

## Study 16: Moses, Part 3 Exodus 4-6

**Timeline:** When did the Exodus take place? According to I Kings 6:1, Solomon began building the temple 480 years after the children of Israel left Egypt (479 years had elapsed). The text says that this was the 4<sup>th</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> month of Solomon's reign (May of 967 or 966 BC), which would make the date of the Exodus 1446 or 1445 BC (1446 BC being the preferred date). This would mean that Moses was born in 1526 BC in the time of pharaoh Thutmose I of Egypt (1529-1516 BC). The ruler at the time of the Exodus would have been Amenhotep II (1455-1418 BC), whose son (Thutmose?) died on Passover.

Ex 4 The Lord tells Aaron to meet Moses in the wilderness, so he goes and finds him “on the mountain of God” (v 27). Moses tells Aaron what the Lord said to do, and about the signs they're to show the leaders of Israel. So, they call the elders together and show them all the signs (rod into snake, leprous hand, water to blood). Verse 31 So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Ex 5 Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.’”

2 Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go.”

3 Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a **three-day** journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword.” [Remember, Israel is “God's son,” (Ex. 4:22)]

4 But the king of Egypt said, “Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!” 5 Then Pharaoh said, “Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working.” (NKJV: “you make them rest from their labor!”). A contrast is being made here between Pharaoh and the Lord (cp. Satan and God). One forces hard, unending slavery (work), the other offers rest from labor.

6 That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and overseers in charge of the people: 7 “You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw. 8 But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; **don't reduce the quota**. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to our God.’ 9 Make the work harder for the people so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies.” [This is another indication that the work was simply something to keep the Israelites *busy*. Why else would the Egyptians make it more time consuming to do it?]

So, the taskmasters tell the people (v 10), “**Thus says Pharaoh** [in contrast to the statement of a prophet: “Thus says the Lord”]: ‘I will not give you straw. 11 Go, get yourselves straw where you can find it; yet none of your work will be reduced.’” 12 **So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt** to gather stubble instead of straw. [This should remind the reader of the Tower of Babel] 13 The slave drivers kept pressing them, saying, “Complete the work required of you for each day, just as when you had straw.” 14 And Pharaoh's slave drivers beat the Israelite overseers they had appointed, demanding, “Why haven't you met your quota of bricks yesterday or today, as before?”

15 Then the Israelite overseers went and appealed to Pharaoh: “Why have you treated your servants this way? 16 Your servants are given no straw, yet we are told, ‘Make bricks!’ Your servants are being beaten, but the fault is with your own people.”

17 Pharaoh said, “Lazy, that's what you are—lazy! That is why you keep saying, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.’ 18 Now get to work. You will not be given any straw, yet you must produce your full quota of bricks.”

19 The Israelite overseers realized they were in trouble when they were told, “You are not to reduce the number of bricks required of you for each day.” 20 When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them, 21 and they said, “May the Lord look on you and judge you! You have made us obnoxious to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.” [They fear Pharaoh, not the Lord]

22 Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me? 23 Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all.” NKJV “neither have You **delivered** Your people at all.”

Ex 6 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.”

2 God also said to Moses, “I am the Lord. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty [El-Shaddai], but by my name the Lord [YHWH – I AM] I did not make myself fully known to them. 4 I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners. 5 Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.

6 “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. 7 I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. 8 And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord.’”

9 Moses reported this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and harsh labor.

10 Then the Lord said to Moses, 11 “Go, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go out of his country.”

12 But Moses said to the Lord, “If the Israelites will not listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me, since I speak with faltering lips?” [Here, and in verse 30, in Hebrew, it says: “I am uncircumcised of lips”]

13 Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron about the Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he commanded them to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

#### 14 **These were the heads of their families:**

The sons of Reuben the firstborn son of Israel were Hanok and Pallu, Hezron and Karmi. These were the clans of Reuben.

15 The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman. These were the clans of Simeon.

16 These were the names of the sons of Levi according to their records: Gershon, Kohath and Merari. **Levi lived 137** years.

17 The sons of Gershon, by clans, were Libni and Shimei.

18 The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel. **Kohath lived 133 years.**

19 The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi.

These were the clans of Levi according to their records.

20 **Amram married his father’s sister Jochebed**, who bore him Aaron and Moses. **Amram lived 137 years.**

21 The sons of Izhar were Korah, Nepheg and Zikri.

22 The sons of Uzziel were Mishael, Elzaphan and Sithri.

23 Aaron married Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon, and she bore him Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

24 The sons of Korah were Assir, Elkanah and Abiasaph. These were the Korahite clans.

25 Eleazar son of Aaron married one of the daughters of Putiel, and she bore him Phinehas.

**These were the heads of the Levite families, clan by clan.**

26 It was this Aaron and Moses to whom the Lord said, “Bring the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions.” 27 They were the ones who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt about bringing the Israelites out of Egypt—this same Moses and Aaron.

28 Now when the Lord spoke to Moses in Egypt, 29 he said to him, “I am the Lord. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I tell you.”

30 But Moses said to the Lord, “Since I speak with faltering lips, why would Pharaoh listen to me?”