

“Let My People Go”

Exodus 5-6



*And the Lord spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Let my people go, that they may serve me.
Exodus 8:1*



Aaron and Moses in Egypt



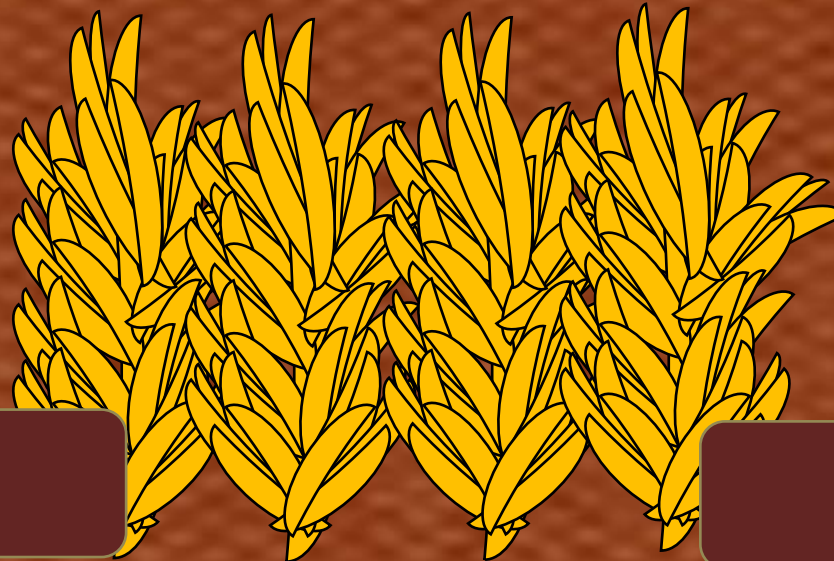
Moses and Aaron obeyed the Lord by commanding Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go into the wilderness to worship the Lord

Pharaoh's Refusal

God gave the pharaoh a chance to let Israel go, of his own free will, to worship God. Through his refusal the pharaoh could blame no one but himself for the consequences.



What happened after Moses and Aaron asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go?

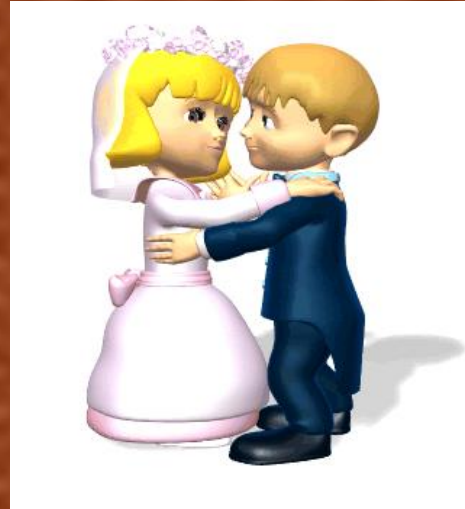
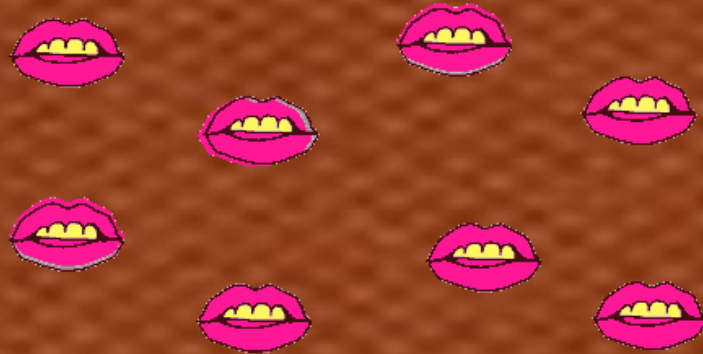


Even when we are following the Lord's commands, we may experience opposition

Facing Opposition

Although our opposition will not be like the opposition Moses and Aaron faced from Pharaoh, we all face possible resistance.

