

4/13/08

Exodus 5-6

Moses has been called and commissioned by God, to deliver the children of Israel from Egypt.

God prepared Moses with signs to verify his divine commission, along with Aaron, his brother.

Moses and Aaron gathered all the elders of Israel, the sings were performed and the people believed and worshipped God.

Now, the long negotiation with Pharaoh begins.

5:1-14 The first confrontation of Pharaoh by Moses and Aaron.

5:1-2 The request of Moses and Aaron was made and denied by Pharaoh.

- 1) Moses and Aaron petitioned Pharaoh to release the people of God. vs. 1-2
 - a) This took place after Moses and Aaron had met with the elder of Israel and without doubt shortly after. vs. 1a
* This verse looks back to the previous chapter. Ex. 4:28-31
 - b) The elders are not mentioned as God told Moses but they are implied in verse four. Ex. 3:18c, 5:4d

- 2) Moses and Aaron came in authority of God not there own, as His ambassadors. vs. 1a-b
 - a) Moses was the prophet of God and Aaron was the spokesman. vs. 1a
 - b) Moses and Aaron prefaced the proclamation to Pharaoh with, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel.” vs. 1b
 - 1) Describing Yahweh, the all-existing One, the covenant God.
 - 2) God, Elohim, the Creator of everything.
 - 3) The God of Israel “Yisra’ el”, meaning God prevails, He was the true deliver, not Moses.
 - c) Moses and Aaron declared the command of God’s Fatherly cry to Pharaoh, ‘Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.’” vs. 1c-d
 - 1)) The word go “shalach” is often used with forceful authority, such as for a divorced wife or exile. Deut. 22:19, 28, Jer. 24:5
 - 2)) The corresponding word for feast “chagag” in Arabic means to make a pilgrimage to Mecca.
 - 4) Remember this is Egypt, the most powerful nation!

3) Pharaoh was not intimidated by the command of the LORD God of Israel. vs. 2

a) Pharaoh did not acknowledge the authority of Yahweh, the One God who created everything, as being greater than his authority. vs. 2a-c
 * He was irreverent and prideful in his sarcasm. said, implying he is not one of the gods of Egypt, he was unfamiliar with this God. vs. 2a-c

b) Pharaoh rebelliously defies the command of the God of Israel, considering himself, as a god on the throne of Egypt. vs. 2d-e

- 1)) He neither knew Him by experience, nor felt any obligation to obey Him! vs. 2d-e
- 2)) The pantheon of gods were many, some like human beings as Osiris, the judge of the dead, to bird-like, as Horus the Hawk, the son of Osiris and the founder of the Egyptian realm.

5:3-5 Moses and Aaron persisted in their petition of Pharaoh for the release of the people of God. vs. 3-5

1) Moses and Aaron inform Pharaoh, Yahweh was the God of the Hebrew and they had met with Him. vs. 3a-b

* The meeting took place at Mount Horeb, in Media. Ex. 3

2) Moses and Aaron seem to have lost their confidence by their pleading but these are the very words God gave to Moses, for the three day journey. vs. 3c-d, 3:18

3) Moses and Aaron gave warning of Yahweh's power and probably retaliation, indicated by pestilence and sword. vs. 3e

2) Moses and Aaron were charged by Pharaoh with distracting the people. vs. 4-5

* The King of Egypt appears to be more powerful, attempting to embarrass Moses and Aaron, making them look foolish.

5:6-14 The plan of Pharaoh to crush the rebellion.

1) Pharaoh was ruthlessly making their labor impossible to accomplish. vs. 6-11

a) Pharaoh did it on the very same day commanding the taskmasters and officers, vs. 6

1)) The taskmasters "nagas" were the Egyptian oppressors, exactor or slave drivers. Ex. 3:7

2)) The officers "shoter", were the Hebrew official or overseers.

