



The Exodus

Lesson 3: Moses Goes To Pharaoh

(Exodus 5:1-7:13)

After returning to Egypt, Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and told him the words of God, saying, “Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness” (Exodus 5:1). But, Pharaoh asked who the Lord is that he should listen to Him and let the Israelites go into the wilderness. So, he said that he did not know God and would not let the people go. Yet, Moses and Aaron said that God had met with them, again asking that they could go three days’ journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to God so that He would not punish them.

Still, the king refused to let the people go. Instead, he said that Moses and Aaron were keeping the Israelites from their work. Later that day, Pharaoh made the Israelites’ work even harder. He told the taskmasters and the officers not to give the people straw in order to make bricks. Instead, they would have to gather the straw for themselves and still make the same number of bricks.

When this harder work was put on the people, they spread out over the land trying to gather the materials to make bricks. Still, the taskmasters forced the Israelites to hurry, saying that they still had to make as many bricks as they did before. Whenever they failed to make as many as they were commanded, the officers over the Israelites were beaten and asked why they had failed.

These officers came to Pharaoh and asked why he was treating them in this way, saying that it was not their fault that they were not making as many bricks. But, Pharaoh said that they were being lazy because they wanted to go and sacrifice to the Lord. And, the officers saw that they were in trouble when Pharaoh continued to say that they must make the same number of bricks.

When these officers left Pharaoh, they met with Moses and Aaron. They blamed them for the harder work and punishment. They said that Moses and Aaron had made them stink before Pharaoh and his servants and given the Egyptians a sword to kill them.

When Moses heard this, he went to the Lord and asked why He had brought trouble on the Israelites and why He had sent him to Pharaoh. For, Moses saw that the people had been treated wickedly and they had not been delivered since Moses went to Pharaoh. Yet, God promised Moses that He would deliver the Israelites with a strong hand out of Egypt. He said that He would give them the land of Canaan just as He had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He had heard the sufferings of the people and He had remembered what He promised. So, Moses was to go and tell the Israelites that God would rescue them from Egypt, He would make them as His people and He would be their God, and He would keep His promises.

God told Moses to go back to Pharaoh and tell him to let the Israelites go out of his land. Still, Moses did not know why Pharaoh would listen to him since he could not speak well. So, God told Moses to take Aaron. Moses was to tell Aaron the words God had said and Aaron would tell Pharaoh.

But, God said He would harden Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to them. By not listening to God's command, God would bring even greater signs and wonders upon the land of Egypt. In all of this, God would show that He would defeat Egypt and bring out His people. Then, all the people would know that God is the Lord!

So, Moses and Aaron did as they were commanded and went to Pharaoh. Moses was now 80 years old and Aaron was 83. Then, God told Moses and Aaron to show Pharaoh the sign of the staff to prove that God had sent them. Aaron cast his staff down before Pharaoh and it became a snake. When Pharaoh saw this, he called his own magicians to do the same thing. But, whenever their staffs became serpents, Aaron's rod ate their rods. Still, Pharaoh's heart grew hard and he did not listen to them – just as God had said.

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Study Questions:

- 1) What did Moses ask Pharaoh to do for the Israelites? Did Pharaoh allow this to happen?

- 2) What did Pharaoh do to make the Israelites work harder?

- 3) Could the Israelites do all of their work? What did the taskmasters do the Israelite officials?

- 4) Why did the Israelite officials blame Moses and Aaron?

- 5) What did God promise Moses?

- 6) Who would talk to Pharaoh? How would he know what to say?

- 7) Would Pharaoh listen?

- 8) What sign did Moses and Aaron do? Why did they do this?

Memory Verse:

“And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them” (Exodus 7:5).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: