

## EXODUS 5:1-9

## LESSON: "LET MY PEOPLE GO"

—September 29, 2019

## INTRODUCTION:

## CHAPTER 4 OUTLINE:

<sup>1</sup>Exo. 4:1-5 Moses's rod is turned into a serpent.

Exo. 4:6-9 His hand is leprous.

Exo. 4:10-12 He is reluctant to be sent.

Exo. 4:13-17 Aaron is appointed to assist him.

Exo. 4:18-20 Moses departs from Jethro.

Exo. 4:21-23 God's message to Pharaoh.

Exo. 4:24-26 Zipporah circumcises her son.

Exo. 4:27-28 Aaron is sent to meet Moses.

Exo. 4:29-31 The people believe them.

## LESSON:

## MOSES' FIRST REQUEST EXODUS 5:1-2

**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.** "Afterward" meant the things that had happened in **Chapter 4:27-31**: It was the meeting of Moses and his brother Aaron in the wilderness at Mt Horeb, the mountain of God for the first time since leaving Egypt. They then met with the elders of the people of Israel in a council meeting, and Aaron began telling them what God had said to Moses. And Moses performed the miracles in their sight as they watched, and the elders believed that God had sent them, and heard that Jehovah had visited them and seen their sorrows, and decided to rescue them. They all rejoiced and bowed their heads and worshiped.

Now, after that, Moses and Aaron goes to Pharaoh to make their first request, they began to tell him what thus said the LORD GOD OF ISRAEL—(JEHOVAH) "**Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness**", just as the Lord instructed. God had already gone through this scenario with Moses before he left Midian to come to Egypt, and even what would happen in 4:21-23.

**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, Pharaoh said sarcastically "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go?" Pharaoh knew many gods, but he claimed to not know the God of the Israelites whom he's kept as slaves. Well, Pharaoh is right, he does not know Jehovah. The Pharaoh before his coming had died and Jehovah had been silent for years. He had not encountered Jehovah, and evidently had not seen any evidence of His power, so he's not letting the Israelites go.

## II. MOSES' SECOND REQUEST EXODUS 5:3-9

**5:3 And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the Lord our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.** The reply to Pharaoh was that "*The God of the Hebrews*" was the One who met with Moses and Aaron. Their second request: "let us go." Their desire was to go on a three day journey into the desert and sacrifice unto the Lord God. Moses and Aaron also told Pharaoh what would happen if this petition

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was not met—*pestilence or the sword would fall upon them*. It was all very plain and simple.

**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.** But the king of Egypt was literally saying "*Who do you think you are*" to dismiss and distract and let the people go from their works? He then told the people to "*Get back to work; attend to your loads; mind your own business*." Pharaoh had spoken. He wasn't putting up with it.

**5:5 And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them rest from their burdens.** Pharaoh began to say that the people had grown in the land, and that this was not the time for them to rest from their burdens.

**5:6 And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying,—** So, Pharaoh didn't waste any time. The same day He gives a command to the taskmasters (slave masters) and their officers (Israelite officers).

**5:7 Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves.** The command was as of that day the taskmasters would not supply the straw to the slaves to make the brick. They were to go gather their own straw themselves. Making bricks was a slow and tedious job, and going to get their straw now would take even longer and make the work harder.

**5:8 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.** The number of the bricks they were to make daily would not change; their quota would not change because Pharaoh was not giving them a chance to have time on their hands to be lazy, nor say let's go and sacrifice to our God.

**5:9 Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein; and let them not regard vain words.** Pharaoh continues to command the taskmasters and their officers to weigh them down heavily with work and make them sweat, so they won't regard the vain words of Moses and Aaron, but will keep their minds on work.

## SUMMARY:

Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh and began to tell him what thus said the LORD GOD OF ISRAEL—(JEHOVAH), just as He instructed Moses, "*Let my people go that they may go and hold a feast unto me in the wilderness*." Pharaoh said, "*Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice?*" (**5:1-2**).

They said, "*The God of the Hebrews. It will only take three days into the desert, and sacrifice unto the Lord our God; or else pestilence or the sword would fall upon them*." But the king of Egypt was literally saying "*Who do you think you are*" to dismiss and distract and let the people go from their works? Then he told the people to "*Get back to work!*" He continues and tells them that the people of the land have grown, and this is not the time to make them rest from their work. Pharaoh commanded the same day to the taskmasters and their officers (Israelite officers) not to give them anymore straw to make the brick with, but they are to gather the straw for themselves to make the bricks and have the same quota of bricks as before, less they think they would have time to be lazy or go worship their God. Then they were loaded down with more work, so they wouldn't regard the vain words of Moses and Aaron (**5:3-9**).

