

Exodus Bible Study Assignment

September 23, 2021

Reading: Exodus 5:1 – 7:13

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think God told Moses/Aaron to only tell Pharaoh that God had ordered the Israelites to go into the wilderness to celebrate a festival?
2. What did Moses/Aaron tell Pharaoh would happen to the Israelites if they didn't make a sacrifice to God? Who would actually receive this treatment for the Pharaoh refusing to release the Israelites (see Exodus 7:14 – 12:32)?
3. The Hebrew word translated "stop" in 5:5 is the root of the word "sabbath". How does Pharaoh's outrage at the idea of the Israelites stopping their work relate to God's will for people and their labor?
4. Have you ever been ordered to complete the same or greater amount of work with fewer resources than you had in the past? Describe what happened. How did it make you feel? What did you do in response?
5. In Exodus 5:21, the Israelites say that Moses'/Aaron's actions have set Pharaoh against them. The literal translation of the Hebrew is, "You have made our smell stink in the eyes of Pharaoh." How does odor relate to the first two plagues (Exodus 7:14 – 8:15)?
6. How did Moses respond to the Israelites' accusation that Moses/Aaron had made their situation worse?

7. If it was God's intention for the Israelites' situation worse, what purpose do you think it would have served?

8. In the section of Exodus 6:14-27, the author includes many Egyptian names like Merari, Putiel, and Phinehas in the genealogy of Moses and Aaron. What purpose may this have served?

9. Moses and Aaron's father married Jochebed, their aunt, a relationship that would be considered incestuous when the laws of the Israelites were codified. Heroes' births in the First Testament are often marked by illicit relationships. Give another example from the Bible of a hero being born under "unlawful" conditions.

10. How is Moses and Aaron's relationship as brothers similar to other brother pairs in the First Testament?

11. How might Pharaoh's hardness of heart have served God's purposes?

September 30 Assignment: Exodus 7:14 – 10:29