

## EXODUS Lesson 05

Exodus Chapter 5

*Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies*

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*Memory verses for this week: Joel 1:15 Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.*

**Introduction:** We continue our study on Exodus this week. In last week's lesson, we studied about Moses being called by God to deliver the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt. Moses came up with several excuses as to why he could not do the job, but God promised to be with him and to provide him signs and wonders to make the people know he was called to do this, and to convince Pharaoh to let his people go.

In these chapters of Exodus, we find that Israel was redeemed by the blood of the Passover lamb. This was a type of our salvation by the blood of Christ. They were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the Red Sea (1 Corinthians 10:2), a type of our baptism after salvation. Therefore, before the Passover lamb was slain, and before they were delivered from Egypt, they are a type of the sinner today, before his salvation.

Many of the experiences here in Egypt parallel the experiences of sinners before their salvation. We need to remember that Egypt is a type of the world, and that Pharaoh is a type of Satan.

### I. Pharaoh Repudiates Moses' Request

*Exo 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.*

*Exo 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.*

As God had warned Moses, the unbelieving king defies God's order. God's will for His people stated was stated in verse 1. "Let my people go" was God's demand of Pharaoh.

Just to step out and approach Pharaoh took courage and faith on the part of Moses and Aaron.

*Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*

God made seven demands of Pharaoh beginning here in verse 1 of Chapter 5 and the last was in chapter 10 verse 3. (5:1; 7:16; 8:1; 8:20; 9:1; 9:13; 10:3)

Pharaoh was obstinate and showed his ignorance and disobedience. As we travel in the world day by day, we find people who do not know God and seem to care less about it. But one day they will care when they find out the seriousness of the matter. Nothing is more important in life than to find Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

*2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Pharaoh did not know or obey the LORD Jehovah God. If Pharaoh could have heard the following words, and believed them, his decision would have been entirely different. Jonathan Edwards quoted the following in his sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,"

"All the kings of the earth, before God, are as grasshoppers; they are nothing, and less than nothing: both their love and their hatred is to be despised. The wrath of the great King of kings, is as much more terrible than theirs, as his majesty is greater."

But nevertheless, he was determined not to let Israel go. He said, "I will not let them go," and this put him in direct opposition to the will of God. In effect, he declared war on the LORD. If he had let them go, he would have been acknowledging a deity greater than himself.

Pharaoh is a type of Satan, who never gives up without a struggle. God now commands sinners to repent and believe.

*Acts 17:30 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent."*

*Acts 16:31 "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."*

*Exo 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.*

*Exo 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.*

Moses again speaks God's will for Israel. God wants his people to go into the wilderness and sacrifice to God. A sacrifice is the only basis on which God meets with sinners.

*Leviticus 17:11 "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."*

*Hebrews 9:22 "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."*

That was how it was in the old testament, and it is still the only way to God today. All men of all generations who have been saved have been saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. Back then the blood typified and pointed to the blood Jesus would shed on calvary. Today we look back knowing that Christ has died and paid the penalty for our sins.

*Colossians 1:14 "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven."*

If they did not, judgment would follow upon them. We should carefully note that God had a purpose in only requesting a three-day journey and a sacrifice. We know that God intended to take them out of Egypt for good and bring them to the place for building the Tabernacle. God knew Pharaoh would not even allow this reasonable three-day journey. God will do battle with Egypt upon the terms and conditions that He sets.

*Exo 5:5 And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them rest from their burdens.*

*Exo 5:6 And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying,*

*Exo 5:7 Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves.*

*Exo 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.*

*Exo 5:9 Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein; and let them not regard vain words.*

Pharaoh makes new and insulting demands. This unjust king determines to punish God's people and make their burdens even harder than before. He now commands that Israel gather their own straw in verse 7. However, the number of brick required, is not to be diminished. The king calls God's words, "vain words." Believe me, no word of God is ever vain. God deals with sinners in mercy, but this is still the way sinful man many times responds to God's word.

## **II. Pharaoh Retaliates Against the Hebrews**

*Exo 5:10 And the taskmasters of the people went out, and their officers, and they spake to the people, saying, Thus saith Pharaoh, I will not give you straw.*

*Exo 5:11 Go ye, get you straw where ye can find it: yet not ought of your work shall be diminished.*

*Exo 5:12 So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw.*

After the king makes his decree, these new cruel demands are made. Verse 10 says that straw was no longer to be furnished. The Hebrews were to find and gather straw before they could make the bricks. So they scattered to the fields to gather stubble to substitute for the straw.

*Exo 5:13 And the taskmasters hasted them, saying, Fulfil your works, your daily tasks, as when there was straw.*

*Exo 5:14 And the officers of the children of Israel, which Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten, and demanded, Wherefore have ye not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and to day, as heretofore?*

The bondage to create the bricks was more than could be accomplished without the straw, and the cruel beatings began. They were beaten for failing to do the impossible. This is Satan's way. When God is dealing with a sinner, the devil steps in to hinder God's work.

