

November 21,2021

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Open Church Worship)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: “How Do You Live in an Unpredictable Age?”

—A Life Turned Around—

Text : Exodus 6:28~7:7

**6:28 On the day when the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt,**

**6: 29 the LORD said to Moses, “I am the LORD; tell Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you.”**

**6:30 But Moses said to the LORD, “Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips. How will Pharaoh listen to me?”**

**7:1 And the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet.**

**7:2 You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land.**

**7:3 But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt,**

**7:4 Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment.**

**7:5 The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them.”**

**7:6 Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the LORD commanded them.**

**7:7 Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.**

#### Introduction

AI (artificial intelligence) and digitization are rapidly developing in this age. There are many advantages because of this. One of them is that AI can assist human beings. It is very helpful because there will be a labor shortage in the future due to the declining birthrate.

On the other hand, sometimes we have anxiety about what will happen in the

future. Will AI work far beyond human beings one day? If it does, will human beings be replaced?

On top of that, our lifestyle and sense of values are greatly changing because of COVID-19.

What do you think about this day and age? It may be very difficult to live in a rapidly changing age because we can see no light ahead of us. It means that we live in an age without charts or directions. Even in the age like this, the Bible, the great book of the world, provides us some hints on how to live from various perspectives. Let us consider a certain person, one of the hints.

Everyone has **strong** and **weak points**. When we work on what we are good at, we try hard and make progress in that field and produce a good result.

There are many people who are good at in various fields, such as singing, painting, writing and so on.

On the other hand, someone who is not good at something like singing, painting, and writing and so on, becomes nervous and may feel uneasy. Their weaknesses become their causes of concern (their stresses increases).

My friends, we experience many things in our lives. When we only look at own strength, ability, and physical strength, **we feel uneasy** and may become nervous. What should we do? The Bible also records about a man who had causes of concern. It was Moses who became a leader of Israelites.

Moses lived in B. C. in the days of the Old Testament. God told Moses and Aaron, his brother, to take the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan, the Promised Land. The reason was because they were in slavery in Egypt. God planned to make them free from slavery and **bring them to a blessed land flowing with milk and honey (Canaan)**.

Moses was already 80 years old at that time. He lived until he was 120 years old, so he was told this at the age when he started his last 40 years, his final third of life. Operation Exodus, the biggest event of history of Israelites, was about to start.

What about the first two thirds of the life of Moses, the great leader? Let us study the following three points.

#### Main Points

##### 1. Moses Had Human Weakness in the Beginning.

**7:7 Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.**

He was already 80 years old. His health condition had to be seriously bad. His power and physical strength did not compare with that of his youth. It must have seemed impossible to make the Israelites, who were in slavery in Egypt, free from Pharaoh who was a ruler of that ancient civilization, and take them to Canaan, the Promised Land.

My friends, this is a paradoxical thought that the Bible teaches. In general, when a man starts something new, he must check his ability, physical strength and will power. However, God's plan strangely starts in one's weakness.

If we put ourselves in Moses' situation, what do you think we would do? God the Creator has no problem even if we have human weakness. It means that God has a purpose for Moses' life, therefore, his old age was not a problem for God.

God has a plan for each of our lives. That may be called a mission. When one lives for their mission, they forget their age.

#### {Illustration}

A well-known Christian, Dr. Hinohara, who was the former director of St. Luke's International Hospital, in Tokyo, worked until he was over 90 years old as the oldest doctor. Many Japanese know that his brilliant life recently ended.

When Moses was called by God, he was 80 years old. It was the age when he began to become weak as a human. However, it was time to start as a leader and his age was not a negative factor.

##### 2. Moses' Did Not Believe He Was a Good Speaker

**6:30 But Moses said to the LORD, "Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips. How will**

### **Pharaoh listen to me?"**

How could Moses speak to Pharaoh, the leader of the world at that time?

It shows another paradoxical truth.

It means ⇒ God is not influenced by human ability.

