



PRAYING WITH PURPOSE MINISTRIES

Notes on the Book of Exodus

As we begin our reading in the book of Exodus, we see the descendants of Abraham being oppressed by Egyptian slave masters. However, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob heard their cries. Again, God calls one man, Moses, to deliver His people. Moses does not readily obey, but dialogues with God before he agrees to go. God assures Moses that He will be with him and tells him to tell the people that I AM sent him.

Moses, who was given a divine-challenging assignment, exemplifies the qualities of a true leader because he was set under authority. God granted Moses the permission to act and the power to enforce according to Exodus 3:11–15. Also, God gave Moses the staff as a sign of authority. Moses operated in the principle of authority which is God's plan to protect our lives. This is a discipline-building principle and Moses was a disciplined and meek man who used his authority for the good of the people. He was able to lead the people out of Egypt.

In Exodus 33:13 Moses asked God to show him His ways:

"If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

God granted Moses' request according to Psalm 103:7, *"He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel"*.

As children of God, we need to know His ways. We learn the ways of God through reading His Word and obeying Him which requires faith on our part. Hebrews 11:6 says, *"without faith, it is impossible to please Him (God)"*.

Moses used his authority for the good of the people by beseeching Pharaoh to let them go, even though his heart was hardened. Moses didn't grow weary and give up. He also interceded to God on behalf of the Israelites. Many times God wanted to destroy them, but Moses pleaded with God and God relented (repented) according to scripture in Exodus 32:12–14:



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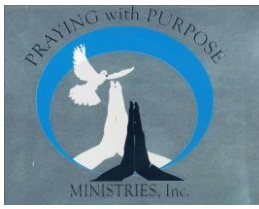
¹²“Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.’”
¹⁴ Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.”

Moses stood as an intercessor for the people of Israel. A good leader must be an intercessor, one who will seek the Lord on behalf of the people he or she is leading. Because it is through seeking the Lord, that the leader gets his/her instructions and directions.

The principles of authority and obedience go hand in hand. Moses’ obedience enabled God to enter a covenant of agreement with the children of Israel at Mt. Sinai. This covenant agreement is very important because there is no concept or biblical truth that is more central to the understanding of the Old Testament and New Testament than the covenant. There are five aspects of the Sinai/Horeb Covenant that carry great significance for us today, for it draws a parallel to the New Covenant and helps inspire our love and obedience for God and His Messiah. They are: (Southerland, Brenda S., *Honoring the Father through Prayer: An Overview of the Book of Isaiah*. pp. 4–13)

1. Israel’s Exodus Event (Epoch)
2. Israel’s Agreement to the Covenant
3. Israel’s Relationship to Yahweh (God)
4. Israel’s Acknowledgment of One God
5. Israel’s Establishment of a Society

The Sinai/Horeb Covenant marked the historic beginning of a unique relationship between the people of Israel and their God, which was radically different from other ancient Eastern people and their gods. This marked a particular period of history. It is noteworthy and remarkable, therefore, it is referred to as an “Epoch” (a notable event that marks the beginning of such a period). It was through the



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covenant that Israel responded to and understood the meaning of her liberation from Egyptian bondage. It is this epoch that forms the basis of the covenant (Exodus 19:3–6; 20:2).

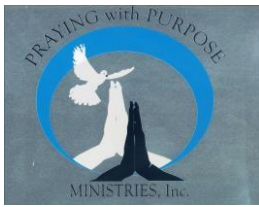
If Israel had remained indifferent to the Exodus event, she would never have fully understood its significance and it would undoubtedly have been lost to the world; recalled in history as simply a dramatic escape. Today, the Jewish community remembers this Exodus event through the celebration of the Passover every year. By entering into a covenant with God, Israel was able to preserve, correctly interpret, and give witness to this event. Just as marriage is to love, so the covenant is to the deliverance from Egypt.

The covenant created a society that was to be in the world, but not of the world. Before Israel was a nation, she was the congregation, the Assembly of God. Before Israel had an earthly king, she was united in allegiance to Yahweh her Heavenly King. Israel could survive the fall of the state because she knew her God, Yahweh, had made a covenant with her. And that covenant would stand through time—generations of many kings.

As believers, we have a covenant with the Lord which has five significant aspects like the Sinai/Horeb Covenant.

1. Believer's Epoch
2. Believer's Agreement to New Covenant
3. Believer's Relationship/Fellowship with the Father
4. Believer's Acknowledgment of Jesus
5. Believer's Establishment of Society by the Aid of the Holy Spirit

Our covenant begins the moment we accept the provision God made for us by sending His son, Jesus into the world and confessing with our mouths and believing in our hearts according to John 3: 16 and Romans 10: 9–10. Once we have declared Romans 10: 9–10, that moment in time becomes our Epoch—deliverance from bondage. We are delivered from the kingdom of darkness and enter into the Kingdom of God, just like the Israelites were delivered from Egypt out of bondage.



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By the aid of the Holy Spirit (our Comforter) who dwells in us, we can be in this world but not of this world. We can allow the Holy Spirit to transform us according to the Word in Romans 12:2.

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Thus, the words that were declared in Hosea and later quoted by Paul in Romans 9:24-26 have come to pass:

²⁴ even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

²⁵ As he says in Hosea:

*“I will call them ‘my people’ who are not my people;
and I will call her ‘my loved one’ who is not my loved one,”^[a]*

²⁶ and,

*“In the very place where it was said to them,
‘You are not my people,’
there they will be called ‘children of the living God.’”^[b]*

The Mt. Sinai Covenant in The Old Testament foreshadowed what (or who) was to come in the New Testament — eternal life through Jesus Christ. Hebrews 3:5-6 eloquently captures the essence of what Moses did.

“Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house,”^[a] bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as the Son over God’s house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.”

PRAYER

Father, I pray that we will be obedient children; so, we may experience the blessings and rewards You have for us in this life, as well as eternal with You. I pray we stay under the authority of Your Word, which will protect our lives from the wiles of the devil. And that we will actualize biblical concepts and truths in order to have a successful Christian life, in Jesus’ Name. Amen.