

Moses—Exodus 5

Let My People Go!

I. Additional Scriptures...

1. 5:1... Mt 10:28; Acts 4:29
2. 5:2... 2 Chr 32:19; Ps 10:4; Jer 44:17
3. 5:5... Archaic use of the word LET, Rom 1:13. Means HINDER or PREVENT.
4. 5:7... **straw:** The straw was mixed with clay, in order to make the bricks. This is expressly affirmed by Philo (*vit. Mos.*) who was himself a native of Alexandria, in Egypt. He says, describing the oppression of the Israelites, that some were obliged to work in clay, and others to gather straw for the formation of bricks, ὁ δὲ ἐξ ἰσραὴλ ἄνθρωπος ἰσραὴλ, because straw is the binding of the brick. Philo's account is confirmed by Dr. Shaw, who says that "some of the Egyptian pyramids are made of brick, the composition whereof is only a mixture of clay, mud, and straw, slightly blended and kneaded together, and afterwards baked in the sun. The straw, which keeps the bricks together, and still preserves its original colour, seems to be a proof that these bricks were never burnt or made in kilns." [TSK].
5. 5:8... **tale:** Tale denotes number, from the Anglo-Saxon taellan, to number, count, etc. [TSK].
6. 5:14... Isa 10:24
7. 5:19... Eccl 5:8
8. 5:22... Num 11:11

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Egyptian Bondage.**

III. Summary.

Moses and Aaron convey the message to Pharaoh that he should let the people go worship Him in the wilderness. Pharaoh defiantly answers in the negative. Pharaoh accuses Moses and Aaron of taking the minds of the people off of their work. He determines to give them more work or make their work more difficult and demand the same output from the people. The Egyptians would no longer provide the straw for the making of the bricks, but the children of Israel would be required to gather it as well as continuing their previous tasks of making bricks. Pharaoh sees this as the solution to keep the men from thinking about worship of their God.

The children of Israel plead with Pharaoh to have mercy on them, but he continued to accuse them of being idle. When Moses' brethren saw Moses and Aaron they were greatly upset with them because it appeared that the affliction of the people had increased because of Moses and Aaron.

The chapter ends with Moses making an appeal to the Lord on behalf of the people.

IV. Outline.

1. Moses and Aaron confront Pharaoh and he pridefully refuses their request (Ex 5:1-5).
2. Pharaoh commands that the workload be increased upon the children of Israel (Ex 5:6-14).

3. The officers of the children of Israel appeal for mercy, but Pharaoh calls them idle and refuses to compromise (Ex 5:15-18).
4. The people came to see what a bad position they were in under this king (Ex 5:19).
5. When the officers of the children of Israel met Moses and Aaron, they began to blame them for the worsening conditions (Ex 5:20-21).
6. Moses intercedes with the Lord on behalf of the people (Ex 5:22-23).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ Pharaoh said, I KNOW NOT THE LORD.
02. _____ Pharaoh said the children of Israel were idle.
03. _____ The children of Israel could gather straw for the bricks nearby to their work stations.
04. _____ The children of Israel were not greatly affected by the requirement to get their own straw for the making of the bricks.
05. _____ Moses asked the Lord why he had been sent.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ Moses asked Pharaoh to allow the children of Israel to go hold a feast unto the Lord how far away: (a) 100 miles; (b) 3 days journey; (c) just beyond the river.
07. _____ How did Pharaoh describe the people: (a) many; (b) contented; (c) good workers.
08. _____ The word TALE in this chapter means: (a) a humorous story; (b) a consequence of disobedience; (c) number.
09. _____ The officers of the children of Israel told Pharaoh that the FAULT was with: (a) his own people; (b) Moses; (c) God.
10. _____ Moses told the Lord that Pharaoh had done what to the people: (a) evil; (b) blasted them; (c) kindness.

Fill in the Blanks

11. “But he said, Ye are _____, ye are _____: therefore ye say, Let us go and do _____ to the _____.”
12. The officers of the children of Israel told Pharaoh that his servants were _____.
13. “...Let my people go, that they may hold a _____ unto me in the _____.”
14. “If thou seest the _____ of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and _____ in a province, marvel not at the matter: for *he that is* higher than the highest _____; and *there be* higher than they.”
15. “And the taskmasters hastened them, saying, Fulfil your works, your _____ tasks, as when there was _____.”

