



DIGGING DEEPER

Exodus 5:22 – 6:13 – The promise

PLEASE READ – Exodus 5:22 – 6:13

GETTING STARTED

Remind yourself of 5:1-21.

Could you blame Moses for how he speaks in the final couple of verses?

But what would you commend him for, also in these final couple of verses?

God's determination to deliver his people (6:1-8)

It's almost as if God ignores Moses' protest at the end of chapter 5. But in what way could we see "I am the LORD" as an answer?

In what way does God as "the LORD" rate as an improvement on "God Almighty" (for that title, you might like to check out Genesis 17:1 (the same Hebrew words are used in 28:3, 35:11, 43:14, 48:3, and 49:25, as well as more than 20 times in Job)?

What extra meanings should we always hear when we read "the LORD"?

And how should that be the encouragement that Moses needs?

Are there things ongoing in our lives that mean we need this same encouragement?

If God has a similar determination to deliver people nowadays though Jesus (instead of Moses), are there NT equivalents of the blessings that God assured Moses of? The "my people / your God" link with Revelation 21:3 is probably the most obvious, but what about "slavery" and the "promised land"? What are the equivalents of these "in Christ"?

Moses' and the people's discouragements (5:22-23 and 6:9-12)

You *could* say that Moses' and the people's responses here are woefully faithless ...
... but *would* you?

Why do they behave in this way (don't just think psychology; there's an answer given, too)?

Are there times when we, too, seem unable to hear or warm to God's messages of hope and grace? For the Israelites, we're told that the cause of their "deafness" was "their discouragement and harsh labour" ... so what can bring *us* to a similar low point?

Are we too quick to overlook these actual *reasons*, and behave more critically than God towards those around us, or to ourselves?

PRAY for grace to hear God's encouragements, and to cut ourselves *appropriate* slack.