



THE STORY OF MOSES

PART 6: CONFUSION

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EXODUS 5:1-23

NIV

¹Afterward 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.’”

²Pharaoh 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.”

³Then 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.”

EXODUS 5:1-23

NIV

⁴ But the king of Egypt said, “Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labour? 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.”

EXODUS 5:1-23

NIV

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.”

EXODUS 5:1-23

NIV

¹⁰ Then the slave drivers and the overseers went out and said to the people, “This is what Pharaoh says: ‘I will not give you any more straw. ¹¹ Go and get your own straw wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced at all.’” ¹² So the people scattered all over Egypt to gather stubble to use for straw. 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?”

EXODUS 5:1-23

NIV

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.”

EXODUS 5:1-23

NIV

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.”

EXODUS 5:1-23

NIV

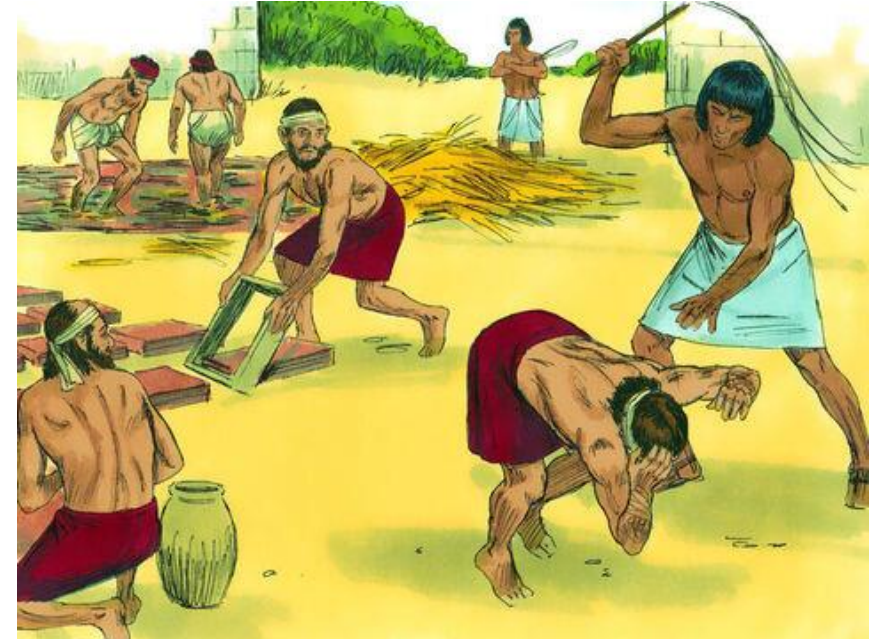
²² Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me? ²³ Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all.”

CONFUSION

- Romans 8:28 (TPT)
“So we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together to fit into God's perfect plan of bringing good into our lives, for we are his lovers who have been called to fulfil his designed purpose.”
- Notice the two phrases, “to fit into God’s perfect plan”, and “to fulfil his designed purpose”.

