

OBEDIENCE, DEFIANCE, AND JUDGMENT

EXODUS 6:28–7:7

OCTOBER 28, 2018

1. Moses and Aaron's Obedience (6:28–7:2; 7:6–7)

a. Moses' Final Objection (6:28–30; 4:10; 6:12)

b. A Prophet with a Prophet (7:1–2)

c. Moses and Aaron's Obedience (7:6–7; Ps 90: 10, 12)

2. Pharaoh's Defiance and God's Judgment (7:3–5)

a. A Prophet Unheard and Unheeded (Isa 6:9–10; Matt 13:10–17)

b. God Multiplies Signs & Wonders to Bring Judgment on Egypt (6:6; 7:8–14:31)

c. The End Goal: They Shall Know that I Am the LORD (5:2; Phil 2:9–11)

"The question is why God bids Moses preach although He Himself says: Pharaoh will not listen to you. Is it not foolish for someone to say to another: Friend, preach to Pharaoh, but be advised that he will not listen to you; for I intend to harden him? I would refuse such an assignment from anyone and would say: Preach yourself. But the answer is: We are bidden to preach, but we are not bidden to justify people and make them pious. This thought should comfort all preachers and Christians, and everybody should pursue his calling and faithfully perform his duties. Only the Word of God is entrusted to Moses, not the responsibility of making Pharaoh soft or hard by preaching. The Word is entrusted to him; this is God's will, and this Word he is to proclaim even though no one may want to listen to him. This is done for his consolation that he may not be frightened if nobody wants to follow and obey him. If I could be moved by the fact that my word and sermon are despised, I suppose I would stop preaching. But (says God) go on, Moses, preach!" —Martin Luther

"In the process of saving the Israelites the powers of evil need to be defeated and punished appropriately. Divine justice requires that those who exploit others shall be held accountable for their actions. Through judgment, as well as salvation, God makes himself known." —T. Desmond Alexander

Reflection Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. What does this passage teach us about the nature of prophecy in the Scriptures?
2. What is the significance of Moses' age at this time? Is it ever too late to be obedient to God's call?
3. What was God's purpose in having Moses and Aaron speak to Pharaoh, when they knew he would not listen?
4. What is God's ultimate purpose in all the signs and wonders done in Egypt?