

**50+ Class – All Saints Presbyterian Church**  
**Winter-Spring 2021**  
**The Life of Moses**

Week 14 – *Bricks Without Straw*

## Introduction

### Exodus

**3.16-18a** [Burning Bush]—<sup>16</sup> Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, <sup>17</sup> and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.'" <sup>18</sup> And they will listen to your voice ...

**4.29-21**—<sup>29</sup> Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. <sup>30</sup> Aaron spoke **all the words** that the LORD had spoken to Moses and [NASB/NIV/NKJV: **he** (Moses)] did the **signs** in the sight of the people. <sup>31</sup> And the people **believed**; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and **worshiped**.

Following God's commands yields success—faith in His Word and Promises

**3.18b-20**—... and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.' <sup>19</sup> But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>20</sup> So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go.

**5.1-21**—<sup>1</sup> Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'" <sup>2</sup> But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."<sup>3</sup> Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest he fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword."<sup>4</sup> But the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens."<sup>5</sup> And Pharaoh said, "Behold, the people of the land are now many,<sup>[a]</sup> and you make them rest from their burdens!"<sup>6</sup> The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen, <sup>7</sup> "You shall **no longer give the people straw to make bricks**, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves. <sup>8</sup> But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, 'Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.'<sup>9</sup> Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words."

<sup>10</sup> So the taskmasters and the foremen of the people went out and said to the people, "Thus says Pharaoh, 'I will not give you straw. <sup>11</sup> Go and **get your straw yourselves** wherever you can find it, **but your work will not be reduced** in the least.'" <sup>12</sup> So the people were scattered throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. <sup>13</sup> The taskmasters were urgent, saying, "Complete your work, your daily task each day, as when there was straw."<sup>14</sup> And the foremen of the people of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, "Why have you not done all your task of making bricks today and yesterday, as in the past?"

<sup>15</sup> Then the foremen of the people of Israel came and cried to Pharaoh, "Why do you treat

your servants like this? <sup>16</sup> No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, 'Make bricks!' And behold, your servants are beaten; but the fault is in your own people." <sup>17</sup> But he said, "You are idle, you are idle; that is why you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.' <sup>18</sup> Go now and work. No straw will be given you, but you must still deliver the same number of bricks." <sup>19</sup> The foremen of the people of Israel saw that they were in trouble when they said, "You shall by no means reduce your number of bricks, your daily task each day." <sup>20</sup> They met Moses and Aaron, who were waiting for them, as they came out from Pharaoh; <sup>21</sup> and they said to them, "**The LORD look on you and judge [you], because you have made us stink** in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

Life disaster is often rooted in failure to believe & act on what God's word really says

There's no such thing as untested faith. Testing, often suffering, follows belief in God.

### 5.22 – 6:13

<sup>22</sup> Then Moses **turned to the LORD** and said, "O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? <sup>23</sup> For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all."

**6** But the LORD said to Moses, "**Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land.**"

<sup>2</sup> God spoke to Moses and said to him, "**I am the LORD.** <sup>3</sup> I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as **God Almighty [El Shaddai]**, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. <sup>4</sup> I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. <sup>5</sup> Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. <sup>6</sup> Say therefore to the people of Israel, '**I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. <sup>7</sup> I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. <sup>8</sup> I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.**'"<sup>9</sup> Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

<sup>10</sup> So the LORD said to Moses, <sup>11</sup> "Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land." <sup>12</sup> But Moses said to the LORD, "Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?" <sup>13</sup> But the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

It's always right to turn to God with our failure

The plans & purposes of our Sovereign God are not thwarted by our sin.

A believer's job is not to be successful, but to be faithful, and leave the success to God

God uses trying circumstances to force dependence, teach patience, and make us wise

Q & A / Discussion

Next Week: *The Life of Moses – Part 2 – Plague Upon Plague* (7 weeks: 5/2 thru 6/13)