

LESSON 5: EXODUS 5:1 – 6:27
JUNE 15, 2011

OVERVIEW

- . Meeting with Pharaoh – Exodus 5:1-5
- . The “bad” results – Exodus 5:6-21
- . God’s renewed promise of deliverance – Exodus 5:22-6:12
- . The inserted genealogy – Exodus 6:13-27

MEETING WITH PHARAOH – EXODUS 5:1-5

- . The meeting location and setting
 - . Assuming these events took place during the Egyptian dynasty, the Pharaoh was Amenhotep II and the meeting probably took place in the delta region, not far from Goshen
 - . The Pharaoh liked this area and had palaces in the region
 - . These were large, lavish, imposing palaces meant to impress and intimidate visitors
 - . The Pharaoh was an absolute monarch with a large assembled court
 - . Moses and Aaron were a couple of old men, in their eighties, simply dressed
 - . The contrast between Pharaoh and Moses must have been striking
- . The demand – “Let my people go”
 - . The message for Pharaoh begins as all the later messages of Israel’s prophets. “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says”
 - . This declarative statement is meant to set these words apart from mere mortal words
 - . This statement declares that these words carry an authority above even the highest human authority
 - . It is a reminder for us today that the Bible is God’s Word, and is therefore the highest authority there can possibly be
 - . The rest of Moses statement outlines exactly what God wants
- . The Pharaoh’s arrogant response
 - . “Who is the Lord that I should obey him” – This is about as arrogant as one could possibly get
 - . Pharaoh was referred to as the “neter nefer” meaning the perfect god
 - . The Pharaoh believed he was the absolute final authority
 - . “I do not know the Lord” – the god of Moses was absolutely irrelevant to Pharaoh

THE BAD RESULTS – EXODUS 5:6-21

- . The outcome of this first appearance before Pharaoh ends in apparent disaster
 - . The Pharaoh increases the burden on the Israelite workers
 - . He orders his people to stop supplying the Israelites with straw needed for their bricks
 - . He tells the Israelites they need to gather their own straw
 - . He demands that the Israelites continue to meet their same quota
 - . The Pharaoh increases the burden on the Israelite foremen
 - . When the workers couldn't meet their quotas it was the foremen who were beaten
- . The foremen turn against Moses and Aaron
 - . You have made us a stench to Pharaoh
 - . The foremen blame Moses and Aaron, not God or Pharaoh, for their problems
 - . At this point Moses must have felt like an absolute failure
 - . Moses had done exactly what God asked him to do
 - . Why was God allowing this outcome?

GOD'S RENEWED PROMISE OF DELIVERANCE – EXODUS 5:22 – 6:12

- . Moses cries out to God and God answers him
 - . What Moses was asking God was reasonable and his description of the events were accurate
 - . God reassures Moses that Pharaoh will eventually let the people go
 - . God reminds Moses of His omnipotence – “because of my mighty hand”
 - . Sometimes God's timing is hard to understand, but it always makes sense in hindsight
 - . “I am the Lord” – Exodus 6:2-3
 - . How are we to understand vs. 3?
 - . The patriarchs knew the name Yahweh, but did not understand the significance?
 - . The name Yahweh (I am) was only first revealed to man, through Moses, at the burning bush
 - . God acknowledges that he appeared to the patriarchs, but did not make Himself known to them in the same way He did Moses
 - . God reassures Moses that he remembers and plans to honor his covenant with Abraham – Exodus 6:4-5
 - . God tells Moses he is to go back to the Israelites and repeat God's promise
 - . I am the Lord
 - . I will free you from the yoke of the Egyptians
 - . I will bring you to the land I promised
 - . I will give it to you
 - . I will take you as my own people and I will be your God

- . Moses does as he's told and is rejected by the Israelites
- . God tells Moses to go back to Pharaoh
 - . Moses objects stating he can't get his own people to listen to him
 - . Moses resorts back to his old objection (Exodus 4:10) and basically tries to convince God He's got the wrong man
 - . As we saw earlier, this objection carries no weight with God

THE INSERTED GENEALOGY – EXODUS 6:13-27

- . This is not a full genealogy – it stops with Levi, Moses' tribe
 - . Within the tribe of Levi it takes us to Amram, the father of Moses
 - . The remaining names have a priestly interest and figure prominently in the developing story
- . Inserting the genealogy may be the author's way of saying the preliminary matters are now over, buckle up and get ready for the battle of God against the gods of Egypt

NEXT LESSON IS WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2011: EXODUS 6:28 – 10:29