1. You choose to use clean language and ask others not to swear when they are around you.



2. You choose to support traditional marriage.

3. You choose to support the roles of men and women as given in the proclamation on the family.

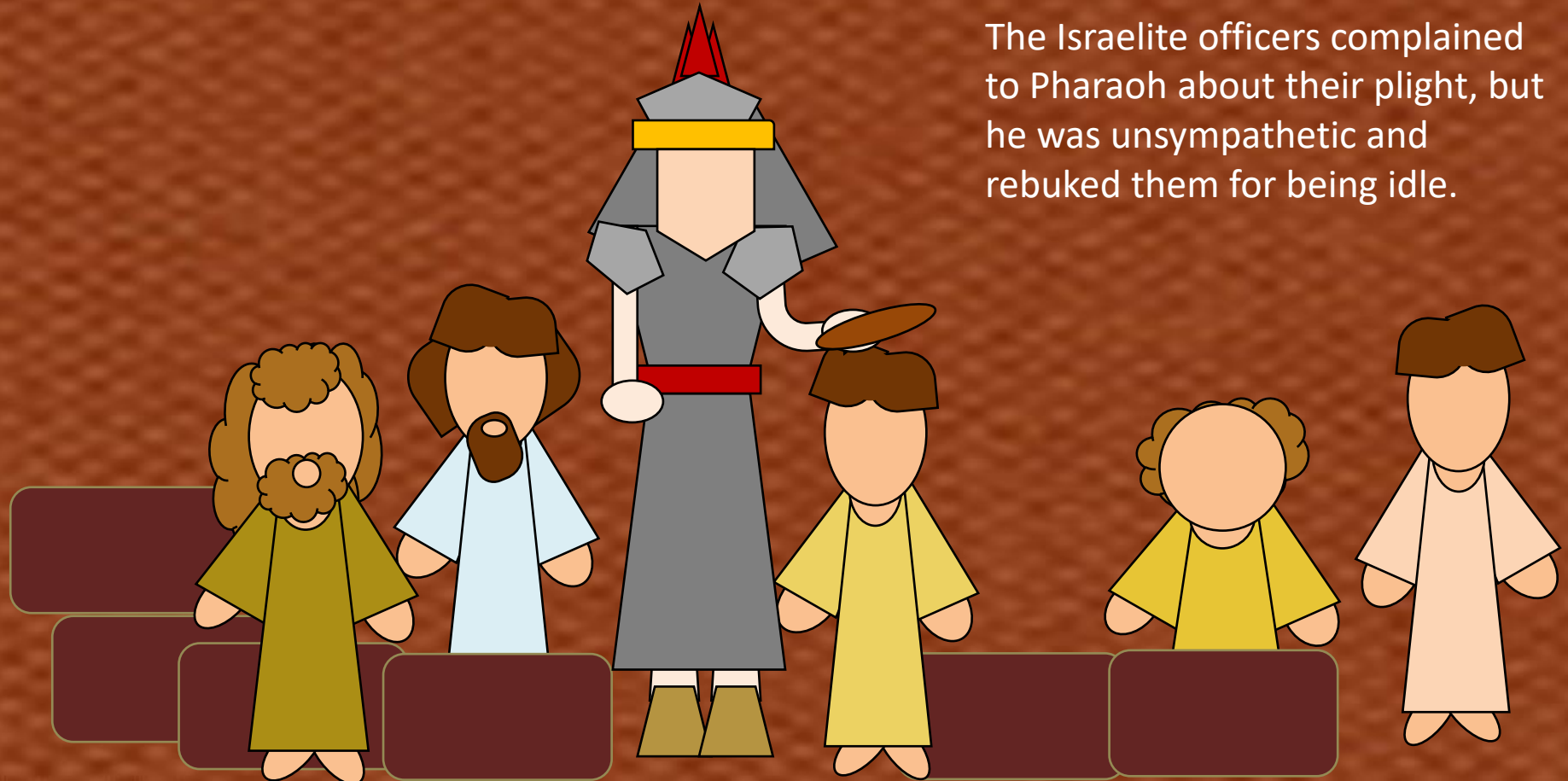


Opposition From Pharaoh



When the Israelites failed to make the same amount of bricks as before, the taskmasters beat them.

The Israelite officers complained to Pharaoh about their plight, but he was unsympathetic and rebuked them for being idle.



Our Lives Are Harder

...because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.

They were likely saying that their lives were now harder because of what Moses and Aaron had done

They blamed Moses for Pharaoh's actions



Moses asked the Lord why he was sent to Pharaoh because the Israelites were now being treated so poorly



The Name JEHOVAH

The covenant or proper name of the God of Israel

The King James Version of Exodus

6:3 suggests that the name *Jehovah* was unknown to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

“And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob. I am the Lord God Almighty; the Lord Jehovah. And was not my name known unto them?” (JST, Exodus 6:3.)