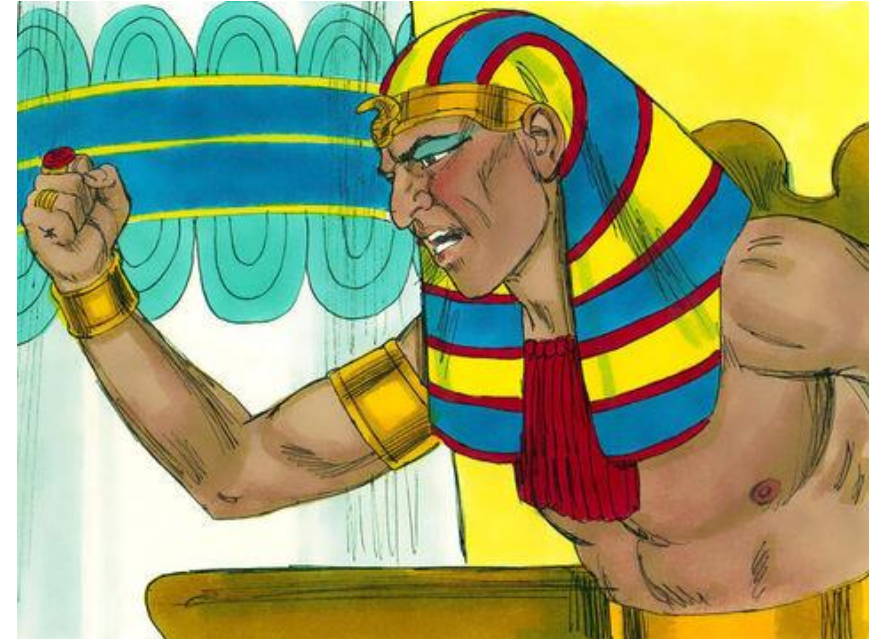
CONFUSION

- The hardness of Pharaoh's heart
- The shallowness of God's people
- The insecurity of Moses
- The faithfulness of God



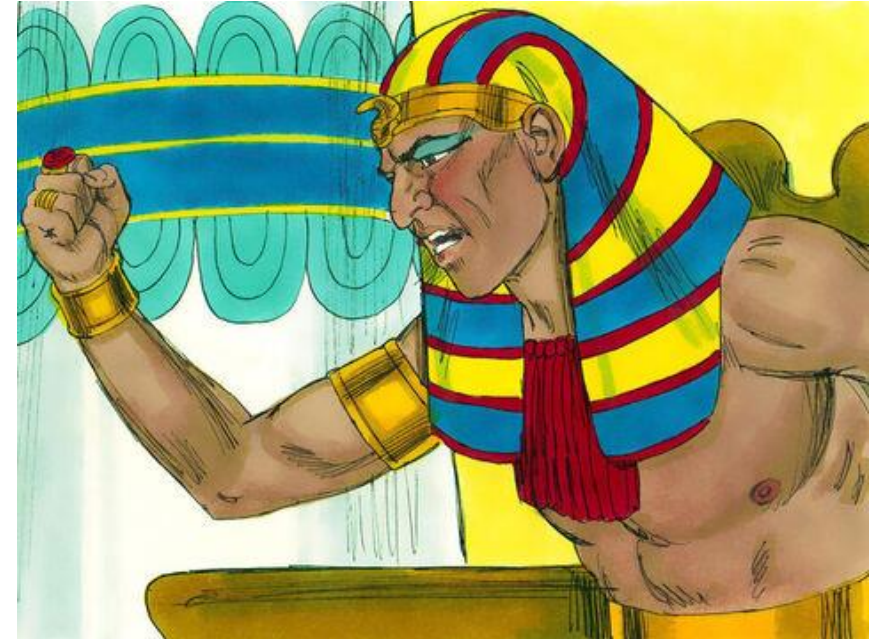
THE HARDNESS OF PHARAOH'S HEART

- Did God actually harden Pharaoh's heart?
- Is that fair? Doesn't Pharaoh have the right to free will?
- Is God to blame for what happens?
- ...