- 2) Pharaoh gave two commands to the taskmasters and officers. vs. 7-8
 - a) The first was to cease giving the people straw, they would have to collect their own straw. vs. 7
 - * Interesting that both straw made bricks and pure clay bricks have been found in Pithom and Tanis.
 - b) The second was they would have to produce the same amount of bricks as before. vs. 8a-b
 - 1) They were to lay on the people, the same quota of bricks as before. vs. 8a
 - 2) They were not to allow them to diminish the previous quota. vs. 8b
- 3) Pharaoh He gave the reason for the harsh command. vs. 8c-9
 - a) He said the people had too much leaser time and lazy. vs. 8c-f
 - b) He said the people had paid attention to deceptive lies, “false words”. vs. 9
 - c) He wanted to be done with the rebellion by crushing the aspirations and hope of the Hebrews!

5:10-14 The people were unable to meet the harsh and unjust demands of Pharaoh.

- 1) The command was given to the people by the taskmasters. vs. 10-11

- 2) The people went searching all over for straw. vs. 12
 - a) Stubble “qash” were mall sticks and whatever else they found, not adequate for giving the bricks strength.
 - b) Straw “teben” made the bricks cohesive and strong.
- 3) The people were pressured by the taskmasters to produce the quota of bricks. vs. 13
- 4) The Hebrew officers were beaten by taskmasters for falling two days behind on their product of bricks. vs. 14
 - * Pharaoh wanted to embitter the Hebrews against Moses and Aaron, dividing the people from God’s leaders!

5:15-6:1 **The various disgruntled groups.**

5:15-19 The Hebrew officers took their complaint to Pharaoh.

- 1) The Hebrew officers came and cried out to Pharaoh for the injustice.” vs. 15
 - a) The word cried out “qeu tsa’aq” means to cry out for help being in distress.
 - b) The required bricks were impossible to meet with the added work.

- 2) They Hebrew officers made it clear that it was the fault of the Egyptians. vs. 16
- a) Straw was not provided for them, yet they were being pressured to produce the bricks. vs. 16a-c
* Literally, “they keep saying to us, make brick!”
 - b) They were being beaten. vs. 16d
 - c) They told him, it was the fault of his own people. vs. 16e
* In effect, it was the fault of Pharaoh, for giving the order!
- 3) The Hebrew officers were rebuked by Pharaoh.
- a) Pharaoh told them again they were idle, having too much time and lazy. vs. 17
 - b) Pharaoh reaffirms his original command of no straw and the quota of bricks. vs. 18
 - c) Pharaoh made it very clear they were in trouble and had no way out but to produce. vs. 19

5:20-21 The Hebrews officers blamed Moses and Aaron for their harsh labor.

- 1) The officers met Moses and Aaron as they came out from Pharaoh, without doubt waiting to hear the outcome. vs. 20
- 2) The officers accused Moses and Aaron for all their hardships. expressing God

should pass sentence of them for bring their destruction. vs. 21

- a) The word abhorrent “ba’ash”, means to stink, be loathsome or odious, something repulsive and irritating.
- b) The instrument being a sword in the Egyptians hand.

5:22-6:1 The prophet Moses blamed God for the failure.

- 1) Moses acted just like the people and accused God for the evil, being discouraged, frustrated and having some doubts. vs. 22
 - a) Moses got his eyes off the Lord.
 - b) Moses forgot that Yahweh also told him that Pharaoh would not let them go, until He struck Egypt with all His wonders. Ex. 3:19-20, 4:21
- 2) Moses pointed out flaws in the plan of God. vs. 23
 - a) The mention of God’s name caused the trouble. vs. 23a-b
 - b) The timing of God was lousy. vs. 23c
- 3) Moses was corrected by God for his wrong perspective. vs. 1
 - a) The plan was right on schedule. vs. 1a-b
 - b) The plan was going to turn out successful. vs. 1c-d

- 1)) Pharaoh would set them free, vs. 1c
- 2)) Pharaoh would be eager to see them go. vs. 1d
 - a) There would be seven more request, eight in total. Ex. 5:1-3, 7:10, 7:15-18, 8:1-4, 8:20-23, 9:1-4
 - b) There would be equally eight denial. Ex. 5:2, 7:13, 7:22-23, 8:15, 8:32, 9:7, 12, 9:34-35, 10:11, 20, 27
- c) Pharaoh was not Moses' problem, Yahweh alone would stop Pharaoh!

