

EXODUS 5; February 24; Moses' First Meeting with Pharaoh

ANALYSIS:

1. What were Pharaoh's well-known "last words" that he spoke to Moses and Aaron when they came before him for the first time?

2. How did Pharaoh change the work load of the Hebrews in this chapter?

3. What is the meaning of the word "tale" in verses 8 and 18?

4. Why did Pharaoh say he had increased the work load for the Hebrews?

5. What gives one the impression that Moses was expecting a quick deliverance for the Hebrews from Egypt?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

This Pharaoh is one of the greatest examples in the Bible of a very powerful man that God raised up for the express purpose of showing His power and name throughout all the earth (Romans 9:17). God hardened Pharaoh's heart so that he blindly and stubbornly rebelled repeatedly against the obvious power of God Who was methodically destroying the entire land of Egypt. Are you thankful that that same terrible God had mercy upon you and opened your eyes and heart to receive, believe, and obey the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ? We were no better than Pharaoh in our natural, wicked heart, but God had mercy upon us through Jesus Christ. Rejoice in his great love toward us today! The officers of the children of Israel and Moses quickly became impatient with the LORD when things did not go as expected in their first meeting with Pharaoh. By nature, we also often expect immediate deliverance when we cry to the LORD for help. Let us not forget the stories of Jacob's all-night wrestling match (Gen 32), the importunate neighbor at the door (Luke 11), and the widow woman troubling the unjust judge by her continual coming (Luke 18) and remember that the LORD often does not deliver immediately. He tests to see if we will patiently and persistently keep coming to him for help. He will deliver us if we will not give up and will patiently endure. Are you praying for your special needs today?

Help:

1. "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." (5:2)
2. He stopped giving them straw for the making of bricks, but he still required the same number of bricks. (5:7-8)
3. The word "tale" means "quota" or "number" according to the context of the chapter.
4. He said they were idle and must have too much time on their hands since they were thinking about going to sacrifice to the LORD. (5:17)
5. Though Moses had only spoken to Pharaoh one time, his prayer in verse 23 indicates that he expected the LORD to deliver the Israelites immediately.