

## Leadership Lessons from the Life of Moses

### Lesson #16, God Will Remind You of His *Time, Sovereignty, Purposes, and Power*

#### Text: Ex.6:1-8

In the previous chapter, the *foreman of Israel* first complained to their taskmasters, then Pharaoh, and eventually Moses and Aaron regarding their new harsh treatment and burdensome requirements cf.5:10-21. Then *Moses* questioned and complained to God regarding Israel's hardships, God's apparent lack of deliverance, and even his own part in the process, cf. 5:22-23. Apparently neither the foreman nor Moses understood God's *timing* or ultimate *purposes* in the *process* of Israel's deliverance. But all that is about to change in 6:1-8, for the Lord is about to explain more fully His *timing, sovereignty, purposes, and power!*

Note specifically what *El Shaddai* (Hebrew usually translated as *God*) actually says regarding:

- **His Timing, vv.1,6-8.** Notice the *timing* words utilized in these verses: *then, now, will, and shall* in v.1; and *will, then, and shall* (multiple usages) in vv.6-8. What these emphasize is that there has been- and there always is, a "timing" aspect to what, how, and specifically *when* to God's purposes and actions (or the apparent lack thereof). As we stressed in the previous lesson, God never does anything *too soon* or *too late*, cf. Gal.4:4; 1Tim.2:6; Titus 1:3; Heb.9:26. What Israel and Moses- and God's people and leaders today, often fail to take into consideration is that God's *processes* often take time to matriculate into the perfect fulfillment of His *purposes*. This is what God seems to be explaining to Moses with all these "timing" words that describe what *has*, and is yet to (but certainly *will*) occur in this process of obtaining God's purposes for Israel...and Egypt. Good leaders need to always trust God enough to be patient, and help others do the same!
- **His Sovereignty, vv.2,6,7,8.** This time, let's pay particular attention to how God *identifies* Himself and accentuates His *sovereignty*. He said: "*I am the Lord*" (*ruler/master*), vv.2,6,7,8; "*I will take you for My people*," v.7a; and "*I will be your God*," v.7b. What's point of stressing His sovereignty? Remember that Israel and Moses have questioned what apparently they believe to be God's *process, timing, and perhaps even His power/ability* to bring about the promised deliverance. Therefore, God is reminding, or more fully explaining, cf. v.3b, exactly who He is- "*God Almighty*," vv.2-3! As God's people or spiritual leaders, we should always remember *who* God is: the Creator and Sustainer of all things, Heb.3:4b, and our relationship as *clay* to the *Potter*, Rom.9:20-21. This is especially true when our lack of faith and trust in Him cause us to question His *timing, methods, or purposes!*
- **His Purposes, vv.3-8.** Next, God recounts His past and future actions that have all been toward His ultimate *purpose(s)*: He *appeared* to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, v.3; He *established His covenant* with them to "*give them the land of Canaan*," v.4; He has *heard your groanings* and has "*remembered My covenant*," v.5; and therefore, He "*will bring you from under the burdens of the Egyptians*" and "*deliver you from their bondage*," v.6. He further states, "*Then, I will take you for My people*" and "*I will be your God*," v.7a; and that once He does so, "*you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians*," v.7b" and would fulfill His *promise/covenant* which He "*swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*" as a *possession to Israel*, v.8. What are we to learn from all of this? We tend to view things just as Israel/Moses did- only as it pertains to us in our immediate circumstance. What we often fail to comprehend is the "bigger picture" of God's overall *plan and purposes*, and our *part* in the *process!* Good leaders are able to "see" the *bigger picture*, and help others to do the same, cf. 2Cor.4:16-18; 2Pet.1:9-12.
- **His Power, vv.3-8.** Note the manifestations of *power* in these verses- they emphasize God's *power* to: *appear* (make Himself *visible/known*), v.3; *establish* (*create or bring into fruition*), v.4; *hear and remember* (*all-knowing and all-remembering*), v.5; to *deliver and redeem*, v.6; to *possess*, v.7; and to *provide*, v.8. Again, what's the lesson for spiritual leaders and God's people today? When we begin to question or complain against God, we need to remember (or be reminded of) God's *power* to bring about His plans in His time with His processes to accomplish His purposes!

Although God knows and is concerned about our present hardships, we need to have faith and patience enough to trust His *timing, sovereignty, purpose(s), and plan!*

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#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What has taken place in the previous chapter that leads to God's *explanations* here in 6:1-8?
  
2. What was it, specifically, that the *foreman of Israel* and *Moses* have failed to understand regarding the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage?
  
3. List the "timing" words from vv.1,6-8. What seems to be the point of God using these particular words?
  
4. List the "sovereignty" words God uses in vv.2,6,7,8. Why, specifically, is God emphasizing His sovereignty?
  
5. List the words and/or phrases from vv.3-8 that indicate what God "actions" (*past* and then *future*). What is the point God is making to Moses, and subsequently, Israel?
  
6. List the words God uses in vv.3-8 that manifest His "power." Why is God stressing His power to Moses and Israel?
  
7. Why are each of the following important for God's people and leaders to remember (or to be reminded of) today:
  - a. *Timing?*
  
  - b. *Sovereignty?*
  
  - c. *Purposes?*
  
  - d. *Power?*