

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

MAY 15, 2024

EXODUS 5:4-23

INTRODUCTION:

1. Moses, Aaron and the elders of Israel approached Pharaoh with a request. (Ex. 5.3)
 - a) LOCATION: *“Let us go three days journey into the desert”* (cf. Ex. 3.12,18)
 - b) PURPOSE: *“sacrifice to the LORD our God”* (v. 1: *“that they may hold a feast”*)
 - c) CONSEQUENCE: *“lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword.”*
2. Pharaoh’s response: *“Get back to your labor”* (Ex. 5.4,5)
3. Archaeology confirms that the Biblical account is an historically accurate event.

I. MAKING BRICKS OUT OF STUBBLE

- A. Pharaoh issued a command that very same day to increase the work of the people.
 1. **EXODUS 5.6:** *“So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their officers”* Officers were Israelites set over the people (Ex. 5.14,15)
 2. The threefold command of Pharaoh.
 - a) **EXODUS 5.7:** *“You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks as before”*
 - b) **EXODUS 5.7:** *“Let them gather straw for themselves”*
 - c) **EXODUS 5.8:** *“you shall lay on them the quota of bricks which they made before”*
 3. Why did Pharaoh increase the workload of Israel?
 - a) **EXODUS 5.8:** *“For they are idle”* Literally, “to hang limp”
 - b) **EXODUS 5.8:** *“Therefore, they cry out”* They were not focused on their work.
 - c) **EXODUS 5.9:** *“Let them not regard false words”* They developed false hope.
- B. How did Pharaohs increased demands affect the children of Israel?
 1. **EXODUS 5.10-12:** The people were scrambling to find stubble.
 2. **EXODUS 5.13:** The people were pressured to meet their quota.
 3. **EXODUS 5.14:** The people were beaten for failing to meet their quota
 4. **EXODUS 5.15,16:** The people placed blame on the Egyptians.

II. MAKING BRICKS WITH NO STRAW

- A. Pharaoh issued a command to increase their workload even more.
 1. The reason behind his command.
 - a) **EXODUS 5.17:** *“You are idle! Idle!”* They were lazy.
 - b) **EXODUS 5.17:** *“Therefore you say, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD’”*
 2. The requirement of his command.
 - a) **EXODUS 5.18:** *“no straw will be given you”*
 - b) **EXODUS 5.18:** *“yet you shall deliver the quota of bricks”*
- B. How did Pharaoh’s increased demands affect the children of Israel?
 1. **EXODUS 5.19:** *“And the officers of the children of Israel saw that they were in trouble”*
 - a) “Trouble” (Heb: “ra”): Generic for bad. Found 346 times in the Old Testament.
 - b) The officers saw that things had gone from bad to worse.
 2. **EXODUS 5.20,21:** *“Let the LORD look on you and judge”*
 3. **EXODUS 5.22,23:** *“Why is it You have sent me?”*
 - a) God brought trouble to Israel. (v. 22).
 - b) God caused Pharaoh to do evil to Israel. (v. 23).

CONCLUSION: Everything happened according to the predetermined plan of God. (Ex. 9.14-16)