*Luke 9:42 "And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father."*

### **III. The Renunciation of Moses' Leadership by the Jews**

*Exo 5:15 Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried unto Pharaoh, saying, Wherefore dealest thou thus with thy servants?*

*Exo 5:16 There is no straw given unto thy servants, and they say to us, Make brick: and, behold, thy servants are beaten; but the fault is in thine own people.*

With the work demands exceeding their abilities, the Hebrews seek relief from Pharaoh. The Israelite leaders appeal to Pharaoh. They were looking for help in all the wrong places. Instead of crying unto the Lord, they cry unto Pharaoh. Instead of calling themselves the servants of God, they claim to be Pharaoh's servants. This is ever the way of the flesh. They blame Pharaoh's servants, instead of him. When things don't go too well for us, we need to look first to the Heavenly Father who cares for us every hour.

*Exo 5:17 But he said, Ye are idle, ye are idle: therefore ye say, Let us go and do sacrifice to the LORD.*

*Exo 5:18 Go therefore now, and work; for there shall no straw be given you, yet shall ye deliver the tale of bricks.*

Things did not improve, and they found no help or comfort in Pharaoh. The reality is that turning to Satan and the world never brings true relief. The sinner will not be helped by turning to sinful man for help.

*Luke 15:15-16 "And he (the prodigal son) went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him."*

*Isaiah 55:6 "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."*

*Exo 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.*

*Exo 5:20 And they met Moses and Aaron, who stood in the way, as they came forth from Pharaoh:*

*Exo 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.*

Now the Hebrews seek to renounce Moses. It is amazing how quickly people find fault with those in leadership positions. Sometimes there is a problem, but many times they receive more blame than they deserve. The officers see their predicament and they threaten Moses and Aaron with God's judgment.

Moses and Aaron are blamed for all of their problems. This is often the result of faithfully preaching the word. The very ones you seek to deliver, being frustrated by the conviction of God and the opposition of Satan, may well turn upon the deliverer. Every God-called preacher experiences this.

*Matthew Henry said this about the people turning on Moses and Aaron.*

*How unjustly they complained of Moses and Aaron: The Lord look upon you, and judge, Exo 5:21. This was not fair. Moses and Aaron had given sufficient evidence of their hearty good-will to the liberties of Israel; and yet, because things succeed not immediately as they hoped, they are reproached as accessaries to their slavery. They should have humbled themselves before God, and taken to themselves the shame of their sin, which turned away good things from them; but, instead of this, they fly in the face of their best friends, and quarrel with the instruments of their deliverance, because of some little difficulties and obstructions they met with in affecting it.*

*Exo 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?*

*Exo 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.*

Unlike the people, Moses seeks the face of God about the matter. This was a surprising development to Moses. Moses expected opposition from Pharaoh, but not from the people. But he did right in turning to God, but his words were irreverent. How merciful God is, to tolerate such words.

Consider these helpful words from Arthur W. Pink.

“We may add that what has been before us supplies a striking picture of that which awaits Israel in a coming day. The grievous afflictions which came upon the Hebrews in Egypt just before the Lord emancipated them from their hard and cruel bondage, did but foreshadow the awful experiences through which their descendants shall pass during the ‘time of Jacob’s trouble,’ just prior to the coming of the Deliverer to Zion.

Pharaoh’s conduct as described in our chapter, his defiance of Jehovah, his rejection of the testimony of God’s two witnesses, his cruel treatment of the children of Israel accurately typifies the course which will be followed by the Man of Sin. Thus may we discern once more how that these pages of Old Testament history are also prophetic in their forecastings of coming events. May it please the Lord to open our eyes so that we may perceive both the application to ourselves and those who are to follow us.”

### **Study Questions**

1. Israel, before their sprinkling of the Passover blood, was a type of who?

they are a type of the sinner today

2. What did Pharaoh say in response to Moses’ declaration of what God wanted done?

*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.*

3. What did Moses request of Pharaoh at the first?

*Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.*

4. Why did he not tell Pharaoh what God’s complete plan was?

God intended to take them out of Egypt for good and bring them to the place for building the Tabernacle. God knew Pharaoh would not even allow this reasonable three day journey.

5. What does Pharaoh say that Israel will now have to do, in addition to their regular job?

Gather their own straw to make the bricks.

6. What does he call God's words?

Idle words.

7. What did Israel use for straw?

stubble

8. When the Hebrew workmen failed to do the impossible, what was done to their leaders?

They were beaten.

9. To whom did the Israelite leaders go, to get relief from their burden

Pharaoh

10. Who did the Israelite leaders end up denouncing?

Moses and Aaron

11. To whom did Moses turn, in the midst of his distress?

God

12. What was wrong with the words that Moses spoke?

He points the blame at God rather than Pharaoh and the people.

*Exo 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?*

*Exo 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.*

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**THE BOOK OF EXODUS**

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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