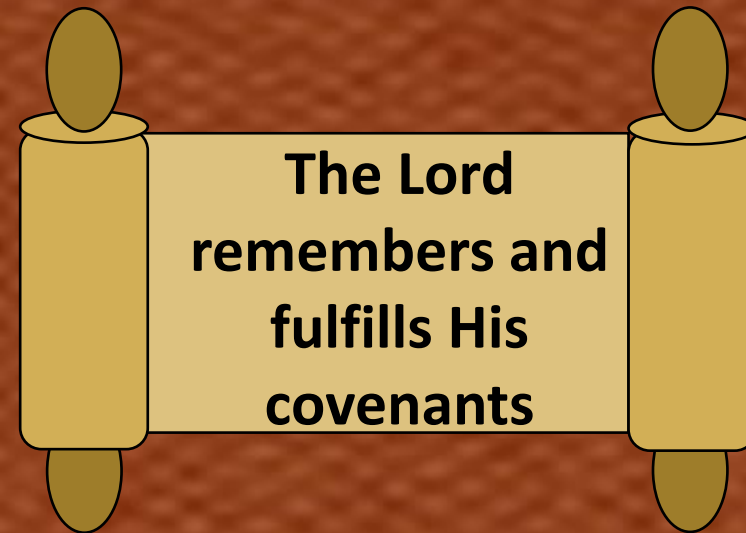
The original pronunciation of this name has possibly been lost, as the Jews, in reading, never mentioned it but substituted one of the other names of God, usually Adonai.

Probably it was pronounced Jahveh, or Yahveh.

In the KJV, the Jewish custom has been followed, and the name is generally denoted by LORD or GOD, printed in small capitals. (1)

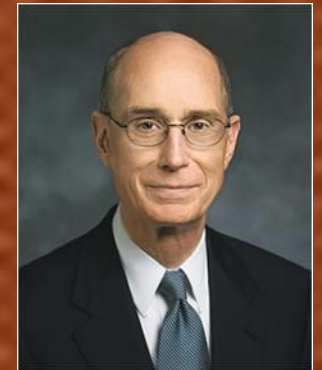
Keeping the Covenant

Why would the Lord deliver Israel out of the bonds of slavery?



And whoso receiveth you, there I will be also, for I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up.

D&C 84:88



“Although His time is not always our time, we can be sure that the Lord keeps His promises.” (2)

I Will...

I am the
Lord

Give it you for an
heritage

Bring you in unto
the land

Which I gave to
Abraham, Isaac,
and Jacob

Take you to me for
a people

Be to you a God

And ye shall know
that I *am* the Lord
your God

Bring you out from
under the burdens
of the Egyptians

Rid you out of their
bondage

Redeem you with a
stretched-out arm

...and with great
judgements

I Will Redeem You



“The word *redeem* means to pay off an obligation or a debt.



Redeem can also mean to rescue or set free as by paying a ransom. If someone commits a mistake and then corrects it or makes amends, we say he has redeemed himself.

Each of these meanings suggests different facets of the great Redemption accomplished by Jesus Christ through His Atonement, which includes, in the words of the dictionary, ‘to deliver from sin and its penalties, as by a sacrifice made for the sinner’”. (3)



Free From Bondage

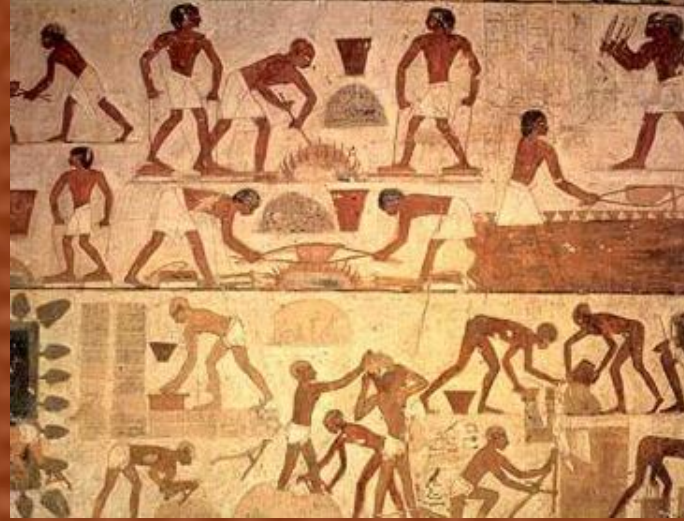


The Lord has power to
redeem us from our
bondage and to lighten
or remove our burdens

The Israelites

The Israelites had been
in bondage for 400 years

Acts 7:6



During that time, they were
influenced by idol worship and
beliefs about Egyptian gods.



Exodus 6:7-13

The Israelites responded negatively to
Moses because they did not know the Lord
and had been in bondage and suffering for
a long time.

It was one thing to take the Israelites out of Egypt but quite
another to get Egypt out of the Israelites.