6:2-13 The repeated promise of deliverance.

6:2-8 The promise of deliverance by God Himself.

- 1) God reminded Moses of Who He was, "I am the LORD. vs. 2
- 2) God reminded Moses He appeared to the Patriarchs, "I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob" as God almighty "El-Shaddai", all powerful. vs. 3a-c
* Gen. 17:1, 28:3, 35:11, 43:14, 48:3, 49:3
- 3) God reminded Moses that by His name LORD He was not known to them. vs. 3d

- a) The name Yahweh appears some 162 time in Genesis, the existing One, the verb "to be".
- b) The name meant His character and reputation of all that He is, point being that the Hebrews in Egypt had not had any dealings personally relying on Him in their slavery.
- 4) God reminded Moses He had established His covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. vs. 4
- 5) God reminded Moses He had heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and had remembered His covenant. vs. 5
* Six times the personal pronoun "I" is used by God, emphasizing, He alone was responsible for what He promised!
- 6) God told Moses to tell the children of Israel the following. vs. 6-8
 - a) "Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the LORD; **I will bring you out** from under the burdens of the Egyptians, **I will rescue you from their bondage**, and **I will redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. vs. 6

- b) **‘I will take you as My people, and I will be your God.** Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. vs.7
- c) **‘And I will bring you into the land** which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and **I will give it to you** as a heritage: I am the LORD.’”
vs. 8
* Seven “I wills” of God, regarding His faithfulness!

- 6:9-13** The command to Moses to go to the children of Israel and Pharaoh, the second time.
- 1) Moses spoke to the Hebrew, but they did not pay attention because of their anguish of spirit and cruel bondage. vs. 9
 - 2) The LORD then spoke to Moses, to go tell Pharaoh again to let the children of Israel go out of his land.” vs. 10-11
 - 3) Moses had some excuses again. vs. 12
 - a) “The children of Israel have not heeded him. vs. 12a-b
 - b) How then was Pharaoh going to heed him, “for I am of uncircumcised lips?” vs. 12c-d
 - 4) Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, and gave them a command for the children of Israel and for Pharaoh king of

Egypt, to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. vs. 13

6:14-27 **The genealogical list regarding Moses and Aaron.**

- 6:14-16** The three oldest sons of Jacob by his wife Leah.
- 1) Ruben, the first born and his sons families. vs. 14
* He committed incest against his father’s bed, lost his birthright. Gen. 35:22, 49:3-4
 - 2) Simeon, the second born and his sons families. vs. 15
* Simeon and Levi, both were guilty of treasury against Shechem for the rape of their sister Tamar. Gen. 34:25-31, 49:5-8
 - 3) Levi and the names of the sons, according to their generations: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. And the years of the life of Levi were one hundred and thirty-seven. vs. 16-19
 - a) The sons of Gershon. vs. 17
 - b) And the sons of Kohath, the second son of Levi is the line of Moses. vs. 18
 - c) The sons of Merari. vs. 19
* Each served in the care of the tabernacle with specific duties.

- 4) The father and mother of Moses and Aaron, making the connection to the new leadership by God, through Levi. vs. 20
- 5) The other son. vs. 21-22
- 6) The wife of Aaron and children and respective wives. vs. 23-25
 - * Korah rebelled by presuming on the office of Moses and Aaron, being destroyed. Num. 16
- 7) The credentials of Moses and Aaron not only to the priesthood but the redemptive deliverance of Israel from Egypt. vs. 26-27

6:28-30 The command to Moses to go to Pharaoh, the second time.

6:28-30 The instruction of God to Moses.

- 1) The text says, on the day the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt. vs. 28
 - a) Seem to be related to the previous command. vs. 10-13
 - b) This would be a better chapter break or at verse 7 of the next chapter.
- 2) The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “I am the LORD. Speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you.” vs. 29
- 3) But Moses said before the LORD, “Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh heed me?” vs. 30