

EXODUS 5

MOSES MEETS PHARAOH; ISRAEL'S BURDENS ARE INCREASED

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KEYWORD

God (Plural)
God (Singular)
LORD
GOD
Lord
lord
El Olam
Bara
Asah
Beth
Numbers

REVERANCE

Elohim (The Trinity)
El
Jehovah & or Yahweh (YHWH)
Jehovah & or Yahweh
GOD the Master (Kurios), Adonai
Man the Master
Everlasting God
God creating from nothing
God making or assembling from existent materials
House

- 1 - Unity between God the Father & His Son Jesus (John 10:30)
- 2 - Represents union, division, and verification
- 3 - Harmony, New Life & completeness (467 times)
- 4 - Creation & The creative ability of God.
- 5 - God's grace, goodness and favor toward humans (318)
- 6 - Imperfection of man and the sin and weakness he has
- 7 - Perfection
- 8 - New beginnings
- 9 - Divine completeness or conveys the meaning of finality (49)
- 10 - God's authority, completeness, order, and divine perfection
- 11 - Disorder, chaos and judgment (11 - 24 & "11th" - 19)
- 12 - God's power and authority (187)
- 13 - Rebellion
- 40 - Represent completeness or wholeness.
- 70 - Perfect spiritual order carried out with all power.

Keywords

“create” (bara), “make” (asah), and “form” (yatsar). In Isaiah 43:7 - All the three are used.

Jehova means the becoming one as God relates to man and man's needs and becomes to man whatever man may need.

CORE

Monday, August 7, 2023 @ 4:50 AM

I was created in the beginning as a spirit. (Genesis 1:27) As a spirit I know God only in 1 dimension and that's God the creator.

However, God the creator desires that I know him in rather multiple dimensions such as but not limited to:

God the lover, healer, caretaker, friend, dad so much more

So he brings me on earth to experience and know him in all the different dimensions that are presented here on Earth.

You see it's only here on Earth that I will be given the opportunity to know him in all dimensions.

After I have known him in all these different dimensions, then I can worship him in truth and in spirit.

Then I can see him without the fear to run or be intimidated. Then he can dwell and I can dwell in him as one.



PRAYER

Father we thank you for the privilege of studying your word together.

Thank you for the records Jesus, that lead us to you and eternal life in you.

Jesus let your Holy spirit now implant upon our hearts your truths.

Thank you Jesus that revelation knowledge will flow freely, uninterrupted & un-hindered by satanic or demonic forces.

In Jesus's name and everybody say Amen!



REVIEW

Exodus Chapter 5 recounts Pharaoh's initial confrontation with Moses and the punishment he inflicted on the Jews in retaliation for Moses' demands.

The themes of suffering are similar to the suffering described in Exodus Chapter 1.

Both chapters reveal how God tests His people to sharpen and refine their faith.

But the focus of Chapter 5 deals more with the persecution believers should expect in response to their faith.

Christ does not promise a trouble free life when you accept Him.

To the contrary, He promises persecution.

While you cannot avoid this persecution when you are doing His will, you can control how you react to it.

From this chapter, God revealed seven lessons of faith for every believer when confronting persecution.

First, Moses boldly told Pharaoh to let Jews go and worship God.

From this, God revealed that true faith gives you the power to speak boldly for God and against evil.

Second, from Pharaoh's refusal to submit to the God he did not know, He revealed that faith trusts in the God who remains unseen.

Third, from Moses' warning that Egypt will face judgment if the Jews were not allowed to worship, He revealed that true faith seeks out worship before all else, even freedom.

Fourth, although God could have stopped Pharaoh's retaliation, He revealed He allows evil to happen to teach believers to put their trust in Him.

Fifth, from the Jews' pleas to Pharaoh to reverse his punishment, He revealed that He wants you to put your trust in Him, not the things of the world.

Sixth, from the Jews' angry reaction toward Moses and Aaron in response to Pharaoh's retaliation, He revealed that He wants you to trust in His promises to deliver you from evil.

Finally, from Moses' doubts even after God had warned Moses what Pharaoh would do, He revealed that He wants believers to trust in His Word.

That's it, The Summary of Exodus 5

EXODUS 5: 1

And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

Keep in mind this is not the Pharaoh who had killed all the Hebrew male infants in Exodus 1.

We know this because God had told Moses in Ex 4:19 that

"All the men who are seeking your life are dead."

Also the elders are not described as present but may have been in light of God's specific promise in Exodus 3:18 where God says

"You with the elders of Israel will come to the king of Egypt..."

Here we surely see God behind the scenes making the paths of Moses and Aaron (and probably the elders) straight.

Why?

Because the Hebrews were shepherds and considered an abomination by the Egyptians!