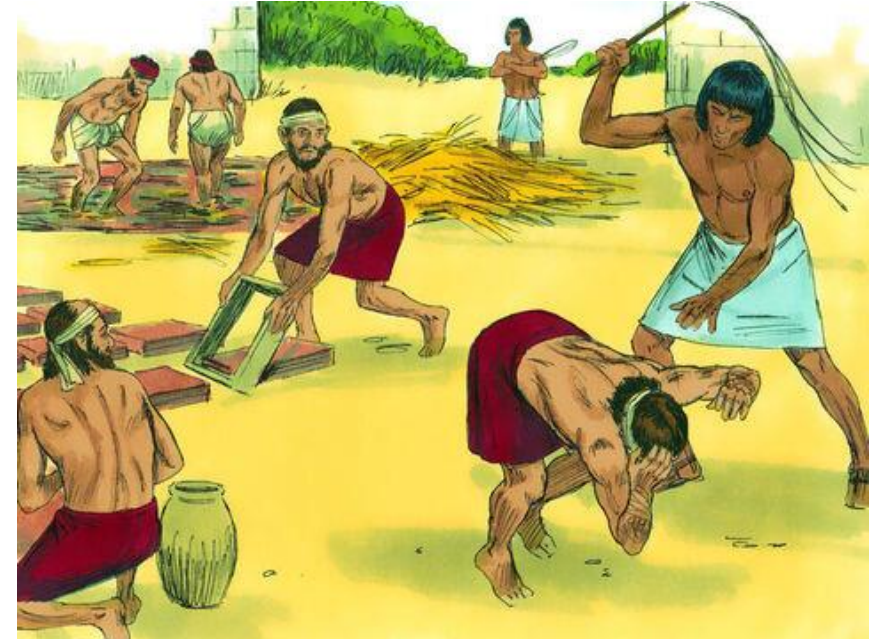
THE HARDNESS OF PHARAOH'S HEART

- A standoff between two gods:
 - God Almighty, El Shaddai, Yahweh, Jehovah
 - Pharaoh, viewed by himself and his people as a god.
 - *“Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel...”*
 - *“Who is the Lord that I should obey him...”*
- Pharaoh refuses to recognise Yahweh's authority.



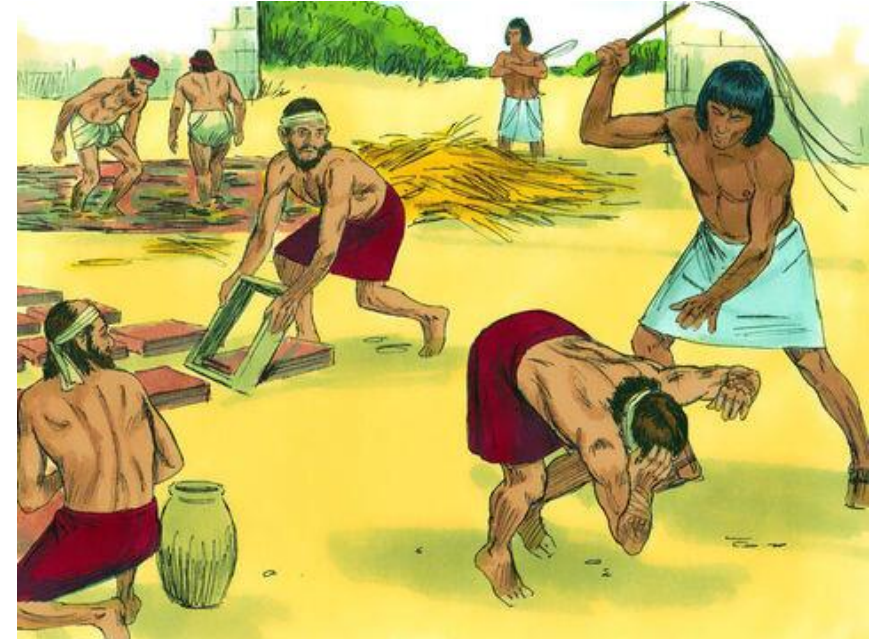
THE HARDNESS OF PHARAOH'S HEART

- A classic response from someone with a hard heart – do the opposite to what is being requested.
- Pharaoh asserts his authority in direct opposition to God.



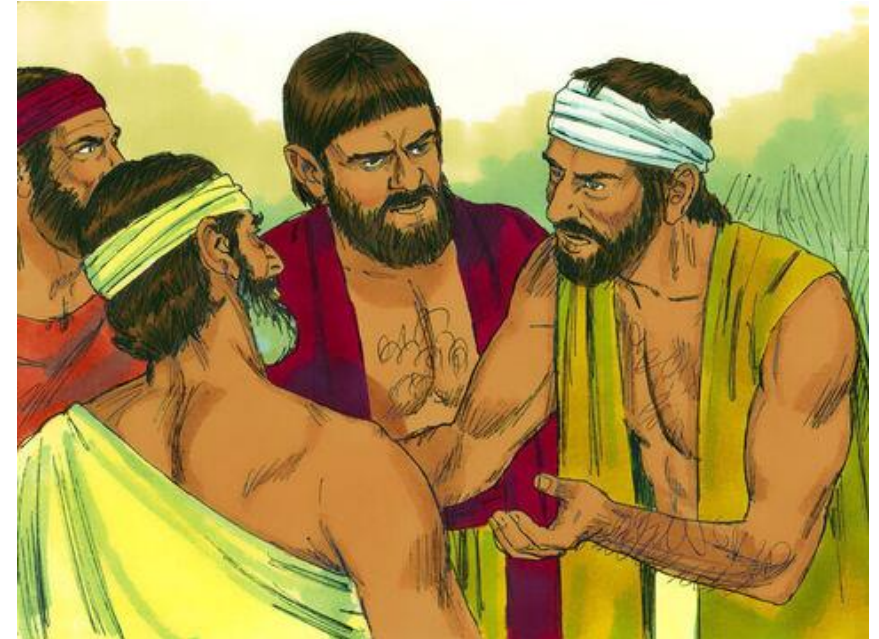
THE HARDNESS OF PHARAOH'S HEART

- Ephesians 6:12. “...our struggle is not against flesh and blood... but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”
- This is what God needed the Israelites to understand.



