

Orientation to Power
Exodus 6:28 – 7:13

- I. God created humanity to be in dependent relationship with him.
 - A. We are dependent on God for everything.
 - 1. He is the Giver and Sustainer of life.
 - 2. He is Almighty God with infinite power.
 - 3. He is sovereign over all things; in complete control.
 - B. In contrast to that, we are finite with little power or control.
 - 1. So, we are totally dependent upon God.
 - (a) Apart from him, we cannot survive.
 - (b) Apart from him, we do not thrive.
 - 2. Fortunately for us, God is good and wants good for us.
 - (a) He knows that our highest good is found in relationship to him.
 - C. When humanity fell, it was like a declaration of independence.
 - 1. Our temptation was to think God really wasn't good.
 - (a) We were tempted to think we couldn't trust God.
 - (b) We were tempted to think we had to take control.
 - D. Almost all ancient civilizations believed in a transcendent being.
 - 1. They were aware of dependency upon a transcendent being.
 - 2. But they had not received revelation of the one true God.
 - (a) So, their ideas of their god's character were different.
 - (b) They might acknowledge a god who caused their fields to be productive, who protected them and fought their battles.
 - (c) But that same god might have no ethical standards.
 - (d) This might particularly be true when dealing with another nation.
 - E. In Egypt they called their god, Ra.
 - 1. At some point the Pharaoh became thought of as sons of gods.
 - 2. Egypt was prosperous because of the Nile and fertile crescent.
 - (a) Egyptian culture made advances in arts, architecture, agriculture.
 - (b) Egypt became a military power.
 - (c) You can imagine the pride of Pharaoh, a man, yet "a son of god."
 - 3. In Exodus 1, Pharaoh slaughtered the Hebrew baby boys.
 - (a) That was extremely offensive to God. Life is sacred.
 - F. Pharaoh was wrongly oriented toward power; toward Almighty God.
- II. God rises up.
 - A. "I am the Lord" (Exodus 6:28).
 - 1. There is more to this statement than we think.
 - (a) It is not just a self-identification.
 - (b) It is rising up with indignation.
 - (c) God is about to demonstrate his power and authority.
 - 2. "I am I AM" (the word, "Lord," sounds like "I AM" in Hebrew).
 - (a) I am the self-existent One!
 - (b) I was not made. I have no beginning. I AM.
 - (c) I am the Maker of all things and reign over all!
 - 3. I am the Lord, not a Lord.
 - (a) There is no other god.
 - (b) There is no one like me, not Ra, not Pharaoh, no one!
 - B. "I have made you like God to Pharaoh."
 - 1. Why doesn't Pharaoh kill Moses and Aaron?
 - (a) Because the Lord is with them!
 - 2. God tells them exactly what will happen (Exodus 7:2-5).
 - (a) I will multiply signs and wonders.
 - (b) I will harden Pharaoh's heart.
 - (c) I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my people out!
- III. The world has made great advancements (science, medicine, technology).
 - A. In our pride we are prone to wander from faith in God.
 - 1. There was great optimism at the turn of the 20th Century.
 - (a) There had been great advances in every field.
 - (b) "Human beings can solve all our problems. Who needs God?" (A wrong orientation to power)
 - (c) Two worlds wars shattered that humanistic optimism.
 - B. Our prosperity and advances have not solved our problems.
 - 1. Our culture has become more secular (declaring independence).
 - (a) Some say, "who needs God?"
 - 2. But as we have turned away, we have growing dysfunction.
 - (a) Family breakdown, addictions, violence, abuse.
 - 3. Even in the church, what do we pursue more?
 - (a) Our own comfort and success, or the advancement of the Gospel?
 - C. When God approached Moses, his eyes were on his inadequacy (Exodus 6:30). He is wrongly oriented toward power (needs faith).
 - 1. God said, "You are to say everything I command you."
 - 2. He doubted himself but he was faithful to obey (Exodus 7:6).
 - (a) What is faithfulness for us?
 - D. Remember, Moses is a type that represents Christ.
 - 1. Aaron is his prophet; speaks on his behalf.
 - 2. Who does Aaron represent? Who speaks for Christ?
 - (a) His Church does. For almost 2 millennium, Christians have proclaimed the truth of the Gospel.
 - (b) Exodus was a whole nation, 2M people, delivered at once.
 - (c) The exodus of the Gospel is billions, but one at a time.
 - (d) We are the Aarons of our day: we are witnesses to the truth.
 - 3. Jesus came with miraculous signs and wonders.
 - (a) But the enemy still wouldn't let God's people go.
 - (b) But he calls the church to speak; to represent.
 - (c) Like Moses and Aaron, we need to be faithful.
 - 4. As we speak, God says, "I will lay my hand on Egypt, (on the kingdom of darkness) and with a mighty hand I will bring my divisions out, I will bring my people out."
 - 5. Pray for our nation. We are desperately in need of God.
 - (a) Pray for a softening of hearts. Pray for revival
 - (b) Pray that God would redeem the time of the coronavirus.
 - E. One more thing. Don't seek power from the wrong source (Ex.7:12)