

# Exodus 5

Listen for God/Listen to God

- **Moses goes back to Egypt:** Signs authenticating authority to Israelite slaves
  1. Rod to Serpent and back                      Power over Satan
  2. Leprosy to Clean and back                      Power over Sin
  3. Water to Blood                                      Power over Superstition/Idolatry

**Exodus 4:31** So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they **bowed their heads and worshiped.**

## I. First Encounter with Pharaoh

### 1 Afterward...

- **Afterward:** After children of Israel believed...time to convince Pharaoh of God's plan

1 Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: '**Let My people go...**

- Thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Let **My** people go"

**Not your people pharaoh; God's people**

**1b...that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness."**

- **Reason:** To hold a feast to honor Me
- **Place:** Outside of Egypt: Wilderness

**Thus says the Lord...give them time off**

2 And Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go."

An inscription by a Pharaoh on an ancient Egyptian temple gives us the idea: "I am that which was, and is, and shall be, and no man has lifted my veil." The Pharaoh was more than a man; he considered himself a god, and the Egyptians agreed. [Guzic]

- **Who is** the Lord that I should obey?

**Who is anyone to tell me what to do?**

- I don't know the Lord/I have no obligation to the Lord/ I will not obey the Lord
- **Fact:** He is Lord over you whether you acknowledge it or not...

**Psalm 24:1** The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world **and those** who dwell therein.

**Psalm 97:9** For You, Lord, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods.

- Spiritual reign will become Physical reign from Jerusalem over the entire earth:

**Zechariah 14:8** And in that day it shall be That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur. 9 And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be— “The Lord is one,” And His name one.

- **One God:** All other god’s imaginary, An idol with demon behind them

**1 Corinthians 10:20** ... the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God

- **One God:** The God of Israel, God of the Hebrews

3 So [Moses and Aaron] said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days’ journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God...”

- God spoke with us: PLEASE let us go

**3b...**lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword.”

- Obey or God will bring **judgment on us** with:
  1. **Pestilence:** Plagues
  2. **Sword/Invading Army:** Egypt’s fear of Israel allying with another nation

4 Then the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people from their work? Get back to your labor.”

- **Pharaoh Blows Moses off:** No time off
  1. Why do you stop the people from working?
  2. Why don’t you [Moses] get back to work?
  3. You’re acting like a Union Boss causing my workers to strike!

5 And Pharaoh said, “Look, the people of the land are many now, and you make them rest from their labor!”

- People of the land are many? Sounds like his father...

**Exodus 1:8** ...there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 And he said to his people, “Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; 10 come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply...**12** But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were **in dread** of the children of Israel.

- Fear of revolt led to more affliction
- More affliction led to more Israelites

**Pharaoh the first liberal politician:** If it didn’t work...let’s do it again

6 So the **same day** Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their officers

- **All the same day:**
  1. **Moses for God** “Let My people go”

2. **Pharaoh:** Who is the Lord? I won't obey.
3. **Moses:** God of Hebrews will bring plagues
4. **Pharaoh:** Stop taking the people from their work

[Pharaoh said to taskmasters] **7** "You shall no longer give the people straw to make brick as before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. **8** And you shall lay on them the quota of bricks which they made before. You shall not reduce it.

- **Instructions to Slave masters:**
  1. Don't provide straw for bricks
  2. Make them gather straw themselves
  3. Make sure quota stays same

**8b...**For they are idle; therefore they cry out, saying, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.'

- **Idle/Lazy:** Must have too much time on their hands
- **Whining:** Let us go...

**9** Let more work be laid on the men, that they may labor in it, and let them not regard false words."

**Give more work, Break their trust in God's Word; Take away their hope in God**

**Communism's relation to Atheism** [re-education work camps]

**Belief in Evolution and its relationship to Communism** [Karl Marx]

**10** And the taskmasters of the people and their officers went out and spoke to the people, saying, "Thus says Pharaoh: 'I will not give you straw. **11** Go, get yourselves straw where you can find it; yet none of your work will be reduced.'" **12** So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw. **13** And the taskmasters forced them to hurry, saying, "Fulfill your work, your daily quota, as when there was straw." **14** Also the officers of the children of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, "Why have you not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and today, as before?"

