God Promises Deliverance

Have you ever read an unflattering autobiography? Neither have I, few people would write a completely honest account of their lives including all their dirty laundry. If I wrote my biography, I would describe myself as tall with a full head of hair. That seems to be in vogue today, identifying yourself as something you’re not. I would also list all my successes while downplaying failures or better yet, blaming them on someone else. Most biblical scholars believe that Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Bible under God’s direction so those 5 books are somewhat autobiographical. With God as his editor, Moses would have had to be completely honest about his shortcomings and we see those on display in chapter 6 of Exodus.

The chapter begins with God responding to Moses’ complaint that He had not rescued the Hebrew people. God told Moses “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh”. Pharaoh had not responded to Moses’ entreaties but he would be forced to yield to God’s power. God said that he had appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as God Almighty but had not made Himself known to them by the name Lord (Jehovah KJV). While this is a curious statement, the consensus seems to be that He had previously been known as the God of promise and now He would be known as the God who would deliver on His promises. Matthew Henry pointed out that God was not known as the Lord God until the heavens and earth were completed and He would be known by His name Jehovah when He completes his work as prophesied in Revelation chapter 22.

God then says the following 7 “I will” statements

1. I will bring you out from your burdens
2. I will rescue you
3. I will redeem you
4. I will take you as my people
5. I will be your God
6. I will bring you into the land
7. I will give it to you as an inheritance

Several writers point out the 5 “I will’s” of Satan

1. I will ascend into heaven
2. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God
3. I will also sit on the mount of the congregation In the sides of the north
4. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds
5. I will be like the Most High

### The Seven “I Wills” of Jesus

1. I will make you fishers of men. (Matt. 4:19)
2. I will give you rest (Matt. 11:28)
3. I will keep you. (John 6:37)
4. I will love you (John 14:21)
5. I will do what you ask in my name. (John 14:14)
6. I will come again and see you again (John 14:3. 16:22)
7. I willsend the Holy Spirit] to you. (John 16:7)

Moses relayed God’s words to the Israelites who did not listen to him. David Guzik wrote that the Israelites had adopted the Egyptians worship of false Gods (see Ez. 20:5-8). They had initially believed God’s words sent to them through Moses but quickly abandoned hope when Pharaoh refused to let them go. After that, God instructed Moses to go back to Pharaoh and tell him to let the Israelites go. Moses responded with the argument “If the Israelites won’t listen me, why would Pharaoh listen?” He added to that the excuse that he was a poor speaker.

What follows is an interlude that explores the family history of 3 sons of Jacob. They are: Reuben, the first son; Simeon, the second son; and Levi. While it is not clear why Reuben and Simeon are included, Levi’s descendants are listed to give an account of the genealogy of Moses and Aaron as descendants of the priestly line of Levi. The chapter ends with Moses repeating his excuse of speaking with faltering lips.

I believe that Moses using his speech as an excuse revealed what was really in his heart. He did not want to do what God had commanded him to do. God sent him to Pharaoh and Moses went but probably grudgingly. He may have actually been pleased that Pharaoh had refused him thinking he was off the hook. If he and the Israelites needed to see tangible evidence of God’s power, it would be provided in chapter 7.