

EXODUS 5 vs 1

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Moses and Aaron having delivered their message to the elders of Israel, with whom they found good acceptance, are now dealing with Pharaoh, to get leave of him to go and worship in the wilderness. They demand leave in the name of God, and he answer their demand with a defiance of God. Next, they ask leave in the name of Israel, and he answer their request with further orders to oppress Israel -- Matthew Henry.

¹ And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus says the LORD God of **Israel**, Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.

² And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let **Israel** go?

I do not know the LORD, nor will I let **Israel** go.

³ And they said, The God of the Hebrews has met with us: let us go, we pray you, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice to the LORD our God; lest He fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.

⁴ And the king of Egypt said to them, Moses and Aaron, Why do you keep the people away from their works? Get back to work.

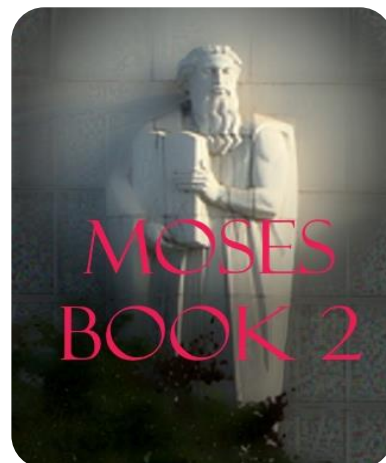
⁵ And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and you have them cease from their works.

⁶ And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying,

⁷ You will no longer give the people straw to make brick, as previously: let them go gather straw for themselves.

⁸ And the quota of the bricks which they previously made, you will impose on them; you are not to reduce any of it: because they are lazy; so they cry out, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God.

⁹ Let the labor be heavier on the men, that they labor at it; and let them not pay attention to false words.



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¹⁰ So, the taskmasters of the people and their foremen went out, and they spoke to the people, saying, Thus says Pharaoh, I will not give you straw.

¹¹ You go and get straw wherever you can find it: yet none of your work will be reduced.

¹² So the people scattered throughout the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw.

¹³ And the taskmasters pressed them, saying, Complete your quota, your daily tasks, just as when there was straw.

¹⁴ And the foremen of the children of **Israel**, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters set over them, were beaten and were asked, Why have you not completed your task making brick both yesterday and today, as previously?

¹⁵ Then the foremen of the children of **Israel** came and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, Why do you deal this way with your servants?

¹⁶ There is no straw given to your servants, yet they say to us, Make bricks! And behold, your servants are beaten; but it is the fault of your own people.

¹⁷ But he said, You are lazy, very lazy: so you say, Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.

¹⁸ So go now and work; for you will be given no straw, yet you must deliver the quota of bricks.

¹⁹ And the foremen of the children of **Israel** saw that they were in trouble, because they were told, You must not reduce your daily amount of bricks.

²⁰ And as they left Pharaoh, they met Moses and Aaron, who stood waiting for them:

²¹ and they said to them, May the LORD look upon you and judge; for you have made us odious in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us.

²² Then Moses returned to the LORD, and said, O LORD, why have You brought harm to this people? Why did You send me?

²³ For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your Name, he has done evil to this people; and You have not delivered your people at all.



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