Ex. 6:2

God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the Lord. <u>3</u> I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as El Shaddai, but I did not make Myself known to them by My name יהוה."

Ex. 6:1

Then the Lord said to Moses, "You shall soon see what I will do to Pharaoh: he shall let them go because of a greater might; indeed, because of a greater might he shall drive them from his land." ס

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Ex. 5:19

Now the foremen of the Israelites found themselves in trouble because of the order, "You must not reduce your daily quantity of bricks." <u>20</u> As they left Pharaoh's presence, they came upon Moses and Aaron standing in their path, <u>21</u> and they said to them, "May the Lord look upon you and punish you for making us loathsome to Pharaoh and his courtiers—putting a sword in their hands to slay us." <u>22</u> Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, "O Lord, why did You bring harm upon this people? Why did You send me? <u>23</u> Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has dealt worse with this people; and still You have not delivered Your people."

Ex. 6:1

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<u>Anchor Bible Dictionary</u>

To facilitate the use of the "sacred page," another master (usually said to be Stephen **Langton**, d. 1228) divided the text into chapters for ease of reference.

At the beginning of the 13th century, the University of Paris and its librarians generalized a type of Latin Bible *(Biblia Parisiensia)* quite similar to what we call the Vulgate. At the same time, Stephen **Langton** (1150–1228) introduced those chapter divisions still in use today.

<u>Wikipedia (photo of statue of Langton from the exterior of Canterbury Cathedral)</u>

Stephen Langton (c. 1150 – 9 July 1228) was an English Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church and Archbishop of Canterbury between 1207 and his death in 1228. The dispute between King John of England and Pope Innocent III over his election was a major factor in the crisis which produced Magna Carta in 1215.

David Marcus, "Differences between Chapter Divisions and the Parashiyyot: The Case of Va'era (Exodus 6:2), *Essays in Education and Judaism in Honor of Joseph S. Lukinsky*, 382-393

   As mentioned earlier, the origin of the chapter divisions is credited to Stephen Langton. But he did not actually invent the chapter divisions. Before Langton, there were other types of divisions in existence, but his system is the one that gained prominence and became the standard. Echoes of these other chapter-division traditions can still be seen by comparing the chapter divisions in modern printed editions of the Vulgate with the chapter divisions in modern printed editions of the Hebrew Bible that were originally taken over from the Vulgate.

Why does the new *parashah Va'era* begin in verse 2?
• to emphasize the reaffirmation of the covenant promise made to the patriarchs
• to allow Moses' grievances to God to be answered by an encouraging response to the end of the previous *parashah*
• to enable the new *parashah* to highlight not the answer to the grievances, but God's reaffirmation of the covenant.
• to avoid the repetition of God speaking to Moses in successive verses without Moses replying
• to avoid the problem of God speaking within the space of two verses with two different names
• because verses 2-8 form a literary unit on their own

Why does the chapter begin one verse earlier?
Almost half the chapters in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers begin with the formulaic expression *vayomer/vayedabeir YHWH el moshe* ("The Lord said/spoke to Moses"). In Exodus, the phrase opens every chapter from chapters 6 to 13.

Of the 187 chapters in the Pentateuch, 150 (80%) correspond with either a p or x sectional break—so when the chapter divisions ignore the Masoretic divisions (especially in such close proximity to one) this must be the result of a different exegesis or a different understanding of the text.

The chapter division of Exodus 6 is no doubt influenced by the occurrence of the phrase "the LORD said to Moses" in verse 1.