And yet here they gained entrance to the most powerful man on the planet.

➤ Pharaoh was nothing like a public servant; the entire public lived to serve him.

His power and authority were supreme and there was no constitution or law or legislature higher or even remotely equal to him.

➤ The Pharaohs were said to be the children of the sun; they were friends to the greatest gods of Egypt and sat with them in their own temples to receive worship alongside them.

➤ There's an inscription by a Pharaoh on one of the ancient Egyptian temple that gives the idea that:

"I am that which was, and is, and shall be, and no man has lifted my veil."

And as such the Pharaoh was more than a man; he considered himself a god, and all the Egyptians agreed to it.

So; Having grown up in the royal courts of Egypt, Moses knew this well; but he also knew that Pharaoh was just a man and as such with the authority of the living God, Moses didn't hesitate to confront him.

This without a doubt is something only God would orchestrate!

So ...

Moses and Aaron were coming off a spiritual high.

The people had accepted their testimony and believed that the LORD was concerned about their affliction (Exod. 4:31).

Moses, Aaron, and the Israelite elders all had worshiped the LORD.

Probably the spiritual high made them forget that the LORD had said that He would harden Pharaoh's heart and that he wouldn't let Israel go except under compulsion (Exod. 3:19; 4:21).

So Moses and Aaron marched boldly into Pharaoh's presence, but hit a brick wall.

Pharaoh wasn't sympathetic in the slightest and in fact, he made things more difficult than they already were for the Hebrew slaves.

Has that ever happened to you when you tried to serve the Lord or obey His calling for your life?

At such times, it's easy to wonder, *"Did I miss God's will for my life?"*

But don't assume that encountering difficulties means that you're not in God's will.

Often, God uses these difficulties to bring us to the end of ourselves so that we trust totally in Him (2 Cor. 1:8-9).

EXODUS 5: 2

And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

So now Moses begins to face a real challenge:

God said,

"I'm going to harden his heart, he's not going to let you go."

The first response of the Pharaoh is very negative:

"Who is Jehovah, that I should obey Him?"

The Egyptians were polytheistic:

This means that they worshipped many gods including but not limited to:

- The sun god,
- The moon god,
- The various stars,
- The planets,

- The forces of nature,
- The rain god,
- The wind god,
- The Nile River god and so many more.

So the pharaoh asks:

- “Who is Jehovah, that I should obey him?” ‘He’s not one of my gods.’

And so Moses identified Him as the God of Israel.

Fortunately, He is the only true God; every god that the Pharaoh was worshipping were false gods.

There is only one true and living eternal God, the Creator of heaven and earth.

You know a lot of people talk about God.

You really don’t know who they’re talking about.

When a person says, “Well, you know, God...” Well, who? Michael Jackson? And to some people, silly as it may sound, he’s their idol.

They adore that niiga ☺ It’s strange, the things that people will idolize. ☹

So, the Pharaoh asks:

“Who is Jehovah, that I should obey His voice?”

You know a lot of people are saying literally the very same thing today.

- “Who is Jesus that I should submit my life to Him?”

“I’ll do my own thing; I’ll do as I please.”

You God told us how to have a happy, long, healthy and prosperous life.

He’s given the rules; but people say,

“Who is Jehovah, that I should obey Him?” ‘I’ll do what I please.’

But, in our refusal to obey Jehovah, we are only courting disaster in our own lives as we shall see with the Pharaoh.

Now why does God want this conflict between Himself and Pharaoh?

1. It shows that God has superior power and sovereignty over Pharaoh and false gods of Egypt.

2. God would use this confrontation to strengthen the faith of His people- they would see and trust that God did have a major national plan for Israel.
3. God would use this conflict to heighten the anticipation and appreciation for redemption.
4. God would use this conflict to show how His will overrules man's will, yet man is still responsible for choices he makes.
5. Furthermore, God would use this conflict to show that there are serious consequences for those who persist in sin and rebellion against Him.
6. God would use this conflict to show that no one can stop what He wants to do.
7. God would glorify Himself through the witness and spread of the facts of this conflict.
8. God would use this Egyptian conflict to teach the nations they better give Israel her land (Josh.2:9)
9. God would use this Egyptian conflict for evangelistic purposes (i.e. Rahab- Josh.2:10-13)

EXODUS 5: 3

And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us:

(Literally saying the God of the Hebrews is on our side.)

let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God;

(In their first words in Ex 5:1 they commanded, but now they "politely" request.

But why did they need to go into the wilderness and not just offer their sacrifices here in Egypt?

I think Moses' plot was that they needed to be out of sight of the Egyptians because the animals they were going to sacrifice were considered sacred to the Egyptians and if they were seen sacrificing them, it would have incited a riot.

