

Exodus 6

"I am ... and I will ..."



The end of the previous chapter (5:22-23) sees Moses at his lowest point. If you go just by Moses' words in *this* chapter (12,30), and the heavy hearts of the general people (9), there seems to be no change. But the chapter has started with two significant small words: *but* and *now* – the latter from God's own lips. The tide *has* turned.

God has always been the "I am". Because the "I am" has declared "now", the "I wills" are now certain to start from this point.

➤ **A general point**

Does God always wait for us to be at some point of extremity before he answers?

➤ **The initial summary (1)**

Whose "strong hand" is at work (3:19)?

➤ **"I am" - retrospective (2-5)**

Notice the use of the Name ("LORD") here. What does God mean when saying (3) that he had not previously made himself known *by that name*?

Covenant: given initially in Genesis 12:1-3, specified as a *covenant* in 15:18-21, and developed further in 17:1-14. And "remembered" here would mean what?

➤ **"I am" ... and therefore "I will" (6-8)**

Think through what each of these individual "I will"s would mean to the people receiving these promises.

Do we receive anything like "a spiritual version" of these promises in Jesus? You can certainly find a key one in Revelation 22:3 (and a personalised version of it in 21:7), but what about "freedom", "land", etc, under the New Covenant?

➤ **A genealogy now?? (14-27)**

Any ideas why? (In what way does this not read quite like a typical Bible genealogy? Does that give a clue?)

➤ **Heavy hearts (9-13,28-30)**

How do you care for downcast people?