

Exodus Ch. 5

Perspective: Daniel @ river Hidekel / Tigris, angel appears to explain his mission.

Daniel 10:13 “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.”

- Meaning that there was a demonic leader over the kingdom of Persia, just as assuredly there was one over Egypt, Greece, Rome, and on the list goes.

Ephesians 6:12 “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

- The hardness of Pharaoh’s heart, the obvious cruelty, along with the evil intent all originated in the pit of hell.
 - We shouldn’t miss the fact that Moses faced more than just Pharaoh the man, but the demonic forces behind him.
 - Pharaoh didn’t know it at the time, but he wasn’t just facing Moses either, but the True and Living God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob – and Moses.
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V: 1 Moses and Aaron are obedient to God’s word; they go in and speak to Pharaoh saying:

“Thus saith the Lord God of Israel...let My people go, that they may hold a feast / worship Me in the wilderness.”

Psalm 119:46 “I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.”

- “The Lord God of Israel” – 1st time used.
- “My” people, again identifying with, laying claim to and affirming his perspective, we are His; he’s my Lord, and we’re His people.

V: 2 Just as God had warned Moses, Pharaoh refuses to let the children of Israel go.

- Pharaoh asks the rhetorical question:

“Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?”

- Sounds a little bit like Pilate when he asked Jesus; “what is truth?”

- The world pretty much asks that same cynical question today: so who is this Jesus that I should obey Him?
 - The authorship is the same in all three instances; the serpent in the garden.
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- The Egyptians were a poly-theistic society, they worshipped many false gods.
- The Pharaoh's claimed divinity for themselves; they claimed to be descendants from the sun, or the sun god Ra.
- As such, this Pharaoh refused to acknowledge that there was a God greater than himself.

Paul describes this:

Romans 1:18 "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"

- This speaks about those who know the truth, but purposefully suppress it for their own purposes.
- The Pope, the Maharishi's, the heads of the Mormon church, and the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Muslim Imam's, and the leaders of all the other false religions and cults know the truth, they too hold the truth in unrighteousness.
- I believe that their followers are deceived, but their leaders aren't deceived one whit – and God will hold them accountable.
- Pharaoh claims not to know the Lord, which is a true statement. The reason Pharaoh doesn't know the Lord is because he had absolutely no intention of obeying the Lord.
- There is a direct link between revelation and obedience.

Jesus said:

John 14:21 "He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him."

- If you've been involved in evangelism you've seen the same thing. You try to talk to someone about Jesus, the Gospel, and salvation and they just completely shut you down, or argue with you, and demonstrate that they are not open at all. They have no intention of being obedient to God's call in their lives. No revelation.
- Others; maybe they ask you, they have a seeking heart; or when you broach the subject they are inquisitive, and open to the message – willing to be obedient to the call of God in their lives. They are the ones who humble themselves asking forgiveness of their sins and receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. God reveals Himself to them.

- Even with believers, I often have heard statements like “I don’t hear God’s voice” or “God doesn’t speak to me that way...”

The prophet declares

Isaiah 30:21 “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

John 10:27 “My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow Me.”

- If God’s word says that we “shall” hear His voice, why do so many not hear His voice? **Answer:** Disobedience.

Zechariah 4:10 “For who hath despised the day of small things?...”

Luke 19:17 “And He said unto him, well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.”

- What was the last thing that God told you to do? Did you do it? If so then He will likely speak to you again about something else.
- If you haven’t been obedient in the last thing, He is simply waiting. Why should He move onto the next thing or the 2nd thing until we’ve been obedient in the first things?
- Or why should God speak to us if He knows that we have no intention in our heart of being obedient to what He says.

Proverbs 1:24-33 “²⁴Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; ²⁵But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: ²⁶I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; ²⁷When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. ²⁸Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: ²⁹For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: ³⁰They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. ³¹Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. ³²For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. ³³But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.”

- Over the next few chapters of Exodus, Pharaoh is in for some tough lessons on who God is. It’s the proverbial “we can do this the easy way; or we can do this the hard way.”
- Pharaoh as we will see chooses the “hard way”.

V: 3 Moses and Aaron respond to Pharaoh by asking the same thing in a different way.

- God has visited us, let us go worship Him; lest He fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.
- They are testifying to the reality of God in their lives, and they are testifying that they fear God.

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding.”

Psalm 115:13 “He will bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great.”

V: 4 Pharaoh accuses Moses and Aaron of causing the children of Israel to cease from their work; he tells them “get back to work...”

V: 5-9 Pharaoh seemingly reasons that if the children of Israel have so much spare time on their hands as to go and worship their God, he may as well increase their workload.

- We will no longer provide straw for them to make bricks, they must now get their own.
- The tally shall not be lowered to compensate, they must work harder.
- This is blatant cruelty to be sure, but there is another purpose in all of this.
- **Real purpose:** that they may not “*regard vain words*”.
- He wants them to be so busy that they aren’t able to regard “vain words”, that’s how he regards the word of God; in other words, so busy that they don’t have time to hear the word of God.
- Kind of like when the god of this world says: You can’t go to church, you’ve got to work overtime. You don’t have time for church – you need to finish that project...
- Pharaoh represents the god of this world, and he doesn’t want us to regard the Word of God, and he’ll give you a hundred other things to make sure that you don’t regard the word of God.

Jesus encourages us to keep our priorities straight:

Matthew 6:33 “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Hebrews 10:25 “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

V: 10-13 The taskmasters enforced the Pharaoh’s command, go find straw for yourselves and fulfill the regular tally of bricks.