In fact, in Ex 8:26; Moses said,

"It is not right to do so, for we will sacrifice to the LORD our God what is an abomination to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice what is an abomination to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not then stone us?"

Furthermore; the Egyptians regarded the sacrifices that the Israelites would offer as unacceptable since almost all forms of life were sacred in Egypt.

They believed their gods manifested themselves through cows, goats, and many other animals.

Actually the Egyptians considered sacred the lion, the ox, the ram, the wolf, the dog, the cat, the ibis, the vulture, the falcon, the hippopotamus, the crocodile, the cobra, the dolphin, different varieties of fish, trees, and small animals, including the frog, scarab, locust, and other insects.

In addition to these there were anthropomorphic gods; that is, men in the prime of life such as Anen, Atum, or Osiris.)

lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.

(In one sense this theoretically might have appealed to Pharaoh because a dead slave is certainly no use to him.

Moses mentioned that the Israelites might be in danger of being killed if they failed to obey the Lord.

Why bring that up?

Perhaps Moses was hinting that Pharaoh's stubbornness might cost him his slaves and that he'd be better off to give the Jews a week off and thereby protect his cheap labour.

However, there's another factor involved:

Moses was telling Pharaoh that the God of the Hebrews was a powerful God who could kill the Egyptians as well as the Jews.

And as such the Pharaoh needed to understand that the demands Moses and Aaron were not to be taken lightly, for this was a matter of life and death.)

Now it is interesting that they have found bits of clay tablets that were the work records of the Egyptians.

And in these clay tablets they found the names of the individuals that were working, and the amount of bricks that they had made, and then the days that they had off.

And with the day off, the reason why they took the day off.

And in some cases, his wife was sick; or in other cases, he was too weak to work.

And then there are cases where they took the day off for a religious feast.

Because the Egyptians did worship so many gods and were rather superstitious, taking a day off to worship your god was a legitimate reason for a day off.

So what Moses and Aaron are requiring is not something that was uncommon to the Egyptians; but the Pharaoh is openly defying the command of the LORD and orders Moses and Aaron to go back to work themselves.

EXODUS 5: 4

And the king of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works? get you unto your burdens.

Now Pharaoh was really irritated and responded more harshly than in his first response and in fact this command was even directed at Moses and Aaron to get back to work!

This goes without saying that this message is still echoed today.

We Christians are in the way of Satan's schemes.

The bible says that we are the salt of the earth.

And as such we are in the way when we speak about political corruption, educational corruption, and social corruption such as abortion, homosexuality, gambling, immorality, pornography, and alcohol.

The message that the world screams at us is, "Conform to our ways.

Do what we say! Live like us!"

Such a message is pure hypocrisy and a total contradiction of the world's other message which says,

- "Do your own thing!
- Be yourself!
- You are your own boss!"

This world is very confused about what it believes because those without Christ follow the author of confusion, Satan.

He is their father and all that he can offer is emptiness, burdens, and destruction.

His cookies may seem sweet at first, but they eventually become bitter.

EXODUS 5: 5

And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them rest from their burdens.

Notice Pharaoh's name for the sons of Israel is the people of the land which is most likely a denigrating description.

Remember this Pharaoh was not afraid of their great numbers as was the Pharaoh described in Exodus 1:9-14.

Their numbers mean a vibrant Egyptian economy and as such to Pharaoh it was all about the economic machinery!

So Pharaoh implies that the loss of so much labour would cripple the economy.

EXODUS 5: 6

And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying,

The taskmasters were the Egyptian bosses responsible for keeping slaves productive, while the foremen were Hebrews with some degree of authority.

EXODUS 5: 7

Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves.

Chopped straw was mixed in with the clay to make the bricks more pliable and stronger by first binding the clay together and then by decaying and releasing a humic acid similar to glutamic or galloanic acid.

This acid, also known as tannin, is also used in tanning animal skins to make leather.

What it does is produce compounds that resist decomposition.

When mixed with clay, it causes the clay of the brick to dry and harden.

This is why it was important.

This straw was provided by the Egyptians, but now Pharaoh tells them to get their own, believing they are goofing around because they want to do something he thought was a waste of time.

You know the world today still has the same attitude as the Pharaoh.

Society believes that worship is a waste of time and many still wonder why Christians go to church on Sunday, Friday and Wednesdays, etc.

Anyways many times when we obey the call of God, things do not get better, but they actually get worse!

The Pharaoh accuses them of idleness because they want to go and worship their God.

Of course the real reason, is that he wants to discredit Moses and keep the people as slaves.