In a sense, Moses was honest with himself. He probably looked inside and saw weakness. But God Himself told Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. God, who created the heavens and earth, gave an order and it means that He was intentional behind what he commanded.

God in the Bible does not give His Word irresponsibly. The Word once spoken never fades. The Bible records about God's Word as below:

**Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.**

The Bible records as well:

**Matthew 5:18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished**

The Bible is the book of the Word of God the Creator, who created the heavens and the earth, and spoke to us. Therefore, it is the Book of **good news** (the Gospel) that is for people over the world beyond nations and cultures. God's amazing blessing is hidden in it.

Moses looked inside even though the Word of God has such authority. As a result, he only saw his weakness that he was a poor speaker. The important thing here is Moses should have listened to the God's Word of authority rather than himself, of course looking oneself is important.

### **3. Where is the Crucial Point?**

**6: 29 the LORD said to Moses, "I am the LORD; tell Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you."**

It means that he should not look inward, but he should look at God the Creator, who created the heavens and the earth. Moses received God's Word that He spoke to him. It means that God Himself takes responsibility for what He says.

My friends! How about your life? You have knowledge, lots of experiences and accomplishments. It is very wonderful. You may think that you can overcome

everything with your abilities and power.

On the other hand, you may not feel like you want to live anymore. You may be exhausted, disappointed, or discouraged. There is no doubt that we come to live in a difficult age that is unpredictable, and we cannot foresee the future. Yes, we do, however, don't worry about it.

My friends, please do not look at your weakness inside. Moses made the Israelites leave Egypt successfully according to God's promise. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, tried to stop the Israelites leaving Egypt ten times. Pharaoh's attempt failed completely. Therefore, he had no choice but to let the Israelites go, because God was with them.

Any negative factor is no problem for God. Then, what is the important thing? The point whether we trust in the Word of God or not. It has power to help people and save.

#### {Illustration} Testimony of Fanny Crosby

Fanny Crosby, a blind poet, was called a queen of a Christian church in the United States. She was born in March 1820 in Putnam, New York. At six weeks old, her parents carelessly used poultices to treat her eye diseases. The treatment damaged her eyes, and she became blind.

Then, she entered the New York Institution for the Blind. After she finished studying, she became a teacher at the Institution. In 1858, she married Alexander Van Altsteine, her colleague.

She left behind many works as a blind poet and Christian poet. The hymn *Safe in the Arm of Jesus* is one of her most beautiful works.

She continued actively authoring poems until her death, at 95 years old. When she was only 8 years old, she said, "I should be blind all my life, but how thankful that I can have God's blessing all to myself, that no one knows"

She expressed her faith in her poems throughout her life. She clearly testified that she could deeply see God's will because she was blind. She said, "I really give thanks that I am blind. If I am not blind, how could I live a precious and meaningful

life like this. I am really happy.”

God used Fanny Crosby who was blind. My friends! She had weakness but it was no problem. She believed in the living God and made the best use of the talents that God had given her.

What do you think of your life? We live in an age where we cannot guess what will happen in the future. There are quite a few people who feel anxiety for their futures. When they seriously think about their future, they see no light ahead of them. Jesus Christ said, “I am the light of the world.” The light of Jesus shines in our heart so that we can see the hidden side well and the light leads us.

The Bible: **“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)**

I hope you to come to Jesus Christ today. Is there anyone who is exhausted of living life? Or do some of you think that your burden is too heavy? Yes, you are all right. Jesus Christ takes all of your tiredness and burdens.

The reason why is because Jesus Christ is the Savior who was crucified and resurrected from the dead on the third day. Jesus took all of our burdens on the cross. He is the Savior who defeated death and was resurrected.

**Romans 10:11 For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”**

### Conclusion

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This morning, God calls us. We live in an unpredictable age and feel anxiety. However, God the Creator loves each of us. He loves us and wants to bless our lives.

I hope you to come to the true God who created the world.

**Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

\* God bless you!