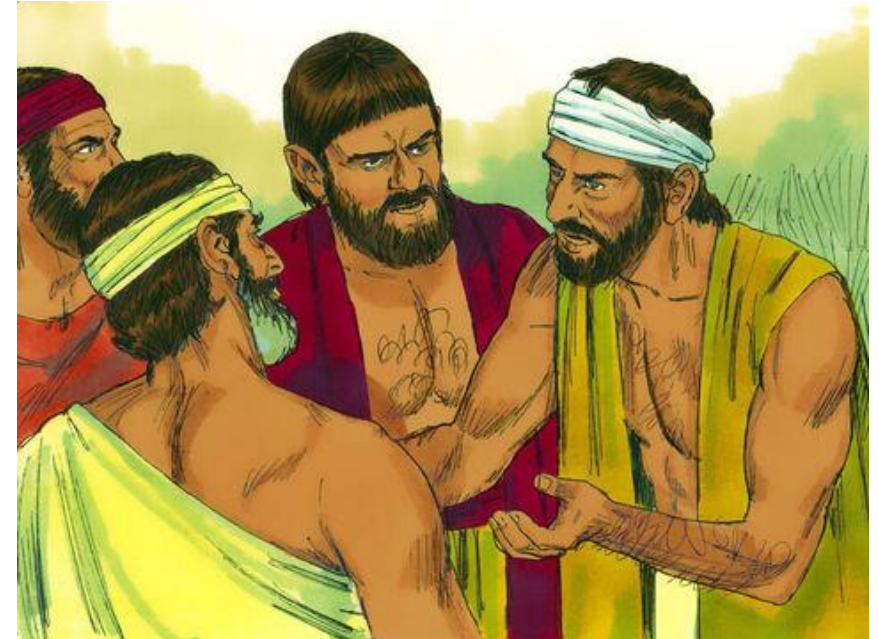
THE SHALLOWNESS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- Exodus 4:31 the elders believed and worshipped God
- Now that things are not following the script they held in their minds...
 - They take matters into their own hands by approaching Pharaoh
 - When that doesn't work they point the finger at Moses
- They are not ready for the journey that lies ahead.



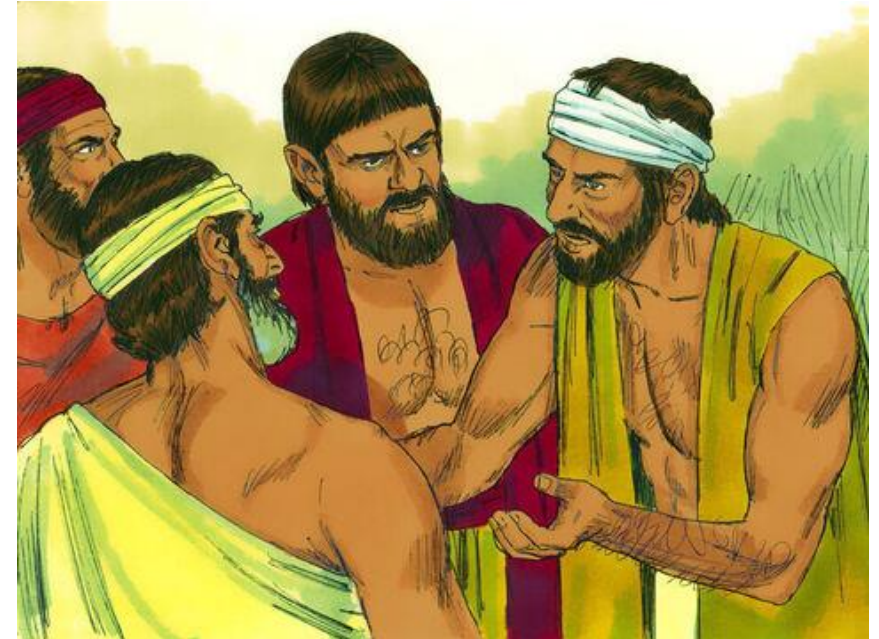
THE SHALLOWNESS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- James 1:3-4 “...the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
- The valley of the shadow of death... this is God's way of testing and growing our desire for him and his ways.
- If you don't have the desire you will look for shortcuts at the first sight of trouble