And yet clearly God is allowing the conditions to worsen for the Hebrews, even though it will have a temporary impact on Moses' credibility as the people blame him for the Pharaoh's increasingly harsh requirements.

These worsening conditions will make it far less likely that the Hebrews would want to stay in Egypt when they finally are set free by Pharaoh.

Years later after the 70 years of exile in Babylon when

"Cyrus issued his decree permitting the Jews to return to their homeland and rebuild the temple, most of the exiled Jews remained in Babylon, where they had settled down and prospered during the exile period."

But given the worsening labor conditions with Pharaoh, the Jews would gladly leave Egypt for the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

So although Pharaoh meant it for evil, God used it for good, just as He had with Joseph's situation which he described in Genesis 50:20

"As for you (HIS BROTHERS), you meant evil against me (JOSEPH), but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."

And so by analogy, God would use the increasingly difficult circumstances to motivate the entire nation of Israel to follow their deliverer Moses.

Years ago, a small group of Japanese believers were heckled and abused whenever they assembled to worship the Savior, but the persecutors could not shake the faith of the new converts.

Each time the Christians gathered, the mob would throw stones at them, but they still faithfully continued to have their weekly meetings.

Eventually the opposition became so great that the outdoor services had to be temporarily abandoned.

Later, when a time of relative peace and tolerance had come to the community, many were won to Christ.

Returning to the spot where the believers had frequently been attacked, they began to pick up some of the rocks.

Using them as part of the building materials, they constructed a small house of worship, rejoicing that God had worked all things together for good.

Jesus says that His followers will meet with suffering and heartache, but He admonishes them not to be discouraged.

Earth's sorrows are meant to be stepping stones in the process of sanctification.

Glorying in affliction will turn our troubles into spiritual triumphs!

EXODUS 5: 8

EXODUS 5 MOSES MEETS PHARAOH; ISRAEL'S BURDENS ARE INCREASED

And the tale of the bricks, which they did make heretofore, ye shall lay upon them; ye shall not diminish ought thereof: for they be idle; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God.

Now the Pharaoh said,

"They're idle; they don't have enough to do, let's make them work harder."

Their quota has to remain the same, but they'll have to go get the straw for themselves; "we'll no longer provide it."

Pharaoh is a hard master, which reminds me of Pharaoh's "ruler" Satan who is a hard "master" to all who are still in bondage to sin and Satan!

Brethren, do not fall into sin and back under the yoke of slavery to sin and Satan, because Christ has set us free to live as free men in the power of His Spirit and His blessed easy yoke (Mt 11:28-30+).

EXODUS 5: 9

Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein; and let them not regard vain words.

He was literally saying "let the work be heavy." In other words "Pour it all on them".

Pharaoh's logic was reasonable - pour more work on the Hebrew slaves and blame it on Moses' demands and this would drive a wedge between the leader of the "rebellion" (so to speak) (Moses) and the sons of Israel.

And indeed as we see in subsequent passages Pharaoh's scheme worked!

Now as we see Pharaoh attempting to demoralize Israel and discredit Moses, we learn one more thing for ourselves.

That we must not fail to factor the work of Satan himself in the difficulties and trials of our own lives and ministries.

Oh, I know that there are people out there that find Satan literally under every rock.

And I know that there are people out there that blame Satan for things that they have done themselves.

But we would be foolish not to factor in the reality of the evil one and his stratagems working against the people of God, working against the plan of God and working against the deliverer of God.

And what we see here in Pharaoh's actions is nothing but the designs of the old serpent against the seed of woman.

Now in your own lives, I don't know how that works out in every particular circumstance.

But it does mean this:

In your own difficulties and trials, you must never, ever forget that there is one who prowls about like a roaring lion who seeks to devour you.

But the one who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

EXODUS 5: 10

And the taskmasters of the people went out, and their officers, and they spake to the people, (or Hebrews) saying, Thus saith Pharaoh, I will not give you straw.

And thus the "net impact" of Moses' words to Pharaoh was to make things worse for the Hebrews and not any better!

And as we will soon see, this adversity tested both the people and Moses.

EXODUS 5: 11

Go ye, get you straw where ye can find it: yet not ought of your work shall be diminished.

In otherward; You Hebrew slaves are to search for your own straw.

And the number of bricks produced must not decrease.

You something interesting about us Christians is that things commonly go backward with before they come forward.

EXODUS 5: 12

So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble

(Stubble refers to chaff, the short dry stumps of grain, corn, wheat, etc., left in a field after harvesting.

Chaff burned quickly and as such was of little value, was not highly prized and was a poor substitute for straw in brick making.

Chaff was regarded as worthless (Job 13:25; Isa. 33:11) and lacking the ability to resist opposition (Job 41:28f; Isa. 41:2).

