

Exodus Chapter 05 Commentary

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. 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."

In Exodus chapter 1: we found that a new Pharaoh had taken the throne of Egypt, who knew not Joseph, through whom the Egyptians had known of the greatness of God. This new Pharaoh claims he does not know God. We shall see later; God raised up this Pharaoh, as a means of manifesting God's power and judgment, of those who refuse to be obedient to God.

This is a prophetic picture of how Jesus Christ would not be accepted by many people, and especially leaders, of the world. It shows the rejection of the unregenerate of the word of God.

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. 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 and Aaron proclaim the God of Israel to king of Egypt. Pharaoh ignores the plea of allowing Israel to go sacrifice to their God. Pharaoh declares that Moses, Aaron, and Israel are not busy enough about Pharaoh's business, or they would not want to go worship their God. Pharaoh even ignores that God may destroy the Israelites if they do not go sacrifice to him.

Pharaoh's understanding is blinded, because he has not seen Israel being attentive to their God before. This is the same principle when a sinner is born-again. The unsaved around them do not understand, because they have not heard the voice of Christ, nor taken notice of Christian behaviour.

We see the root of Pharaoh's objective is the love of money, and the Israelites are his means and tools for getting his wealth. Much like the leaders of the world, and many businesses, are using the people, of their nations and businesses, to satisfy its own love of money.

The devil is very busy getting businesses to increasingly be anti-God, and they are open seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. They do not want their employees taking time off to worship God. Why? This cuts in their profits. We see this same thing happening today in our society. Just as the Egyptians did not want to hear about God, the world is not willing to hear about God.

I remember, when I was young, you were hard pressed to find a gas station that was open on Sunday. As people have turned further and further from God, it is hard to find a business that is not open on Sunday. Sunday is the day, of which the scriptures testify as the day the Lord arose from the dead. Henceforth, the visible church has always met on Sunday. A reminder of all that Jesus sacrificed for us to have eternal forgiveness of sins and salvation and eternal life.

5 "And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them rest from their burdens. 6 And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying, 7 Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves. 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. 9 Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein; and let them not regard vain words."

Pharaoh does not know it, but he is playing right into God's hands. He begins by commanding Israel to produce the same amount of product, with the additional burden of gathering the resources they

need. This attitude of Pharaoh's will come back to haunt him later. How? When Israel leaves Egypt, they will rob Egypt of its wealth as payment for their years of servitude.

We are given this same principle in the New Testament scriptures in: ***Jas 5:1-8; 1 ¶ "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. 4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. 5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. 6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. 7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."***

Do not forget, there is a reckoning day coming in which God shall judge all people, saved and unsaved. Even now, God knows of those who oppress others for gain. The reward for those who endure, as Israel did, is to be taken out of slavery to an eternal land of promise. The reward for those who have oppressed God's people is the eternal lake of fire.

The principles, that Pharaoh is setting forth, are the same principles boasted of by the unsaved world. Even the religious world will heap upon people burdens they themselves will not bear. The unsaved world of people, like Pharaoh, declare the words of God to be vain words.

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. 11 Go ye, get you straw where ye can find it: yet not ought of your work shall be diminished. 12 So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw. 13 And the taskmasters hasted them, saying, Fulfil your works, your daily tasks, as when there was straw. 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 today, as heretofore?"

At Pharaoh's command, the taskmasters put Israel to the worst, and without pity. Have you ever been given more to do than was possible? This is Israel's situation. In the world today, it is much the same. Governments and business owners do not care if you have time to worship God. They do care that they get the highest margin of profits possible.

Here is the prophetic picture of the world of religion. The world of religion will lade you with many tasks, which you must accomplish in order to be saved eternally, all of which are impossible. Herein, we see the beauty of the church of salvation by grace. It is not our works that accomplish eternal salvation, and eternal life. That work has already been accomplished by Jesus, Thank you Lord Jesus. Jesus tells us of this in: ***Mt 11:28-30; 28 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."***

15 ¶ "Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried unto Pharaoh, saying, Wherefore dealest thou thus with thy servants? 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. 17 But he said, Ye are idle, ye are idle: therefore ye say, Let us go and do sacrifice to the LORD. 18 Go therefore now, and work; for there shall no straw be given you, yet shall ye deliver the tale of bricks. 19 And the officers of the children of Israel did see that they were in evil case, after it was said, Ye shall not diminish ought from your bricks of your daily task."

In this chapter: we see how Satan, and the lost people of the world, look upon God's people. They care not that God's people have time to worship God. They care not for anything but that which is profitable to them. This is as we are told in scripture in: **1Ti 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."**

One of devil's best used tools is time. The busier he can get us in everyday life; swallowing up our hearts and minds with just making a living; the easier it is for him to draw us away from the commandments of God, and our worship of the Lord. We see this manifested by companies that totally disregard a person's Christian beliefs, while allowing religious activities of other faiths to be observed without retribution. This is one of the snares of proposed one world government and religion. If it comes to fruition, you can rest assured that Christianity will not be the one world religion.

20 "And they met Moses and Aaron, who stood in the way, as they came forth from Pharaoh: 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."

We see the general reaction of God's people when trouble comes. Who do they first blame? The ministers and church leadership. We have had this manifested in our own lives, in the not-so-distant past, and know it to be true.

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? 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."

Moses does the only thing a minister of God can do today, turn to God, and plead the cause. Moses complains to God, after the leaders of Israel rebuke him and Aaron, saying, I told you I could not do this. Moses says all my efforts have done is bring trouble and misery upon Israel.

Moses does not see the whole picture, and the result of God's plan of salvation for the nation Israel. The same is true of Israel, God's chosen people today, when faced with temptations and trials in life, we do not understand why things are like they are, forgetting to stand still and look at the big picture, which will be our eternal release from the bondage of sin.

God's ministers today, are often like Moses and Aaron, if they forget the big picture, which is the resurrection of the dead, and the eternal rescue of God's people. They are frustrated by the way the world treats God's saved people. They are frustrated by the way God's people treat one another. This is why we preach the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. To remind God's people; there is a rest coming, which will put all the miseries of this present world into the void of no remembrance.

As we consider this, and the coming chapters, we shall see the prophetic picture of the judgment of the last days, found in the book of Revelation.