

## Exodus 5:22-6:13 Discussion Questions

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### A Little Context

This passage comes after Moses' first confrontation with Pharaoh. This is not the same Pharaoh as chapter 1 & 2 who has since died (Ex. 2:23). This Pharaoh does not see the size of Israel's population as a threat (1:9) but as something to exploit (5:5). Both are set against God by not permitting his people to flourish. In response Pharaoh makes their labors more difficult but not giving them straw to make bricks. The people appeal but Pharaoh does not listen and as a result the Israelite foremen blame Moses and Aaron instead of Pharaoh!

Moses then again asks God why he sent him? God's sending of Moses has made Israel situation worse and they are not listening to Moses (5:22-23).

God responds by saying with a strong hand and with power will God deliver Israel from Egypt. He will make himself known in a way not previously seen by the patriarchs.

Many scholars have debated the meaning of 6:3 as if God is introducing a new name, not previously known, or that it is contradicting 3:14-15 in some way. Its better to see it as meaning they will see the significance of his name in a powerful way, in a way not previously known. This is the God who is mighty to save and will do so with great acts of judgment.

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### Questions

1. Why is God reiterating what he intends to do to Moses (cf. Ex. 5)?
2. Why is Moses discouraged? Have you had a time where you were discouraged about something you thought God would do?
3. What do verses 2-8 say about what kind of God Yahweh is?
4. In verse 5 speaks of God hearing Israel's groaning and remembering his covenant. How are we to understand this? Did God forget? Or does God's remembering the covenant mean something else?
5. Verse 9: How have you seen a person's spirit be so broken they can't bring themselves to have any hope? How does God respond?
6. Moses and Israel are discouraged by their rejection and worsening situation precisely because God is intervening. Should we be surprised at resistance to God's work and the gospel? How do we persist against resistance from others or even from our own hearts?
7. Under harsh circumstances, apathy and resignation is understandable. What does it look like to have faith in God Almighty, the Lord who delivers with a strong hand in times like these?