



Sermon Notes from 7 April

Having Second Thoughts (*Exodus 5:22-7:7*)

by Johanan Justin

In his brokenness of spirit, Moses discovers that God is sure: confident, resolute, immovable, steadfast and reliable.

God is sure, and we can rely on Him.

How can we know that God is Sure?

1) God is Sure when faced with Accusations (Ex. 5:22-6:1)

We live in a culture that empowers 'victims'. 'Victims' often enjoy entitlements and can even be excused from facing the full consequences of their wrong-doings.

Ex. 5:22-23 – Moses accuses God, one that cannot do evil (Jas. 1:13), of doing evil (thus not doing good), being incompetent, being the same as Pharaoh, and being a liar. Like Moses, the first thing we tend to attack in the face of hardship, is the goodness of God. Ex. 6:1 – Instead of striking Moses dead, God responds by moving his mighty hand of deliverance. The promise He gave to Moses from the burning bush had not changed.

Even in the face of accusations, God is sure. Bring your earnest feelings and doubts before God in humility, to stand on His sureness!

2) God is Sure when faced with Brokenness (Ex. 6:2-9)

God reminds Moses of who He is - Yahweh (Ex. 3:14) and the same God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Ex. 3:15). He also hears His people groaning (Ex. 3:7). These were the exact same truths and promises God had told Moses from the start.

3 Promises God Makes to His People

#1 Redemption (v6) – God would free them from slavery.

#2 Relationship (v7) – God would be their God, and they would be His people.

#3 Rest (v8) – God would give them a land of their own.

In their brokenness, the people did not believe (v9). But God still calls the broken to trust in His promises towards them.

Even in the face of brokenness, God is sure. Go to God's word and meditate on His many promises for us, to stand on His sureness!

3) God is Sure when faced with Fruitlessness (Ex. 6:10-27)

In the fruitlessness of his mission, Moses doubts his ability again – His speech (v12).

vv14-25 – Each of the names mentioned had already done – or would eventually do – extraordinary things for God, including Aaron. God reminds Moses that He has already provided for his lack in the form of Aaron.

Even in the face of fruitlessness, God is sure. Lift up your eyes away from yourself and see that God has already provided, to stand on His sureness!

4) God is Sure when issuing Anti-Promises (Ex. 6:28-7:7)

Ex. 7:4 – God gave to Moses an anti-promise (a promise of bad things to come). Because of the negativity, Moses did not believe. Similarly, we struggle to accept God's anti-promises.

Even in issuing Anti-Promises, God is sure. Embrace God and the full counsel of His word, to stand on His sureness!

Jesus embraced God's anti-promises (the suffering and death of the cross) towards Him. By doing so, we no longer need to live lives defined by God's Anti-promises – nor His curses – but by His promises of deliverance. Jesus redeemed us by becoming a curse for us (Gal. 3:13). So now in Christ, all of God's promises towards us have their "Yes!" and "Amen!"