

OUT OF THE FRYING PAN . . .

Exodus 4:18-6:12

Some days things go from bad to worse! Have you heard about the man who sent the claim to his insurance company? It was "one of those" days! . . . [Letter]

As we take another glimpse into the life of Moses, we discover Israel was having that kind of day.

Moses thought he was SOMEBODY special!

=> Moses tried to do God's will, his own way

=> he failed miserably and escaped to the desert.

After 40 years in the desert, believing he was a nobody --perceiving himself to be a miserable failure--

God appeared to Moses in a bush that was on fire--but wasn't consumed-- to call Moses as His representative, to free His people.

God assures Moses *He* will be with him.

God assures Moses it'll be different when he does *God's will, God's way*.

GOD'S PROMISE RESULTS IN PHARAOH'S OPPOSITION

After accepting God's plan to deliver Israel, Moses went to Jethro, his father-in-law, to ask permission to return to Egypt. 4:18-20

The Lord assures Moses that Pharaoh WON'T let them go 4:21-23

The Lord commands Moses to perform the signs God enabled him to perform 21a

The Lord will harden Pharaoh's heart so he won't let them go. 21b

Since Pharaoh won't release *the Lord's* firstborn, God will take *his*

The people believed God and worshiped Him when Moses told them God's plan 4:27-31

Moses updated Aaron regarding God's plan for His people 27-28

Aaron told the people what God was about to do and showed them the evidence 29-30

The people believed God and worshiped Him 31

CONFRONTATION WITH PHARAOH 5

They ask permission to go worship the Lord [Yahweh] 1

Pharaoh's challenge: **WHO is this YAHWEH?** 4:21 => 5:1-2

Pharaoh's big question: **Who is this "Yahweh" that I should do what HE wants?** 2

Who is this Yahweh that I should obey Him?

What GOD is going to stand up to ME?!!

I don't acknowledge Him and I won't do what He says!

He's about to find out the answer to his question!

He will learn Who Yahweh is!

They request 3 days leave to worship Him 3

Pharaoh refuses to give them a break 4-5

Pharaoh makes them pay for their petition 6-18

Pharoah cracks down => Israel rebels

They must gather their own straw without lowering their quota. 7-8a, 10-14

He accuses them of being lazy because they sit around asking for permission to go worship. 8b

"If we keep them busy, they won't have time to worry about religion!" 9

When their leaders ask why he is doing this, they discover it is because of Moses' request 15-18 17

Israel responds to the persecution in unbelief 5:19-21

They focus on the obstacle 19

They grumble about their suffering 20-21

They focus on the obstacle 21

Moses questions the Lord about what He is doing 5:22-23

Why are You doing this to Your people? 22a

Why did You send me? 22b

Why haven't You done what You said you would? 23

Your people haven't received any relief at all!

The Lord will keep His promises to His people 6:1-8

Now you'll see what I'm going to do to Pharoah 1a

When this is all over, he'll drive them out of his land 1b

Yahweh is a God who keeps His promises 2-8

I am Yahweh, the God who appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

2-3

I established my covenant agreement with them 4

I have heard their groaning 5

I will deliver them 6-7a

Then you will know that I am Yahweh, your God who delivers you

7b-8

"I am the Lord! Trust Me!"

Moses speaks to the people but they don't believe it 9

Moses doesn't think Pharaoh will listen either 10-12

God sends Moses to Pharaoh

Moses reminds God that he hasn't been able to convince Israel.

If *they* won't listen, how will Pharaoh?

The problem must be his inability to communicate.

THE LORD CALLS ON MOSES AND ALL GOD'S PEOPLE TO TRUST HIM.

HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!

People were excited when God showed them what He planned to do.

PEOPLE OFTEN GET EXCITED WHEN WE HEAR WHAT GOD PLANS TO DO.
(in our life)

People *weren't* excited about the way God chose to take them there!
PEOPLE OFTEN DOUBT GOD WHEN WE SEE HOW GOD PLANS TO DO IT!

God keeps His promises

He wants us to trust Him in the dark.

to trust Him when we don't understand what He's doing.

to trust the route He's taking us to get us to the goal.

VBS--"Live It Out!" "Living out God's promise"

How God made His promise to Abram and fulfilled what He promised.

Our staff joke has been about God's *surprises!*

Staff prayer time on Tuesday, "*You are a God who delights to surprise us!*"

"Sometimes your surprises delight us!"

"Sometimes your surprises challenge us!"

"But your surprises always teach us to TRUST YOU!"

End of the week, Tammy came to me, stop praying that!

Our key phrase: **"No more surprises!"**

"Stop asking God for any more surprises; we've had enough!"

That's what God's people was saying to Moses.

**WHEN GOD SENDS HIS SURPRISES,
 WE CAN TRUST HIS PROMISES!**