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

ANSWERS to Lesson 01-52... [01—False, Ex 3:22; 02—True, Ex 3:20; 03—True, Ex 3:16; 04—True, Ex 3:7; 05—True, Ex 3:6; 06—c, Ex 3:1; 07—c, Ex 3:3; 08—b, Ex 3:7; 09—a, Ex 3:11; 10—d, Ex 3:8, 17; 11—I, AM, Ex 3:14; 12—off, shoes, feet, holy, Ex 3:5; 13—deliver, Ex 3:8; 14—Certainly, Ex 3:12; 15—favor, Ex 3:21.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **...Let my people go...** (Ex 5:1). Here is the demand from the God heaven which is made in answer to their cries, out of affliction, which He heard. God made a special

promise to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3). It would be through his seed that all nations would be blessed. There is a covenant arrangement that is developing between the children of Israel and the Lord. It has now come time for a law to be given them and in order for the further development of the Scheme of Redemption, it is necessary for this powerful King of Egypt to obey the Lord by letting His people go.

2. **...Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice to let Israel go?...** (Ex 5:2). The proud response of the mighty Pharaoh is what would be expected. However, his predecessor, the Pharaoh WHO DID KNOW JOSEPH was a much wiser man. That Pharaoh, when he saw the miraculous demonstration of the Lord through Joseph was quick to recognize a supernatural power behind Joseph's ability to interpret dreams, etc. This Pharaoh will suffer greatly, along with his people, because of his stubborn pride.
3. **...Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works?...** (Ex 5:4). A wrong conclusion was drawn by the Pharaoh. He concluded that this was some scheme to keep the people from working for a while. The word LET here, in the KJV, being used in its archaic sense. Actually, Pharaoh would come to understand that what was being requested was the total and complete release of the Israelite people. In the meantime, he would seek to occupy the minds of the people more completely as if this might cause them to forget their desire to worship their God.
4. **So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw** (Ex 5:12). This added burden would be felt greatly by the children of Israel and they would begin to wonder WHY! In verse 17, no doubt, the WHY was revealed to the people. When Pharaoh describes them as being idle because they say they want to go and do sacrifice to the Lord, they would realize that it was through Moses and Aaron that their burdens had been compounded.
5. **...The Lord look upon you, and judge because you have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh...** (Ex 5:21). Actually, these officers told Moses that it is his fault that the children of Israel now STINK in the noses of the king of Egypt. They were seemingly content to go back to the way it was, as if that was any pleasant situation. Hope had been removed from this people and they were in desperation at this time. What a blessing HOPE is to any people (Heb 6:19). There would be occasions in the future, after the exodus, in which the people would long to go back to these terrible days of bondage. Such was because of occasions of weakened faith.
6. **...why is it that thou has sent me?** (Ex 5:22). It can be seen here the contagious nature of hopelessness. Moses seems unsure about his mission and the success of it, even after the powerful supernatural demonstrations and confident reassurances from the Lord. Moses will be powerfully used by the Lord, but he did have his own moments of doubt. Let us take a lesson from this about being beacons of HOPE rather than pessimistic takers away of hope.

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

Y N A M Q A Z X S W K E D C V F R T G B
 Y H N B T R Q A Z X S I W E D C V F R T
 G B T N A G B N H Y U J N M K I O L P U
 Y H N T S R F V E D C W E G Y P T W S X
 C D D E K R F V B G T Y H N M J U I K M
 J S U Y M H N B G T G V F R E D C V B Q
 A E Z X A C D E R F V B G T H Y H N R R
 F S E D S X C Z V B V C H S B N M N I Z
 Q O A Z T W S X C D E R I V B T A R C E
 C M V R E T G B N H Y N U J M K A U K T
 G B V F R E D C X S I D L E Q X R C D E
 R F V B S G T H Y M N M J U I K O Y H N
 B G T R F V C D I E W S X Z A Q N G W S
 X C D E R F V D B G T Y H S T R A W H N
 T G B V F R T A L E E D C V F T R T G B
 U J M Y H O N B G T R F V C H E D C X S
 W S X C N B U R D E N S M E N B V V C X
 Z L K J H G F D S A P I R Y T R E W Q A
 Z X C V B M N B G T Y H J U I K L O P W
 S X C D E R F P H A R A O H V B N M H Y

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

⁴And the **king** of **Egypt** said unto them, Wherefore do ye, **Moses** and **Aaron**, let the people from their works? get you unto your **burdens**. ⁵And **Pharaoh** said, Behold, the people of the land now *are* **many**, and ye make them rest from their burdens. ⁶And Pharaoh commanded the same day the **taskmasters** of the people, and their officers, saying, ⁷Ye shall no more give the people **straw** to make **brick**, as heretofore: let them go and **gather** straw for themselves. ⁸And the **tale** of the bricks, which they did make heretofore, ye shall **not diminish** *ought* thereof: for they *be* **idle**; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go *and* sacrifice to our God.