

“Comfort in Crisis”  
Exodus 6:1-5  
(Preached at Trinity, November 12, 2006)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Last week we found Moses bewailing the turn of events. God had raised him up as the deliverer of Israel, but things had not gone as expected. Not only did freedom not come, their condition went from bad to worse. It had gotten about as bad as it could. It had become a crisis.
2. As we saw last week, God’s ways are not our ways. He works His purpose in ways that we often cannot conceive.  
God often brings His people through the fires of affliction so that we might look to Him and know that He is mighty. Often these difficulties come just before God doing a great work in our life.
3. The Hebrew officers or foremen came to Moses and Aaron in anger and condemnation.  
“May God judge you for what you have done!”  
**Exodus 5:21** – “And they said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.”
4. Moses and Aaron then came and plead their case before God – “Why did you even send us. Since we came to Pharaoh it has gone from bad to worse. We’ve done exactly as you commanded and nothing but bad has come from it.”  
**Exodus 5:22-23** – “And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Lord, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people? why *is* it *that* thou hast sent me? <sup>23</sup> For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he hath done evil to this people; neither hast thou delivered thy people at all.”
5. In **Chapter 6** we find God’s answer to Moses  
**Exodus 6:1** – “Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.”
  - A. Actually, it is no answer at all. Moses asks, “Why *is* it *that* thou hast sent me? Instead of answering Moses’ complaint God reaffirms his purpose.  
“Pharaoh might say what he will or will not do to Israel but you will see what I will do.  
There was really no need for Moses’ alarm. It doesn’t really matter how much our enemies may rage against us. God’s purpose will stand.  
**Psalms 2:1-5** – “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, <sup>3</sup> Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. <sup>4</sup> He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. <sup>5</sup> Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.”

- B. God might have been angry at Moses' accusatory tone. Instead, God is merciful and patient with His people.  
**Psalm 103:14** – “For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we *are* dust.”
- C. Instead of anger God speaks graciously to His servant. God instead words of great comfort and encouragement.
6. In these beginning verses we find a couple things that serve as the basis of comfort as God's people go through crisis.
- I. We find comfort in God's name – **Verses 2-3**
- A. **Exodus 6:2** – “I *am* the LORD:”
1. This is the name God gave Moses at the burning bush - יהוה  
**Exodus 3:13-14** – “And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them? <sup>14</sup> And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”
    - a. God is telling Moses, “I AM” – “I AM the one true self-existent God.”
    - b. “I AM the God who does not change. I WILL rule over Pharaoh. I WILL deliver My people from bondage.”
    - c. This was meant to bring great comfort to Moses. It should bring comfort to us. God is God, unchanging, eternal – the Giver and Sustainer of all life – declaring the end from the beginning.
  2. God then tells Moses:  
**Exodus 6:3** – “And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by *the name of* God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.”  
Abraham knew God by the name GOD ALMIGHTY.  
**Genesis 17:1** – “And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.”  
אֱלֹהֵי שַׁדַּי (El Shaddai)
  3. This is somewhat of a puzzle because Abraham *did* know the name LORD
    - a. Abraham knew it  
**Genesis 13:4** – “. . . and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.”
    - b. Isaac knew this name:  
**Genesis 26:25** – “And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD”
    - c. Jacob also knew the name:  
**Genesis 32:9** – “And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:”

- d. In fact, the name occurs over 100 times in the Book of Genesis  
**Genesis 4:26** – “And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.”
4. What God is telling Moses is that the name Jehovah or YAHWEH is greater than the name GOD ALMIGHTY – a more complete revelation. In like manner, Jesus is the ultimate name, the greatest revelation of God.  
**Colossians 2:9** – “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”  
**Philippians 2:9** – “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:”
5. The Bible demonstrates God’s progressive revelation
- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did not know the full meaning of the name YAHWEH. God revealed it more fully to Moses.
  - God revealed Himself to Abraham as a Promise Maker but to Moses He revealed Himself as a Promise Keeper
6. God is saying, “Moses, I have revealed Myself to you in a way I did not reveal Myself to your fathers but look at the name I did reveal to them. By the name GOD ALMIGHTY they were able to live confidently and righteously before Me. How much more should you be able to live courageously before Me.”
7. Abraham trusted in GOD ALMIGHTY that He would fulfil His covenant. Shall not the unchanging YAHWEH be able to show His almighty power in delivering His people from Egypt?
- B. God’s almighty power should also bring us confidence and comfort
- God’s power is boundless – He has infinite power
  - All of this world’s people are under the absolute rule of Divine Providence who rules with absolute power  
**Daniel 4:35** – “And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”
    - God said to Pharaoh, “Let My people go!” – Pharaoh really had no choice but to let them go.
    - God controls the actions of all men from the greatest to the least  
**Proverbs 21:1** – “The king’s heart *is* in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.  
**Proverbs 16:9** – “A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.
  - All men are under God’s sovereign dominion  
**1 Samuel 2:6-8** – “The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. <sup>7</sup> The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. <sup>8</sup> He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD’S, and he hath set the world upon them.”

- d. No man shall ever do anything to us that God has not directed. No plan of God can be thwarted. No one can reverse it. God does as He pleases.

Are you confident of this? Doesn't this confidence bring you comfort in every crisis of life?

C There is great security in the infinite power God demonstrates to those who are the objects of His love.

1. God's love doesn't mean that we won't go through trials. It doesn't mean that some of our trials won't be terrible afflictions.
2. God did not exercise His omnipotence to deliver Jesus from the cross.
3. God may not always deliver us from tribulation – but He has promised to be with us.

## II. We find comfort in God's covenant – **Verses 4-5**

A. God stated that He made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

1. He promised a people or nation and a land  
**Genesis 12:2** – “And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing”  
**Genesis 15:5-7** – “And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. <sup>6</sup> And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. <sup>7</sup> And he said unto him, I *am* the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.”
2. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob never saw the promise fulfilled – but they knew they were the people of God. They believed the promise of God and it gave them great confidence and comfort  
**Hebrews 11:13** – “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

B. God has made some sure promises to His people

**Jeremiah 32:40-41** – “And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me. <sup>41</sup> Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.”

1. God has promised not to cease doing us good. That He would keep us so that we will never fall away.
2. This is based upon His infinite love for us. He will enable us to endure until the end.
3. For the children of the covenant we rest in the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises.  
 We may go through many difficulties – but we are able to look beyond them to the end.
4. This is what characterized Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob's lives. God made a covenant with them – **Verses 3-4**  
 They were able to look to the end

- B. We need to keep our eyes upon the end  
**Hebrews 11:1** – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
1. God says, “Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh”
  2. Much was still to take place before deliverance  
God was telling Moses, be patience and watch.
  3. As God’s covenant people we are to be at peace and look to the end  
**James 5:8** – “Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.”
    - a. We often give ourselves to worry about the things that take place in between. We need to rest upon God’s promises
    - b. God’s covenant must be our hope and confidence  
It was founded upon the blood of Christ.  
“This is the New Testament in My blood.”
    - c. God will be with us and keep us until the end.

**Conclusion:**

1. God knows our weakness. He continually comforts us in our sorrows. He says I am almighty. I am from everlasting to everlasting. I have made you mine. I will care for you and protect you until the end.
2. Does this bring you comfort?