- Seemingly in obedience to this new edict, the people spread out and try to gather the needed straw for their tally of bricks.
- Modern archeology has born this out:
 1. Straw was used in the bricks much like fiber or rebar in modern concrete. It made the bricks stronger, and also helped to get them out of the molds, they didn’t stick in the brick mold.
 2. In the Egyptian city of Pithom, the lower layer of bricks in some of the buildings, have fine cut straw in the bricks. As they got to some of the higher layers of bricks in the same buildings, the bricks changed from having straw to just having stubble, grass, and corn husks, then still higher up – no stubble at all, no straw, just mud clay.

V: 14-19 The “task masters” learn that they are not able to “master the task”.

V: 15 The children of Israel cried out to Pharaoh, to the god of this world – and he was very sympathetic.... Not!

James 5:16b “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

Philippians 4:6 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

- Their mistake was plainly that they were crying out to Pharaoh, the God of this world; when they should have crying out to Almighty God.

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- The leaders that had been set over the children of Israel are summarily beaten for not accomplishing an impossible task.
 - This is the essence of “religion” – man’s attempt to reach up to heaven, man’s attempt to bridge the gap between himself, a sinful creature, and a Holy and righteous God. **Apart from Jesus this is impossible!**
 - Every cult & false religion declares that they have the formula: if you’ll just wear your holy underwear, be a missionary, get married in the temple, live an exemplary life, tithe, observe all the customs, and remain in good standing with the church.

- Only then you can go to heaven?
- Why does the Mormon church have the highest per capita suicide rate of any religion? Because it's frustrating to see the ideal, to be pressured to attain it - which is real - and not be able to measure up, to be powerless to attain to it - and to begin to abhor life itself.
- This isn't just true of the Mormon church as an example, but of every false religion known to man - no real salvation, no real power.
- The enemy is right there, the enemy tells us here's what you need to do, just..... and when you can't - he says out of the other side of his mouth - you loser, you're pathetic... he beats you for not being able to accomplish the impossible task.

Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

- They say that Islam is the fastest growing religion on the earth, that is probably true. But it is also imploding from within - because millions are following the dictates of the Koran, being faithful to do the things required - and discovering that it is an empty and vain pursuit - and as they search for truth - Truth finds them - and His name is Jesus!

Jeremiah 29:13 "And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart."

- True Christianity is the opposite of religion - it is about a relationship, a personal relationship with the true and living God - with Jesus himself.

Jesus said:

John 14:6 "... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father except by Me."

- It is God reaching down from Heaven and picking us up, it's His completed work on the cross that elevates us up to Heaven into His very presence.
- It's not about what we can do, it's about what He had done!
- Jesus never tells us to work harder, hurry up, time to pull your own weight!

That is why Jesus said: [Matthew 11:28-30](#)

Matthew 11:28-30 “²⁸Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

Hebrews 4:10 “For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His.”

John 6:28-29 “²⁸Then said they unto Him, what shall we do, that we might work the works of God? ²⁹Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.”

- Then after saving us, lifting us up to heaven – then we’re called to be Christians – to be Christ like.
- Christianity is the greatest ideal, it is the highest standard – to be Christ like: impossible for us to attain on our own.
- God doesn’t frustrate us, calling us to do something with no hope of attaining it. He then gives us the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16 “And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever.”

John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

- As Christians, we’re not beaten – we’re empowered!
- He takes our punishment upon Himself, He gives His life so that we may have life!

John 10:10b “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

- In the world we have task masters that beat their slaves, and they want to beat us.

- As Christians, we have a Good Shepherd who died for us, who calls us to Himself – who empowers us to do His will.

V: 20-21 Basically – “your big mouth is going to get us killed!”

- Blaming the messenger for the message.
- If I say something stupid – which isn’t beyond the realm of possibility – and hurt your feelings, then I would apologize and ask your forgiveness.
- God has used that many times in my life to humble me.
- But if being in the Spirit, I speak the word of God in truth and in love – and you get your feelings hurt – it’s just going to be a sad case of “tough cookies” - you won’t hear any apologies from me.... It’s not an issue of arrogance, but how can I possibly apologize for the Word of God?

Jeremiah 23:29 “Is not My word like as a fire? Saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thought and intents of the heart.”

- When we start swinging that bad boy around, somebody is going to get stuck, somebody’s going to bleed.

V: 22-23 Moses does the only thing that he can do – he takes it to the Lord.

1. Moses returned to the Lord.
2. Moses “said” – meaning he spoke to the Lord – prayer!
3. Moses is honest, why is this happening? Why am I here?
4. It’s all gotten worse!

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

2 Timothy 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

- Sometimes things must simply get worse before they can get better.

Mt. Transfiguration, father with a demon possessed son.

Mark 9:17-27 ¹⁷“And one of the multitude answered and said, master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; ¹⁸And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to Thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. ¹⁹He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? Bring him unto Me. ²⁰And they brought him unto Him: and straightway the spirit tare him, and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. ²¹And He asked his father, how long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, of a child. ²²And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. ²³Jesus said unto him, if thou canst believe, all things are possible, to him that believeth. ²⁴And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. ²⁵When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. ²⁶And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, he is dead. ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.”

1. The Word of God was spoken – and it got worse.
 2. The spirit cried, shrieked loudly, tore at him – convulsed, spasm’s.
 3. Then is got worse still - he fainted, collapsed, looked like he died.
 4. Jesus personally reached out, touched his life, and there was restoration.
- The word of God has been spoken, it’s gotten worse – but God is about to reach out and touch Pharaoh.

Exodus 6:1 “Then the Lord said unto Moses, now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go...”