Figuratively, the Lord consumed the army of Egypt as easily as chaff (Ex. 15:7).

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Now Chaff is easily driven away by the wind, and figuratively depicts man's inability to resist God's judgment (Ps. 83:13; Isa. 40:24; Jer. 13:24).

Since chaff is easily consumed by fire, it figuratively described man's being consumed by the fire of God's wrath (Isa. 5:24; 47:14; Joel 2:5; Obad. 18; Nah. 1:10; Mal. 4:1.)

instead of straw.

Now, in the archaeological diggings, in the Egyptian city of Pithom, the lower layer of bricks, in some of the buildings, have very fine-cut straw in the bricks.

As you get to some higher layers of bricks in the same building, the straw has stubble in it: corn husk, and just-stubble.

When you get to the upper rows of brick, there's nothing.

No straw.

Remember the straw was used as an adhesive within the brick to strengthen the bricks; and in the upper bricks: there's nothing at all, not even stubble.

Which is an interesting confirmation of this passage of Scripture that we have before us tonight.

It's been proved, actually, by the archaeologist's spade.

EXODUS 5: 13

And the taskmasters hastened them, saying, Fulfill your works, your daily tasks, as when there was straw. (In otherward you should produce the same number of bricks with less straw.)

The idea of the Hebrew word translated pressed means to hasten, urge or insist and expresses a sense of urgency.

Occasionally the word may point to "pressing" or "urging" people to do something they do not want to do.

In Egypt, the slave drivers are described as "ones hurrying," or "ones pressing," the Hebrew slaves to complete their quota of work for the day.

EXODUS 5: 14

And the officers of the children of Israel, which Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten,

(The manner of beating may be similar to what is done today in the Middle East.)

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The culprit lies on his belly, his legs being turned up behind erect, and the executioner gives him so many blows on the soles of the feet with a stick.

This actually is a very severe punishment.

In fact; the sufferer is unable to walk for many weeks after, and some are lamed by it for the rest of their lives.)

and demanded, Wherefore have ye not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and to day, as heretofore?

Now many will admit not to see the hand of God in any of this. ☺

I mean if you are living this nightmare, it is difficult to actually see God at work.

But He is at work.

This whole suffering is all about setting the stage for the most remarkable deliverance of Israel in its history.

EXODUS 5: 15

Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried unto Pharaoh, saying, Wherefore dealest thou thus with thy servants?

Unfortunately, these Israelite foremen found themselves caught in the middle.

They had been given an assignment that they could not possibly fulfil.

The people could not make as many bricks as before if they had also to provide the straw.

And so were being beaten for a failure they had no power to prevent.

So they took their case to Pharaoh himself.

Notice the shift in the sons of Israel compared to their cry in Ex 2:23+

"they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to God."

Now they cry out to the Pharaoh (who claims to be a god).

Cried out means loud complaining with an appeal for action, and usually in time of difficulty. (Also used in Ex 14:10 in fear of Pharaoh)

But unfortunately they are crying out to the wrong person!

Have you ever done this?

You know as you cry out to the judge or man, only to be disappointed and in fact make the situation worse ☹

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So miserably my brothers and sisters cried out to the Pharaoh and hoping to know why:

- He was doing this.
- Why he was demanding they get their own straw and the same time maintain the same number of bricks
- And even worse why they were being beaten.

Of course the real answer to their "why" question is that Pharaoh was a man with a hardened heart against God and His word.

The one Person they should be crying out to is God and NOT Pharaoh.

When God's people cry out to God and seek Him, God hears and will help.

But when God's people cry out to worldly men or worldly leaders, they are crying out to the wrong people.

Now this goes without saying that as was with the sons of Israel;

We too often loose our focus when experiencing adversity and we indeed cry out to God but then as we experience another or a series of adversities;

We take our sight off God and look for solutions from men!!

In this life you can be sure that bad things will happen and we will encounter unexpected bumps in the journey of life.

That is guaranteed because we live in a fallen world and not yet in Heaven.

So the question is when the "pharaoh's" of this world come at us, whether specific harsh people or adverse circumstances, to whom do we cry out?

To other men or to the Rock of our salvation (Ps 89:26)?

Me, to my Dad ☺

EXODUS 5: 16

There is no straw given unto thy servants, and they say to us, Make brick: and, behold, thy servants are beaten;

(Note the repetition of the phrase your servants; in otherward those who belong to Pharaoh.

In using this phrase, it suggests they are trying to assure Pharaoh that they were loyal to him.

This also adds to the sense that Israel is conflicted in the matter of whom to serve.

No man can serve two masters, as Jesus said.

