

Series	Exodus: Discover Who God Is
Bible	Exodus 5:1-7:7
Title/Topic	The God Who Promises Deliverance
Overview	If you're like most people, you would say that you've had a time or two in your life when you believed that there was no way God could come through and deliver you out of that season. We've all had challenging seasons like that, and it can be easy to let disbelief in the promises of God creep into our lives. In this portion of Exodus, we see that when God makes a promise (in this case, that of deliverance, see 3:7-10; 4:29-31), we can take him at his word despite any obstacles that seem insurmountable from our perspective.
Scripture Breakdown	<p>LESSONS WE CAN LEARN ABOUT GOD'S PROMISES:</p> <p>1) God's promises are valid despite opposition (5:1-9).</p> <p>Pharaoh, who would have been viewed as one of the most (if not <i>the</i> most) powerful rulers in the known world, was not willing to cooperate with Moses's and Aaron's requests. He even somewhat mockingly said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go." By saying this, Pharaoh pridefully pins himself in opposition to the Lord Almighty.</p> <p>Moses and Aaron should have known that this would happen. God told Moses that he would harden Pharaoh's heart (see 4:21), meaning that he wouldn't want to cooperate and would put up a fight.</p> <p>2) God's promises still stand even when circumstances get worse (5:10-21).</p> <p>As a result of Pharaoh's opposition, things go from bad to worse for the people of Israel. They were already having to work as slaves producing bricks—seven days a week with no rest. But now, instead of having raw materials to make bricks, the people would have to fetch their own supplies—but still produce the same amount of bricks as they were before.</p> <p>Things get so bad that the people even begin to turn on Moses and Aaron (v.20-21). The people begin to see them at fault for the worsening conditions. They even charge Moses and Aaron with having "put a sword in their hand to kill us" (v.21).</p>

3) God's promises are not canceled because of our periods of unbelief and frustration with God (5:22-23).

We may fault Moses for what he says to God at this point, but we've all likely done the same thing (or at least have been tempted to) when things seem to get worse before they get better.

Moses expresses disbelief that God will actually do what he said he would do. After all, why did God say he would bring deliverance to the people but then allow things to get worse? Did God change his mind? Is he actually capable to do what he said? You can almost hear the anguish and frustration in his voice.

4) When God makes a promise, we should listen for his reassuring voice along the way, though we may continue to struggle with disbelief (6:1-13).

Pharaoh's reaction and the people's worsening circumstances do not seem to catch God off guard. Perhaps he allowed things to get slightly worse so that he could begin to really show how powerful he is. Though it would have certainly looked like Pharaoh was winning and God was losing, God would begin to show that he is truly the one in charge and could easily humble Pharaoh.

Before God begins to do this, he reassures Moses, who was extremely distraught at this time (see v.12), that he would carry out his promises.

5) The fruition of God's promises will entail our cooperation with God's plan (7:1-7).

God reiterates his plan to Moses and Aaron and how he will use them to bring about his plan. He even reiterates that Pharaoh's heart will continue to get hard.

Verse 6 contains an important statement that Moses and Aaron did "just as the Lord commanded them." They had to go along with what God had told them to do.

The flip side of this concept is seen later in Israel's story (see Numbers 14 through Joshua 24). When it came time for them to enter the promised land, they ended up wandering for forty years simply because they failed to do what God had said because of their disbelief in his power and ability. God's promise was still valid, but the fruition of that promise was delayed significantly. We would be wise to consider this in our own lives.

Gospel	God promises us deliverance from sin, but we must go along with how he prescribed the fruition of that promise to come. The way this promise is fulfilled is by entering into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Any other way will leave us wandering. Will you trust Jesus today?
Next Steps	In what ways can you apply what this passage teaches to your life? Maybe you would say that you need to cling to God's promises more than you do. Let's start with one. Find one promise of God in Scripture and decide how you are going to implement the truths of that promise into your life.

If you have any questions or need assistance, you can email me at jasonp@newlifechicago.org.