individual couple.**

God's adoption of Israel fulfills at least two of these purposes. In Ezekiel 16 and Hosea 11, Israel is likened to an abandoned child and as YHWH's son. And Israel is referred to as a "people of inheritance" and the land of Canaan is "the land your God is giving you as an inheritance."

We have already seen God refer to Israel as His son earlier in Exodus.

Please remember that all this ties back into the covenant. God's name and His Word are on the line. Nothing can be more sure than the Word of God.

2 Peter 1:19-21

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of

**Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21
for prophecy never came by the will of man,
but holy men of God spoke as they were moved
by the Holy Spirit.**

Psalm 138:2

**2 I will worship toward Your holy temple,
And praise Your name
For Your lovingkindness and Your truth;
For You have magnified Your word above all
Your name.**

So these promises come with as much backing as is possible. There was absolutely no way this covenant could fail and the people needed to know that. They needed to remember that. WE need to remember that! What God has promised will come to pass. Some of His promises will come to pass in our life times and if He tarries they will come to pass later; but they will come to pass. You can take that to the bank. Just as Israel was adopted, we have been adopted into the family of God.

9 So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel;

but they did not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage.

The Hebrews had fallen into the trap of seeing Pharaoh as bigger than God.

Sometimes our problems seem bigger than God and this usually happens when whatever we are facing has caused a great deal of pain and anguish. No one likes to suffer. In fact we are programmed to stay away from pain. However, pain and heartache are a fact of life in a sin-sick world. Paul Simon sang, "If I never loved I never would have cried." But this works in reverse also. The alternative is, "If we had never cried, we would never had known love." Who honestly wants to go through life without knowing love? We are human. We will let someone down eventually. It hurts because we are close to each other. In this world, love and pain are not mutually exclusive. Look at how Jesus suffered. That was out of love. Even God incarnate was unable to find a way around it.

10 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 11 "Go

in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the children of Israel go out of his land.”

12 And Moses spoke before the Lord, saying, “The children of Israel have not heeded me. How then shall Pharaoh heed me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?”

Now Moses has fallen back into a pity party where he once again claims to be unworthy. Moses is not claiming here, as he had earlier that he has a speech problem. He is claiming that now his lips are no longer clean enough to carry out his mission and speak the words of God. He is acutely aware of his failure at this point to sway either his fellow Israelites or Pharaoh. He believes this to be a moral failure. But God’s calling is His enabling. If God has chosen you for a mission then you are capable. Now look at how God proves that Moses and Aaron are the right men for the job.

10 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 11 “Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the children of Israel go out of his land.”

12 And Moses spoke before the Lord, saying, “The children of Israel have not heeded me. How then shall Pharaoh heed me, for I am of

uncircumcised lips?”

13 Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, and gave them a command for the children of Israel and for Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

God gave Moses the words to say and then we have this genealogy.

14 These are the heads of their fathers' houses: The sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel, were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. These are the families of Reuben. 15 And the sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman. These are the families of Simeon. 16 These are the names of the sons of Levi according to their generations: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. And the years of the life of Levi were one hundred and thirty- seven. 17 The sons of Gershon were Libni and Shimi according to their families. 18 And the sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. And the years of the life of Kohath were one hundred and thirty- three. 19 The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. These are the families of Levi

according to their generations.

20 Now Amram took for himself Jochebed, his father's sister, as wife; and she bore him Aaron and Moses. And the years of the life of Amram were one hundred and thirty- seven. 21 The sons of Izhar were Korah, Nepheg, and Zichri. 22 And the sons of Uzziel were Mishael, Elzaphan, and Zithri. 23 Aaron took to himself Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab, sister of Nahshon, as wife; and she bore him Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. 24 And the sons of Korah were Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph. These are the families of the Korahites. 25 Eleazar, Aaron's son, took for himself one of the daughters of Putiel as wife; and she bore him Phinehas. These are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites according to their families. 26 These are the same Aaron and Moses to whom the Lord said, "Bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their armies." 27 These are the ones who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring out the children of Israel from Egypt. These are the same Moses and Aaron.

I wrestled with whether or not to read all of this

but I decided to read it for a couple of reasons. Number one, if it wasn't important it wouldn't be in there. Secondly, I think it will help drive the point home as to why it was included.

God has just traced Moses' and Aaron's family tree back to Abraham – the man with whom He made the covenant. God then goes on to show how they are from the line of Levi. This branch of the family tree will eventually be the priestly tribe. So what, you may ask?

Jeremiah 1:5

**5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
Before you were born I sanctified you;
I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”**

Moses and Aaron didn't stumble into this job. They were set apart for this task going all the way back to Abraham. Actually they were set apart before time began. They were ordained for it.

Guess what! So were you! You were chosen also. You didn't stumble into your faith! God knew you

would choose to follow Him. You didn't stumble into this church. God sent you here. You aren't alive just to make a living. You are here to make a life. You are here to change lives. You are here to take the name of Jesus to those around you. In a very real sense you are a "prophet to the nations" just as Moses was.

Since Moses is feeling unworthy, God reminds him that Aaron will do all the talking.

28 And it came to pass, on the day the Lord spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, 29 that the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "I am the Lord. Speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you."

30 But Moses said before the Lord, "Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh heed me?"

1 So the Lord said to Moses: "See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. 2 You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of

his land. 3 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. 4 But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. 5 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them."

God now gives Moses more clues as to how all this is to come to pass. By constantly challenging Pharaoh's authority, God will harden his heart. He will force God to show all of Egypt how false their gods are one plague at a time.

And as we see in verse 5, ALL of Egypt will know that I am LORD! All of Egypt will know that I AM the YHWH – the covenant keeping God of the Hebrews!

God wants us to know Him by more than the sound of His name. He wants us to know Him by

the meaning of His name. God wants us to see Him as the one who has adopted us:

- **I will bring you out**
- **I will rescue you from your bondage**
- **I will redeem you**
- **I will take you as My people**
- **I will be your God**
- **I will bring you into the land**
- **I will give it to you as a heritage**

And what is more, He chose you before you were born. God can go back through your family tree and pinpoint you. Before Adam was created He knew you. And He wants you to take His name and declare it to those like Pharaoh that don't know it.

Know Him; know that He has chosen you and go tell everyone you know about the God you know!

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation,

taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.