Unfortunately, the foremen are emphasizing their devotion, their loyalty to Pharaoh instead of to God.)

but the fault is in thine own people.

The phrase fault of your own people means the Egyptians were not giving them the straw they needed for the bricks and as such the system is unfair!

Yes, they are correct but that was exactly Pharaoh's evil plan - to not play fair with the Hebrews!

Pharaoh's wicked rationale was to design the brick making business as unfair so that the sons of Israel would reject the leadership of Moses and Aaron.

In the same way, our enemy Satan does not play fair, so don't be duped into thinking that he does and will treat you fairly.

He won't!

EXODUS 5: 17

But he said, Ye are idle, ye are idle: therefore ye say, Let us go and do sacrifice to the LORD.

You are Slackers! Slackers!

Pharaoh completely dismissed the cry of the Hebrew foremen and refused to address it, instead resorting to demeaning them with vicious "character assassination" as idle, lazy and slacker!

Notice that here Pharaoh actually uses the Name Jehovah.

EXODUS 5: 18

Go therefore now, and work;

(So go now and work; The idea is "go back to work" serving "me" as your pharaoh.

The Hebrew word abad used here literally means that the pharaoh is saying serve me not your so-called LORD!)

for there shall no straw be given you, yet shall ye deliver the tale of bricks.

Now keep in mind that God is hardening Pharaoh's heart here.

So when God is setting up a leader for His judgment by hardening his heart, one of the things He does is make that leader totally insensitive to real rational thinking.

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Things will appear to get worse for God's people before they get better.

This goes without saying that my Dad demands total allegiance of His people, and He calls upon us to look up-to him for help.

And this, by the way, is the repeated story in the history of Israel, as Israel looks to other nations for help against their enemies instead of looking to the Lord God.

You may serve the devil, or you may serve the Lord, but you all got to serve somebody.

The book and story of Exodus is about calling the people of God to serve Him, for we all have to serve somebody.

The Israelite foremen here are showing their true colors as they cry out to Pharaoh for help.

Unfortunately, it was the Egyptian monarch that was the recipient of their plea, and not the Lord, the God of Israel.

They are not recognizing the authority and the power and the sovereignty of the Lord.

- Is that something that you too struggle with?
- Do you run to Christ last of all?
- Is He your last resort when you're in a fix?

When you get to that point where you finally say,

"Well, nothing else has worked, I guess I'll go to Him."

Well, you are not alone, this is still a struggle for the people of God, as it was in this day.

However this can change today by putting your unwavering trust in the Almighty and trusting that he will take through that situation without the need and help of pharaoh 😊

EXODUS 5: 19

And the officers of the children of Israel did see that they were in evil case, after it was said, Ye shall not minish ought from your bricks of your daily task.

The Hebrew foremen were in the greatest trouble because they were the one's likely to be punished for the inevitable failure of the Israelites to meet their quota of bricks.

EXODUS 5: 20

And they met Moses and Aaron, who stood in the way, as they came forth from Pharaoh:

The leaders of the children of Israel were not happy when they came from the presence of Pharaoh, and to make matters worse, they found Moses & Aaron standing outside the palace eavesdropping ☺

Fortunately for pharaoh; his plan of divide and conquer is working at this point.

He is pressuring the people to divide them and make matters difficult for Moses.

EXODUS 5: 21

And they said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.

Moses, you have made us stink!

This is typically what the people of God do when things don't work out in a seemingly good way - they blame management who may or may not be responsible for the problem.

They blame the God ordained leadership.

Instead of the Hebrew leadership saying, we need to get our people to cry out to God for His help; they just start blaming Moses and Aaron for the trouble.

But this was not Moses and Aaron's fault.

When you serve the Lord, you expect opposition from those outside the faith.

After all, they're in Satan's domain of darkness and they do not know the Lord.

They buy into this world's values, so when you confront them with sin, righteousness, and judgment, they don't like it.

- But you don't usually expect opposition from the Lord's people.
- We're all on the same team, aren't we?
- We're supposed to love one another, aren't we?

But in my experience, the most painful attacks you'll get when you serve the Lord don't come from outside the camp, but from within.

Of-course you shouldn't immediately conclude that your critics are tools of the devil and dismiss all of their criticisms.

Maybe they have some valid points, even if they're expressing them in a hostile manner.

After listening, you may need to try to help them learn how to state their concerns in a better way.

But, be prepared!

When you serve the Lord, you will encounter opposition both from without and even from within!

Now this goes without saying that:

When Israel was an obedient slave to Pharaoh, they thought he was their friend.

Now that the idea of freedom had entered, Pharaoh showed how he felt about them all along.

Satan sometimes seems friendly to us when we accept his lordship; but when we start to be free in Jesus, he often will try to make life difficult for us.

