

Bricks Without Straw

Exodus 5:1 – 7:13

by Don Falkos

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Moses and Aaron told Pharaoh, "The Lord, the God of Israel, says: Let my people go out into the wilderness so they may offer sacrifices in my honor."

Pharaoh replied, "I don't know 'The Lord', and I will not let Israel go."

That same day Pharaoh issued an order, "Do not supply any more straw for making bricks. Let the people of Israel find it for themselves. But require them to make the same number of bricks as before. They are lazy. That's why they are crying out, 'Let us go and offer sacrifices to our God.' "

The people of Israel scattered throughout the land of Egypt in search of straw. They continued to make bricks, but it was impossible for them to meet their daily quota.

The Egyptian slave drivers whipped the Israelite foremen they had put in charge of the work crews. The foremen complained to Pharaoh, to no avail. Then they confronted Moses and Aaron, "You have given Pharaoh an excuse to kill us!"

But the Lord told Moses, "When Pharaoh feels the force of my strong hand, he will let the people go. I will make you seem like God to Pharaoh, and your brother, Aaron, will be your prophet."

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh who demanded, "Show me a miracle."

Aaron threw down his staff and it became a snake. Then Pharaoh called in his wise men and sorcerers and magicians who did the same thing. They threw down their staffs, which became snakes. But then Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. Pharaoh was unmoved. He still refused to listen.