“Uncircumcised Lips”

The Joseph Smith Translation clarifies this statement by saying that Moses had “stammering lips” and was “slow of speech”

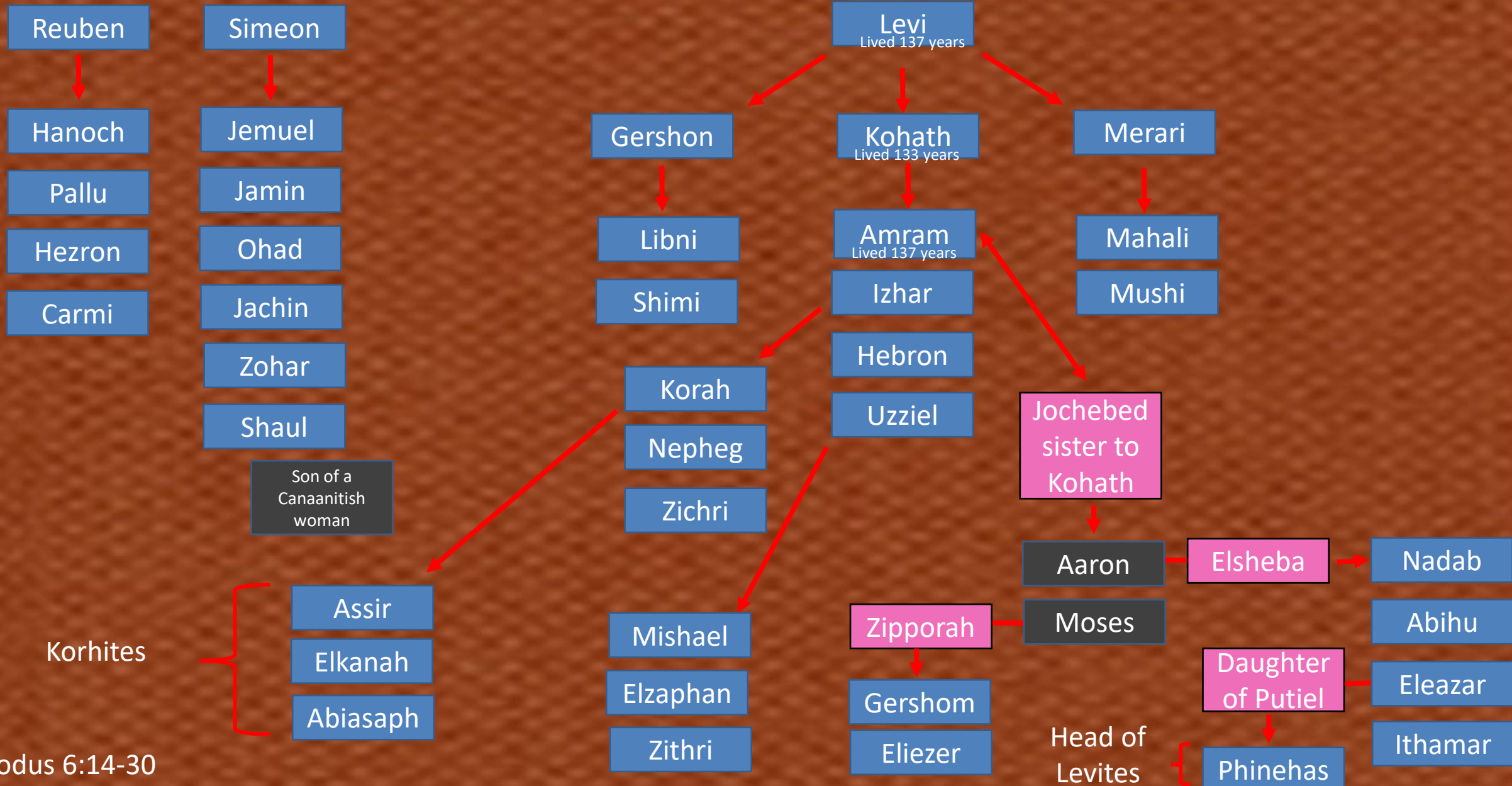


And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

Exodus 4:10

The Lord’s response required Moses to exercise faith in the promises the Lord had just made to him. As he followed the Lord’s commands, Moses would receive the Lord’s help.

Reuben, Simeon, and Levi



Sources:

1. Bible Dictionary—Jehovah
2. President Henry B. Eyring *Where Is the Pavilion?* October 2012 Gen. Conf. Presentation by ©<http://fashionsbylynda.com/blog/>
3. [*Webster's New World College Dictionary*, 3rd ed. (1988), "redeem"] Elder D. Todd Christofferson ("Redemption," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2013, 109).