

# While You Wait

## Exodus 3:7-9

### Dr. Paul Cannings

#### A. Divine Intervention (v. 7):

1. The Lord said – The one who has all authority and power and is completely committed to His relationship with Israel verbally communicates His unending focus to fulfill what was stated in His covenant with Abraham for Israel. This is not because Israel earned it, but because He promised it.

a) God then told Moses He was aware of the plight of His people (Ex. 3:7, 9; cf. 2:24) and that He planned to rescue them from Egypt. The result of His concern is captured in the words, “I have come down” (3:8), an idiom describing divine intervention. God would (a) deliver them from Egypt and (b) take them to a good and spacious land, unlike the Midianite desert.

b) In 3:6, God implied that he remembered his covenant with Abraham. The four terms used in 2:23–25 for God’s personal saving activity are restated or implied in 3:6–12, where God said Israel’s cry had reached him and that he had seen, heard, and was concerned about his people.<sup>2</sup>

c) “The Lord said....” – This is totally something God had already planned to execute (Gen. 15:12-16), and it all depends on His strength and power.

2. I have surely seen God had an intricate knowledge and a clear understanding of all His people went through in Egypt. He was always completely engaged with what was taking place. God’s long timeline is not a symbol of His absence; it was a part of His strategic plan.

a) Yahweh states that he has watched the oppression of Israel for a long time and has heard the people’s cry of distress. The language of 2:25 is picked up by v 7; Yahweh knows the extent of Israel’s need, and the moment for his action on the matter has arrived. The urgency of the need is matched by the power of Yahweh’s expression; he has “come down,” that is, from the place of his dwelling above the heavens to this place of his appearance to Moses, and he is about “to snatch” his people forth from the grip of Egyptian power. <sup>3</sup>

3. The affliction – God so has a clear understanding of all that was taking place He describes not just what it was like physically but also mentally. He explains that they were forced into submission and experienced excruciating punishments, mental and physical abuse,

including emotional pain. In the midst of all of this abuse, they were defenseless. God witnessed everything.

4. **My people** – God took what was happening in Egypt very personally because it was happening to His people. Just like Israel, we are His people (Ephesians 2:11-19; 1 Peter 2:9-10).

a) The relative clause (who ...) seems to mean that all the chosen people were then in Egypt—except Moses, of course. One may restructure this first sentence as follows: “I have seen how cruelly the Egyptians are treating my people” (similarly 3:7 tev, cev).<sup>4</sup>

b) *“But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.”* (1 Peter 2:9-10; NASU)

5. **Have given heed (heard) to their cry** – God has extended His undivided attention and has a complete understanding of the despairing call for help of His people. It is all taking place in His presence.

6. **Have given heed (heard) to their cry because of their taskmasters** – When we pray it is not that God does not hear us; He does [Christ is our High Priest. He is in His presence (Hebrews 8:1-2) with all power in His hands (Philippians 2:8-11)], and His promises are sure. Daniel may have felt the same way (Daniel 9:20-23).

7. **I am aware of their sufferings (Know)** – God not only cognitively knows of their mental, and physical anguish He completely feels what they are experiencing. *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* (Hebrew 4:14-16; NASU)

a) Previously, we mentioned how God was moved by an intimate knowledge of the slavery of His people (2:23–25). It appears again here. God hears the groans of people who genuinely cry out to Him. In Luke 18, the tax collector beat his breast and cried out, “Turn Your wrath from me—a sinner!” (v. 13). Jesus said that the man “went down to his house justified” (Luke 18:14).<sup>5</sup>

8. **I am aware of their sufferings (Know)**. Our pain and difficulty can make us feel like God is absent. However, this passage teaches us that God is always present because His covenant with us is sure (Christ's death on the cross). As a result, His promises never fail.

9. I am aware of their sufferings (Know)– Giving birth is a painful process (the birth of a nation) but joy is sure to come in the morning (Psalm 30:5), “great His is faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22-23).

10. I am aware of their sufferings (Know)– We must be like Job and trust God in the good and the bad (Job 2:10), while He tells us to wait (Isaiah 40:28-31).

***“There is an appointed time for everything……” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-9)***

## **B. It’s On Him (v. 8):**

1. I have come down – He uses the word “I” which means this is totally dependent upon Him. The Lord is personally coming to Egypt with all His military might to deliver Israel (Israel being enslaved, not allowed to carry any weapons had no army). This is an action that will not stop until it is fully completed.

a) The reverential awe of Moses must have been relieved by the divine Speaker (see Mt 22:32), announcing Himself in His covenant character, and by the welcome intelligence communicated. Moreover, the time, as well as all the circumstances of this miraculous appearance, were such as to give him an illustrious display of God’s faithfulness to His promises. The period of Israel’s journey and affliction in Egypt had been predicted (Ge 15:13), and it was during the last year of the term which had still to run that the Lord appeared in the burning bush.<sup>6</sup>

2. Delivers them from the power of the Egyptians – The Egyptian army’s strength does not supersede the might of God, so a victory over Egypt is guaranteed. When God decided to take control of His people, Egypt could not stop His deliverance. God demonstrated how much this deliverance depended on Him by giving Moses a stick.

3. To bring them up from the land; offering– God’s deliverance is a time to worship. To bring them up out of the land was to bring His nature into their presence to worship Him.

4. Milk and honey - Rather, the “milk” most likely refers to animal husbandry and the use of animal byproducts for food and clothing. Sheep were important for their wool and meat, but goats may have been more important. They provide twice as much milk as sheep, and their hair and hides could be used for tents, clothing, carpets, and even satchels for holding liquids.<sup>38</sup> The “honey” refers to horticulture—the cultivation of fruits and vegetables. “Honey” in Israel is more commonly the syrup from grapes and dates than the substance produced by bees.<sup>7</sup>

5. Now behold – When God has said what He is going to do, we are expected to keep our full attention on Him, upon Whom all results depend.

6. The cry of the sons of Israel as come to Me – Israel with unanimity prayed to God in despair and in anguish to God. God said they did so to “Me.” When we abide in His Word and trust His promises, we remain in His love, and He answers the desires of our hearts (John 15:7-10).
7. The cry of the sons of Israel as come to Me – All that has happened and all the prayers that were prayed, every last one of them is in the presence of God. When God does not seem to answer our prayers, it does not mean He did not hear and completely understand our pain. He knows and is completely aware of all that is before Him.
8. The cry of the sons of Israel as come to Me – We must view ourselves as unable to fight Satan (Egypt is the most powerful nation in the known world) and become absorbed in praying to Him for deliverance (Luke 18:1-8).
9. I have seen the oppression (3906) – God is completely aware and fully comprehend all the suffering that Israel was experiencing each and every day.
10. Which the Egyptians are oppressing them (3905) – God holds Egypt responsible for how they crushed Israel placing them into hardship, confinement, and abuse.
11. Which the Egyptians are oppressing them (3905) – It may seem like those who abuse us are getting away with evil. God promises that they are not
12. *“The face of the Lord is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord hears And delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all.”* (Psalm 34:16-19; Psalm 37; NASU)

***“Don’t become weary in well doing……” (Galatians 6:9-10)***