- Gathering stubble to make daily quota

Bricks of all sorts have been found in Egypt, some with regularly chopped straw, some with rough roots and oddments, some without straw at all. [Cole]

"The... bricks [were] often made of clay and straw kneaded together, and then not burned, but thoroughly dried in the sun... [the] straw is the bond by which the brick is held together." [Clarke]

- Officers of children of Israel beaten for not meeting same quota
- **Don't know why the harsh treatment at this point...**

15 Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, "**Why** are you dealing thus with your servants? 16 There is no straw given to your servants, and they say to us, 'Make brick!' And indeed your servants are beaten, but the fault is in your own people."

- Israelite officers approach Pharaoh: Why so harsh?
  1. Given no straw
  2. Foreman's are beaten
  3. Fault of Taskmasters...

### **Pharaohs Anger Burns** **The devil starts to glare...when freedoms in the air**

**Revelation 12:12** [Just before Jesus 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming to earth] ...the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

- Satan will cause pain when freedom in Christ is in view

17 But [Pharaoh] said, "You are idle! Idle! Therefore you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.' 18 Therefore go now and work; for no straw shall be given you, yet you shall deliver the quota of bricks." 19 And the officers of the children of Israel saw that they were in trouble after it was said, "You shall not reduce any bricks from your daily quota."

- Knew they were in trouble:
- Pharaoh [devil] has the ability to inflict great pain...

**Job 2:4** ...Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. 5 But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" 6 And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life."

**2 Corinthians 12:7** And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

- **Thorn:** Pointed piece of wood; a stake
- **Buffet:** Strike with the fist; give one blow with the fist

9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

- God wants to be our comfort in times of pain

20 Then, as [the Israelite leaders] came out from Pharaoh, they met Moses and Aaron who stood there to meet them. 21 And they said to them, "Let the Lord look on you and judge, because you have made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us."

**Exodus 4:31** So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they **bowed their heads and worshiped.**

- From hope to despair due to:
  1. **Reacting to Circumstances:** Walking by sight not faith
  2. **Not waiting on the Lord:** To renew their strength
  3. **Trusting in own understanding:** How/when God would work
  
- **Israelites don't turn to Moses...**don't turn to God...but turn to Pharaoh

**Proverbs 3:5** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

**Isaiah 55:8** "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

**Israel would later miss the Messiah because...  
They had a misconception of the way God would do things!**

1. **Reacting to Circumstances:** Walking by sight not faith
2. **Not waiting on the Lord:** To renew their strength
3. **Trusting in own understanding:** How/when God would work

**Isaiah 40:27** Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: "My way is hidden from the Lord, And my just claim is passed over by my God"? 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, 31 But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

**SUMMARY First Encounter with Pharaoh.** Pretty rough.

## **II. Moses Unbelief Continues**

22 So Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Lord, **why** have You brought trouble on this people? **Why** is it You have sent me? 23 For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people; neither have You delivered Your people **at all.**"

- **Moses returns to the Lord...**
  1. **Why** have you brought trouble? **Why** have you sent me?
  2. Pharaoh seems to be winning and you seem to be losing

**Why does it sometimes seem/feel that the devil is winning and God is losing?**

- **Genesis 3:** Temptation, Sin, Fall, Result
  1. World cursed by God: All of creation affected
  2. Satan becomes temporary god of this world: Prowling, Steal, kill, destroy
  3. Death/Sin surround us like a veil

- Trial are inevitable

**When Jesus returns the usurper will be removed along with the curse**

**Isaiah 25:7** [Jesus] will destroy on this mountain The surface of the covering cast over all people, And the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken. 9 And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

**SUMMARY Moses Unbelief Continues:**

- Moses was already told Pharaoh would not listen the first time
- Sometimes we have selective hearing concerning God's promises:
  1. We remember "I will heal your land"
  2. We forget "**If** my people will humble themselves and pray I will..."
  3. We remember "be of good cheer I have overcome the world"
  4. We forget "in this world you will have tribulation"

**Make no mistake: Temporary trials/tribulation are used by God to kill us...  
...that we might truly live**

"The agony of soul through which Moses passed must have been as death to him. He died to his self-esteem, to his castle-building, to pride in his miracles, to the enthusiasm of his people, to everything that a popular leader loves. As he lay there on the ground alone before God, wishing himself back in Midian, and thinking himself hardly used, he was falling as a grain of wheat into the ground to die, no longer to abide alone, **but to bear much fruit.**" [Meyer]