THE SHALLOWNESS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- Philippians 2:13 (AMP): *¹³ For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfil your purpose] for His good pleasure.*



THE INSECURITY OF MOSES

- Moses has come along way since the start of this story, but...
 - Why was he not standing before Pharaoh with the elders?
 - Why didn't Moses tell Pharaoh that God would destroy their firstborn if he refused to let them go?
- Moses' faith is developing, not complete.
- He was probably ready for Pharaoh to say no, but he did not expect his own people to turn on him. That was not in the script!!
- How quick we are to point the finger.



THE INSECURITY OF MOSES

- What was God trying to teach Moses?
 - Rejected by Pharaoh and now rejected by his own people
 - The hard lesson: ONLY GOD
- God needed Moses to understand that his ultimate security is found only in him.



THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

- What does God do about all of this confusion?
- We find the answer in Exodus 6
 - Note the first thing God says is “Now you will see...”
 - Note what God says to Moses personally.
 - Note how many times God says: “*I will...*”



THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD – EXODUS 6

¹Then 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.”

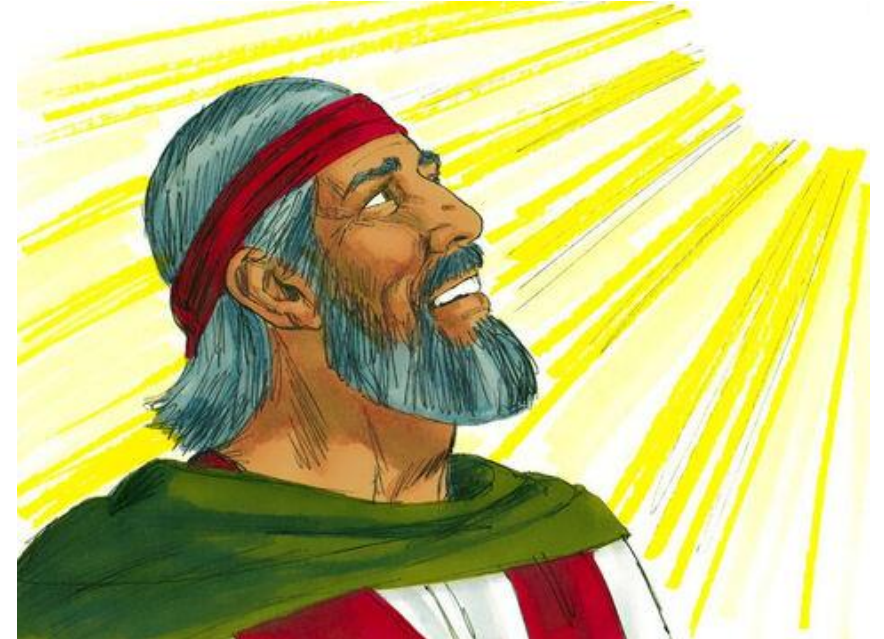
² God also said to Moses, “I am the Lord. ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord. I did not make myself fully known to them. ⁴ I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners. ⁵ Moreover, I have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

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD – EXODUS 6

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.’”

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD – EXODUS 6

- Everything is where God needs it to be
- God impresses on Moses that he is *The Lord*. It's about relationship
- Seven “*I wills..*”.
- “*You have the promise of my changeless omnipotence and faithfulness (6:8 AMP)*”



SUMMARY

- We can't avoid the valley of the shadow of death; we should not try to escape it but walk through it in faith
- In all things, God is working together for good.
- Just because things seem to have gone pear-shaped, doesn't *necessarily* mean you got it wrong.
- God is at work in you to *will* and *to act*, in order to fulfil his good purpose.