

# Sermon Notes

## 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

### Exodus 3:1-7:7

#### Recap

- Continuation of story of Genesis
- Covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Gen 12:2-3, 26:2-5, 28:3-4)
- Israelites find themselves in wrong country and enslaved
- God remembers his covenant and has a plan in place (Moses)

#### Moses in Midian (Exodus 3)

- Settled down to the life of a shepherd (v1)
- Confronted by God through a burning bush (v3-6)
- God promises to act (v7-9)
- Moses not so happy that God will use him (v10-11)
- Who am I? All his insecurities come out (see also 4:10, 6:12)

#### God's name (Exodus 3)

- The Israelites will want to see if Moses knows God's name (v13)
  - To them he's still an Egyptian prince
- Indicates that God's name is not new to them
- Ex 6:3 seems to say the opposite!
  - Many titles used for God in Genesis (such as El Shaddai – God almighty)
  - There is an alternative translation of 6:3 – 'by my name the Lord, did I not let myself be known to them?'
  - God's name being already known seems to fit the Bible story better
- 'I am who I am' (v14) – who is there to compare God with? He is, that's all that matters. 'I am' (v14) similar in Hebrew to the name given in v15.
- Hebrew written without vowels – the name given (in English letters) is YHWH
- Early English translators guessed the vowels as YeHoWaH (Jehovah)
- Nowadays we think its better as YaHWeH (Yahweh)
- Jews consider the name of God too holy to speak – use 'Adonai' (Lord) instead
- That's come into our bibles as translating God's name as The LORD (in capitals)

#### Moses and Pharaoh (Exodus 5)

- Pharaoh doesn't recognise God's name (v2)
- Confrontation now inevitable
- Things get worse for the Israelites (v6-9)
- They turn against Moses (v21)

#### God's promise (Exodus 6)

- Beware of getting lessons from Exodus by reading yourself as Moses everywhere – his story is his own, yours is different
  - But there are some common experiences we can learn from
- God answers Moses' feelings of inadequacy
  - Who am I (3:11)? I will be with you
  - I can't speak (4:10). I will help you speak and teach you what to say.
  - Please send someone else (4:13). Your brother Aaron can help.
  - God's grace works through our weaknesses (2 Cor 12:9)
- When it all seems to go wrong (5:22-23) God reiterates his promise (6:2-8)
  - Makes it his personal pledge (count the 'I's)
  - Instruction is to carry on (6:11) even though others lose heart (6:9)

#### God's holiness

- Ex 3:5 when Moses came near God, he was told to take off his shoes
- Ex 3:13-15 God gives Moses his name, with the understanding that he is greater than anything you might compare him with
- Ex 20:2-7 We honour God's name by not putting anything on the same level as him and not misusing his name
- We do not treat God lightly – the 'fear of the Lord' is important
- He is holy, and we are not. He cannot be approached by sinful humans unless he makes a way to make us clean
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of Exodus will be about how that happens
  - We have an even greater way in Jesus (Hebrews 4:14-16)
- God gives us his personal name, not just a title – this is about relationship, knowing God more than knowing about God

#### Space for your notes

*Written by Ian McLenaghan, September 2019*