

“A NEW TESTAMENT HOPE FROM AN OLD TESTAMENT PROMISE!”

Exodus 6:2-8

“I’M FROM THE OLD SCHOOL!” What does that expression mean to you? Well, if you are a bit seasoned, I think it means the person has experienced a lot more than I have....it means the person has been there, done that....it means that as history is rewritten, the lessons to learn have been around for a long time. And while new ways and new methods bring fresh ideas for new approaches for how to do things, “the old school” still isn’t all that bad a place to check out for what’s worked in the past. In other words, old ways still contribute in the new age.

You suppose Moses would say: “I’M FROM THE OLD SCHOOL!” Most certainly, because as one of God’s leaders in the Old Testament, he personally carried some very precious with him that would serve God’s people in his day and for generations far to come.

That’s what we want to consider here today by reviewing God’s words to Moses. And when all is said and done, we find....

“A NEW TESTAMENT HOPE FROM AN OLD TESTAMENT PROMISE!”

1. God delivers His people to lead them to the promised land of Canaan
2. Christ delivers all people to lead them to the promised land of Heaven

1

There is quite the history leading up to our words in Exodus 6. The Lord had appeared to Moses in the burning bush designating him as the one to lead God’s people out of slavery in Egypt. Moses’ reluctance and excuses fell on deaf ears. God chose him to do this task and he wouldn’t take **NO** for an answer.

Moses’ initial visit with Pharaoh didn’t go well. He only angered the Pharaoh more and made Israel’s brick production harder with no straw. Moses got an earful from the Israelite foreman: **You have made us a stench to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.** {Ex 5:21} Then Moses gave the Lord an earful: **O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people and you have not rescued your people at all.** {Ex 6:22-23} Our text is God’s answer to Moses’ complaint.

God reassured Moses that He, the Almighty God, THE LORD, (a name used over 150 times in the O.T., the God of free and faithful grace would act and **deliver His people to lead them to the promised land of Canaan.** How would you like to be Moses and hear God tell you: **I AM THE LORD. I APPEARED TO ABRAHAM, TO ISAAC, AND TO JACOB AS GOD ALMIGHTY BUT BY MY NAME THE LORD.** Those O.T. heroes of faith knew the true God by name, and at time they knew Him by his actions. But not to the fullest extent yet. **I DID NOT MAKE MYSELF KNOWN TO THEM.** They had not experienced His deliverance yet; they had not seen the fullness of His glory as the Almighty LORD.

But help was on the way. God established that special covenant with Abraham that we heard about two weeks ago when He showed him the heavens and promised that his descendancy would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. God has agreed that a Messiah would come through Abraham’s line.

Just think of how Moses and Israel treated the Lord. They blamed him, bickered against him, they squabbled and disobeyed God all the time. But what is so striking is that God chose to remember His covenant with His people. His gracious love covered over their sins and He could not / would not go back on the promise he made them because God remembered His covenant with His people. And when God remembers something, things are sure to start happening.

What started to happen was a wonderful promise that **God would deliver His people from bondage to lead them to the promised land of Canaan.** God told Moses to deliver His message of deliverance: **I AM THE LORD, AND I WILL BRING YOU OUT FROM UNDER THE YOKE OF THE EGYPTIANS. I WILL FREE YOU (lit. snatch you) FROM BEING SLAVES TO THEM AND I WILL REDEEM YOU WITH AN OUTSTRETCHED ARM AND WITH MIGHTY ACTS OF JUDGMENT. I WILL TAKE YOU AS MY PEOPLE AND I WILL BE YOUR GOD.**

Just imagine (if that’s possible) serving hard labor under an ornery, bitter Pharaoh. He could care less about your welfare, your health, your aches/pains, your blisters, your infected wounds. All he wants is for you to produce without all the building materials just as much as when you had them. And if you don’t, his slave drivers beat you to a pulp.

But God steps in with a promise that not only will He deliver you from Egyptian torture, he is also going to lead you to the promised land. Oh, the promised land – flowing with milk and honey. God’s acts of judgment would make that happen: 10 plagues the last of which is all the 1st born male children dying. God’s acts of judgment made that happen at the Red Sea where Pharaoh’s armies figured they could cross the Red Sea on dry land just like the Israelites---only to find themselves drowning in the walls of

water that caved in on them. God showed His mercy along with his might in keeping his promise to Israel for 40 long years. Just as He said: **I WILL BRING YOU TO THE LAND I SWORE WITH UPLIFTED HAND TO GIVE TO ABRAHAM, TO ISAAC AND TO JACOB. I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU AS A POSSESSION. I AM THE LORD.**

2

An O.T. promise gave the Israelites hope of the promised land of Canaan and God delivered on that promise. Generations later, we still reap the blessings of God's promise of deliverance in Christ our Lord who **delivers all people to lead them to the promised land of heaven.**

God saw our captivity begin with Adam and Eve's fall. He made a covenant with them of the woman's offspring crushing the serpent's head while having his heel bruised. Like all the other promises that have come true, the Christ was born as the Savior of the world. As God in the flesh, we know who he is by what he has done.

We were headed for hell, lost & condemned, held in captivity by sin, death, and the devil. No matter how hard we try, no matter how "good" we are, God has no reason to accept us as HIS own. We've gone our own path, we've hated in our hearts, we've attracted to earthly possessions, we've spoken with a filthy tongue, we are prisoners of Satan who has us wrapped around his little pinky. The bondage we're in leads straight to hell!

That's why **the O.T. promise brings us N.T. hope.** For the deliverance God promised to His people by grace to lead them to the promised land of Canaan is comparable to the promised land of heaven to which Jesus leads us. As He told the Israelites, Jesus says: **I will take you as my own people and I will be your God & Savior.** Jesus lived this world completely perfect for us. Jesus had a mission to suffer and die on the cross giving Himself up completely to deliver us from the curse of sin, the sting of death, and the power of Satan. Jesus is our deliverance who took on God's righteous wrath, endured the cross' penalty of hell, and earned our total forgiveness for every sinful stain we have.

That's the hope of the Gospel – **that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** (Rom 8:1) **Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.** (Rom 5:1) We aren't slaves of the devil, but we are servants of our Lord. We want to serve our Savior in gracious thanks for all He has given us. Besides forgiveness, peace, and joy, we have the blessed hope of heaven's promised land of milk and honey. We have the promise of the future life with Jesus in the heavenly Canaan that is being prepared for us. Imagine that – all this New Testament hope from an Old Testament promise. Peter's first letter puts this all into perspective as he describes this New Testament hope: **Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you.** (1 Pet 1:3-4)

"...KEPT IN HEAVEN FOR YOU!" That sounds like a New Testament promise that comes from the old school, the Old Testament, that is. That's like Jesus telling us **"I love you.** I'll tell you my name, **"the LORD".** I'll lead you to the promised land of heaven. I'll feed you with my body and blood given/poured for the forgiveness of your sins. And I'll lead you to the land of heaven where you'll live with me forever. **AMEN**