Exodus 4:31 said 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 worshipped.

After the counter-attack of Pharaoh, the faith, excitement, and worship of Exodus 4:31 was gone pretty quickly.

God allowed all this. In fact, you could say that He designed it.

In theory, God could have freed Israel from Egypt without a struggle on their part.

Yet He knew that was not good or best for them; that for them to make the transition from slaves to free people of the promised land, that some testing and stretching was absolutely necessary.

EXODUS 5: 22

And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Lord, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people? why is it that thou hast sent me?

Note only Moses is going to the LORD, not Aaron, Moses' "mouthpiece."

Earlier on God had warned Moses that Pharaoh would harden his heart and would not let the people go, but God had not told him any specific details.

He certainly had not told him that the work conditions would become even more oppressive and onerous.

And so Moses faith begins to falter.

You know when our faith begins to fail, we often begin to question God rather than rest in God.

But again thank about this ...

Moses never wanted this job in the first place.

He is an 80-year-old man who did everything in his power to get out of this assignment and now this appears to be one big mess and disaster.

Moses says, I came here in good faith and you have not delivered them at all.

Moses has apparently forgotten what God told him.

Now look at this.

- Moses is blamed for the bad treatment of the Israelites.
- God is blamed for the bad treatment of the Israelites and
- The one guy who is actually responsible for the bad treatment- Pharaoh- he is not blamed at all.

This is exactly how Satan works- he calls good bad and bad good.

The wrong people are being blamed here, and the one person who should be blamed isn't.

Now carefully look at the question Moses asks God- "Why?" Why have you brought this evil to these people?

Why did you ever send me here?

It is a question we tend to ask God all the time - "Why, Why, Why?"

You know ...

Before God can use us, He must bring us to an end of ourselves.

When Paul was summoned to the greatest epistles and labors of his life, his strength was drained to utter weakness, and he despaired even of life.

And so is the case of Moses and Israel.

Moses, for forty years, had been undergoing the emptying process; but perhaps when God called him to this great enterprise, there may have been a slight revival of confidence in himself, in his mission, his miracles, the eloquence of Aaron's speech.

So in the rebuff he received from Pharaoh, in the bitter remonstrance of the elders of his people, in the sad consciousness that his efforts had aggravated their condition, the lesson was still further taught him — that of himself he could do absolutely nothing.

Israel also had begun to hope something from his mission.

Through the brickfields the story ran of his early years, his uncompromising speech to Pharaoh, of his miracles; and the wretched slaves cherished faith in him and Aaron as their heaven-sent deliverers.

They had, however, to learn that all such hopes were vain, and to see that the brothers, at the best, were as weak as themselves.

Then the way was prepared to lean only on God.

EXODUS 5: 23

For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he hath done evil to this people; neither hast thou delivered thy people at all.

Basically Moses was saying to the LORD that his words have created more bad than good.

I think we are all at least at times like Moses.

We forget the truth of the Word of God and we misinterpret circumstances and fail to interpret them based on the truth (and promises) of God.

You know the protest of Moses is one of the most amazing passages in all of the Bible.

In this passage, Moses says three things to God.

First, he says, *"Lord, You are responsible for this evil."*

When Moses said;

Oh Lord, why have you brought harm to this people...

You see what Moses is saying. *"Lord, you are responsible for this."*

The very question assumes that God must answer for having done something wrong.

Secondly, he says, *"Lord, You shouldn't have sent me."*

Behind that question is actually a charge.

"Lord, You should never have sent me in the first place."

And then it gets worse.

Thirdly, he says,

Lord, You failed on the promise that You made, and you've made things worse than they were.

And again, he forms that charge with a question, but here is the language.

"Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your Name, he has done harm to this people, and You have not delivered Your People at all."

Now this is a fascinating exchange.

But I want you see two things that are happening simultaneously.

One bad and one good.

First, Moses is wrong to accuse the Lord.

And in accusing the Lord wrongly, Moses is revealing what we often do when we don't like God's providence.

Moses accuses God here of being unconcerned for His people.

But wait a minute...

Who had to convince Moses to go to Egypt to help his people? Did Moses do so willingly?

No he didn't and he actually said:

Send whomever You want. Not me.

Furthermore, Moses is acting as if he is the one with the heart of compassion.

So often, when we face trials or worse, when we see those that we love with all our hearts face trials, our first reaction is to think, Lord God, how could You do this.

Because for a moment Satan blinds us to the deviousness and the wickedness of our own hearts, and lets us believe that we are more compassionate than God.

And that's precisely what Moses is doing here.

But who cares more about the people of God? God or Moses? Obviously there's no comparison or question.

