
A CONCRETE COVENANT FOR SANDY FAITH

EXODUS 6:1-13



Severe suffering weakens our faith. When we're in pain, it can be hard to hear and believe the Gospel. That's what happened to the Israelites in Egyptian slavery. **Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery** (9). Let's see how God strengthens their suffering-weakened faith so that we can get similar help.

- COVENANTER REVEALS HIS COVENANT COMMITMENT (1-4)
- COVENANTER REMEMBERS HIS COVENANT COMMITMENT (5-6)
- COVENANTER RE-ASSURES US OF HIS COVENANT COMMITMENT (7-13)

LEARNING

COVENANTER REVEALS HIS COVENANT COMMITMENT (1-4)

God began by revealing his covenant strength. **But the Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land"** (1). God says, your grip on me may be weak, but my grip of you is strong.

Then God revealed his covenant name. **"I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them** (2-3). God had used this name in past to confirm his covenant commitments. But the level of God's commitment to his covenant people was about to be revealed in such a new way, that it would be as if Israel had never heard it before.

GOD'S NAME DOESN'T CHANGE,
BUT OUR EXPERIENCE OF IT DOES.

COVENANTER REMEMBERS HIS COVENANT COMMITMENT (5-6)

The Lord means 'I am committed to redeem you.' **'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment (5-6).** When God remembers his name, it's not that he ever forgot it; it's that his next actions are based on it and will flow from it. Because God committed to Israel in the past, God is irreversibly committed to Israel in the present.

WE CAN FORGET OUR COMMITMENT TO GOD,
BUT GOD NEVER FORGETS HIS COMMITMENT TO US.

COVENANTER RE-ASSURES US OF HIS COVENANT COMMITMENT (7-13)

God reassured Israel of his commitment to this relationship. **I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians (7).** But despite God's concrete commitment, Israel's God's pain-weakened faith had turned to sand. **Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery (9).**

At this point Israel's weak faith infected Moses too. **"Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me" (12).** Israel's commitment is sand, Moses's commitment is sand, but God's commitment is concrete. **But the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt (13).**

OUR COMMITMENT TO GOD
MAY TURN TO SAND,
BUT GOD'S COMMITMENT TO US
IS UNBREAKABLE CONCRETE.

LOVING

We worship the Lord of concrete commitment, the Lord of unbreakable resolve, the Lord of irreversible relationship. We worship the Lord who uses our times of shattering to reveal his shatterproof engagement to us in a whole new way.

LIVING

When suffering weakens you, use God's concrete commitment to cement your sandy faith.
