

Nightmare Along The Nile

Long Beach Alliance Church • October 31st, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

The taskmasters pressed them, saying, “Complete your work quota, your daily amount, just as when you had straw.” Moreover, the foremen of the sons of Israel, whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, “Why have you not completed your required amount either yesterday or today in making brick as previously?”
~Exodus 5:13-14 (NASB)

1) A King Without A Clue

- A) With the success of Moses & Aaron’s introduction to the elders/people of Israel still fresh (Exodus 4:29-31), Moses & Aaron come to Pharaoh and request the release of God’s people to go celebrate a feast (5:1).
- B) Pharaoh’s response is very revealing (5:2). Pharaoh does not “know” the LORD, asking simply “who is this LORD?” Further, Pharaoh notes that even if he did know the LORD, he still would not let the Israelites go.
- C) Pharaoh’s response reveals both his ignorance (he’s clueless), and his rebelliousness (his hardness of heart).

- D) Moses’ response is to clarify for Pharaoh that God is the one doing the asking, and he repeats his request (5:3). Moses also includes a thinly veiled threat to Pharaoh, warning of God’s wrath (pestilence/plague) – which will be coming.
- E) Pharaoh doesn’t respond well to Moses’ threat though, and is dismissive of Moses and Aaron (5:4), and almost immediately begins to drive a wedge between Moses and the Israelite slave population (5:5).

2) Unexpected Trouble

- A) Pharaoh’s political tactics are severe, and very effective! He commands harder labor for the Israelites (5:6-8), mocks their belief in the Lord (5:8), and focuses attention on the men of Israel (hardest labor) calling Moses a liar (5:9).
- B) When Pharaoh’s commands are carried out by his taskmasters, the Israelites have trouble supplying for Pharaoh’s persecuting demands (5:10-13). The taskmasters even physically beat the labor leaders of Israel (5:14).
- C) The “chief leader” of Israel appeals directly to Pharaoh, who calls the people “lazy” and attributes their persecution to Moses’ request to “sacrifice to the Lord” (5:15-17), and demands that the slaves get back to work (5:18).

3) A Nation Without A Clue

- A) Moses and Aaron wait to speak with the troubled “chief” (5:19-20), who immediately lashes out at Moses and Aaron, cursing them in God’s name (5:21).
- B) Moses quickly finds he is at the end of his rope with God, and essentially blames God for Israel’s troubles (and his own), questioning God’s character in exasperation (5:22-23).