God had the heart for His People, and yet Moses thinks he's more loving.

Beware when you think that you are more loving than God.

But there's something else here that just interesting ..

Do you realize that even though Moses lashes out against God, do you realize that God, even in that, is building His heart in Moses?

I mean, Moses just a few weeks before, had to be coaxed into going to Egypt.

Now his heart is genuinely broken when he sees his people being treated in the way they are being treated.

You see, it's not that Moses is more compassionate than God.

It's that Moses is being brought up to speed, with the pre-existent, with the eternal compassion of God for His People.

Moses is being moulded into the image, into the heart of His God in compassion for His people; to the point that over and over in the book of Exodus, Moses, at crucial points, because of his heart for God's people, worked in him by God's Grace, will intercede for the people of God, and call on God to show them favour even though they don't deserve it.

Though Moses doesn't know it here, as his heart is breaking for his people, he is merely emulating the eternal love and compassion of God for the children of Israel.

However; despite Moses hash questions; The Lord responded to him mercifully.

In mercy, he tells Moses, and you'll see it in verse 1 of Exodus 6, then the Lord said to Moses,

"Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh, for under compulsion he shall let them go. And under compulsion, he shall drive them out of this land."

The Lord in His mercy told Moses that Pharaoh will not only let Israel go, but that he'll drive them out of the land.

He will be delighted to be rid of them when the Lord is finished and that God was in control, not Pharaoh.

THE LESSONS WE LEARN FROM THIS STUDY ARE:

1. Don't despair if your work for the Lord hits a dead end.

Moses hit a dead end after his first conversation with Pharaoh, but that conversation was just one layer in a multi-layered story God was writing.

If you are confident you are doing God's will, you can rest in the assurance that God will reveal the next steps to you when He is ready.

In the meantime, don't despair or start questioning your work just because things aren't moving as quickly as you would like.

You may only be in act 1 of a 10-act drama.

2. Faith Gives You the Power to Speak Boldly for God and Against Evil.

Moses' initial words to Pharaoh were direct and simple. He did not bow or submit to Pharaoh. He instead ordered Pharaoh on behalf of God to let the Jews go and worship God in the wilderness.

3. Faith Requires Submission to the Unseen God.

Pharaoh denied knowing the unseen God. He added that, even if he knew the unseen God, he would not submit to Him.

4. Faith Seeks Out Worship Before Freedom.

Moses responded with a warning. Pharaoh could either let the Jews go and worship or Egypt would face punishment.

5. Faith Trusts in God for Protection from the Enemy.

Pharaoh not only rejected the requests of Moses and Aaron, he sought to punish the Jews by forcing them to make bricks without straw.

6. Faith Turns to God, Not the Things of the World, During Times of Testing.

Because God is sovereign, He could have stopped the Egyptian slave masters before they beat the Jews for failing to make their same quota of bricks without straw. Instead, He allowed this evil to happen to test the hearts of His people. As they would do many more times in the future, they failed this test. Instead of turning to God, they turned to Pharaoh for help

7. Faith Trusts in God's Deliverance from Evil.

After the Jews' attempts to convince Pharaoh to cancel his punishment failed, they again failed to turn to God. Instead, they turned on Moses and Aaron.

8. Faith Trusts in God's Word.

God also tested Moses in his faith after the Jews rebelled against him. Moses also failed His test. He again doubted God's plan in sending him.

We will start from Chapter 6 next week ...

IF YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOUR, I WANT YOU TO PRAY THIS PRAYER WITH ME RIGHT NOW

- Heavenly Father, I realize that I'm a sinner
 - But right now I repent of my sins
 - I make you my Lord
 - I receive the free gift of forgiveness of sin
 - I need you, Jesus
 - Be my savior
 - So right now I declare by faith that I am saved in Jesus' name. Amen & Praise God
-

If you just prayed that prayer with me online, please let us know through our website and we shall send you a free eBook as a gift to you today.

Otherwise, welcome to the family of God. Amen!

LET'S STANDUP FOR THE FINAL BLESSING

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us:

- Be with you, bless you and keep you
 - May the Lord cause his face to shine upon you and give you peace
 - May your heart be filled with his love
 - May you walk in the spirit
 - May you be strengthened by the work of his Holy spirit in your inner man
 - May you be increased in knowledge and understanding of His word, His will and His purposes for your life that you might walk before the Lord in a way that's pleasing unto him
 - And may God increase your faith and your trust
 - May he work in your life in a beautiful way as he natures you and as he leads you into that path of fellowship with him self
 - May your life be enriched in all things in Christ Jesus
 - And May the Lord and his blessings be upon you while we are absent from each other until we are brought back together again to continue our fellowship and our growing together in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ
 - Amen
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