

# An Outstretched Arm

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**Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments...' So Moses spoke thus to the sons of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses on account of their despondency and cruel bondage.**

**~Exodus 6:7&9 (NASB)**

## 1) The Holy Headlock Of The LORD For Pharaoh

- A) Moses, who is in the midst of despondency over how things are going with his Israelite brothers/sisters (Exodus 5:22-23) complains bitterly to God about his circumstances.
- B) God's response is dramatic and direct! "Now you will see..." (6:1). It is as if God has been waiting for Moses to get to the point where he is at the end of his rope. The end of Moses' faith is the beginning of God's action!
- C) God tells Moses that he will "compel" (6:1) Pharaoh into submission. God's wording is like that of a wrestler. He will "fetter" Pharaoh until he submits to God's power!

## 2) The Holy Headlock Of The LORD For Israel

- A) God continues to speak to Moses, reminding Him that He is the God of His covenant people (6:2-4), and that He appeared to the Patriarchs as "God Almighty" (El Shaddai), but not as "LORD" (YHWH - I AM).
- B) God reiterates He has heard the groaning of Israel and He has seen their bondage, and has not forgotten them (6:5).
- C) In other words, while Moses and Israel think God has forgotten them, because of what they could observe and see, the exact opposite is true. Basing our followership of God on our own circumstances leads to disillusionment.
- D) God commands Moses to go back to the Israelites and tell them (again) that He is going to release them from slavery with "an outstretched arm" and "great judgments" (6:6).
- E) What's the purpose of this dramatic power display? God is going to "take" (possess) Israel as His own people, and He is going to allow Israel to "possess" (take) the land which He has promised (6:7-8). "I AM The LORD," seals the deal!

## 3) Don't Miss What Get's Missed

- A) Moses goes to "the sons of Israel" and speaks with them about what God has shared (6:9). But the people of Israel miss God's compassion for them completely because of their own "shrunken spirit" and difficult circumstances.
- B) Human instinct tells us to retreat from anything that might produce pain or cause us to lose our control. Don't miss that spiritual growth **REQUIRES** that we submit our human instincts to God and allow Him to be in control of our lives and allow Him to determine how He will refine us (ouch).