

A note from Kathy

Oftentimes things can get worse before they get better. We don't like to think about that happening, but it does. How we choose to respond says a lot about who we are. I have heard it said, "It is not what you know but who you know that matters." I could not agree more. If we know the One who holds all of creation in the palm of His hand, then we need not worry, whatever trials come our way. Why not talk to him for a few minutes before you start these two chapters. Thank him for his care.

Observation

1. In these two chapters, we found Moses and Aaron standing in the presence of Pharaoh. They shared the news with him that the LORD had sent them to say, "Let My people the Israelites go so that they may go and worship in the desert." What was Pharaoh's response?
2. Pharaoh was irritated that Moses and Aaron had come around, messing things up for him. What order did Pharaoh give that made life very hard for the Israelites? Exodus 5:7-13
3. What was Pharaoh's opinion as to why the Israelites were not able to make their quota of bricks?
4. How accurate was the foreman's accusation? Exodus 5:21
5. God is about to show Pharaoh who he is up against. In Exodus 6:1, God told Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh." What did God say it would take for Pharaoh to let the people go? Vs. 1
6. God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is mentioned in Exodus 6:4. God established his covenant with them. What do you know about covenants? What do you know about this covenant that was established by God? Look up Genesis 17:7, 13, and 19. What repeated word do you see describing this covenant?

7. In Exodus 6:6-8, circle all the phrases, “I will.” God was not afraid to state exactly how this situation would go. What did God say would happen? What did you learn about God’s character in these two chapters?
8. What is God’s purpose in all of this? What is the good that will come from all this suffering?
Verse 7 - the word “know” is *yada* in Hebrew. It means to know something by experience.
9. Make a family tree to show the family line written in Exodus 6:13-26. Even if these names do not seem important right now, many of them will be mentioned again later in Exodus and in other books of the Bible. You will be glad you have this family tree.
10. In Exodus 6:28-30, God reminded Moses to say only what God had told him to say and to say it all. What was Moses’ response?

Application

1. Have you ever tried to share God’s word with someone only to have them slam a door in your face or verbally reject the good news you came to share? Pharaoh did not know anything about the God of the Israelites. We shouldn’t be too shocked when the lost world does not thank us for sharing the truth with them. They do not know him. What should that motivate us to do?
2. In Exodus 5:14, the Israelite foremen were beaten because the quota had dropped. They turned on Moses and Aaron in anger. When the heat gets turned up, how do you handle pressure?
3. Exodus 5:22-23 is a very clear example of how important it is for us to be sure of our call. There are many times when things will get worse before they get better, and we must be able to go back in our hearts to verify that this is the work God has called us to do. What are we to do in these difficult circumstances?
4. Have you ever asked, “God where are you?” Where was he?

5. Without Pharaoh's hard heart, Israel might not have gotten a chance to see God's mighty acts on their behalf. They might have thought it was the goodness of Pharaoh or the persuasive words of Moses and Aaron. Do you have a BIG problem? Why not ask God to move mightily on your behalf?
6. God was very clear in Exodus 6:6-8 that he would bring them out. He would free them from their slavery. He would redeem them (buy them back, since they were his chosen people long before Egypt had made slaves of them). They would be his people and he would be their God. He would take them to the land he had promised, and he would give it to them as an everlasting possession. How did the Israelites take this news? Vs. 9
7. Have you ever been so discouraged by your difficult situation that you could not hear or recognize the truth that God was working on your behalf?
8. God instructed Moses to go back to Pharaoh and to tell him to let His people go. What was Moses' objection?
It is hard to believe the world will listen if God's people won't even believe us.
9. The pain and suffering that the Israelites were enduring was hindering them from hearing and believing what Moses was saying. Is God saying something to you that you are having a hard time believing?
10. It is easy to read these chapters and think, come on Moses stand up and quit worrying, it is all going to turn out fine. God is going to do everything he has said he would. But if we put ourselves in Moses' sandals, we will see that it is easy to think these negative thoughts.