

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS
EXODUS 4 - THE ROD OF GOD, EXODUS 5 - MOSES AND AARON
BEGIN THEIR COMMISSION FROM GOD AND THE FIRST MESSAGE TO
PHARAOH, EXODUS 6 - I AM THE LORD

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study of the book of the Torah called Exodus. Again we will study how God is working out all the details of this great story for His people.

Exodus 4

Say - We will see how God builds faith in Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

¹And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee (Moses is still not sure he is the one to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.).

²And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A (shepherd's) rod. ³And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it (the serpent has no power).

⁴And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand (God is saying, don't be afraid), and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand (God is building faith in Moses. When we obey God, we build faith.):

⁵That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee (Jesus Christ).

⁶And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom (into the midst of his garment). And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. ⁷And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh (God is the Healer for His people.).

⁸And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken (listen) to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.

⁹And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken (listen) unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the (Nile) river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land (The Egyptians had a god of the Nile River but the True God would show them who was the ONLY God! These "signs" would show Moses was sent with a "divine" mission.).

¹⁰And Moses said unto the LORD, O my LORD, I am not eloquent (Moses is saying I am not a man of words.), neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue (What is important is the message not the messenger.).

¹¹And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? ¹²Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say (Do what I tell you to do.).

¹³And he said, O my LORD, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.

¹⁴And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.

¹⁵And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth (Jesus would put the words in his mouth he was to say and what you say is not going to be man-made.): and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.

¹⁶And he (Aaron) shall be thy spokesman (or prophet) unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God (God's prophet is God's "spokesman" and qualified by God's spirit or power by God making known to him what was to be said to the Pharaoh.).

¹⁷And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.

¹⁸And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father in law, and said unto him, Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace. ¹⁹And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life.

²⁰And Moses took his wife and his sons (Gershom and Eliezer), and set them upon an ass (for they were young), and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

²¹And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand (The "wonders" was a display of the Power of God as the rod became a serpent, the leprosy and the water from the Nile River turned to blood.): but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go (The "rod of God" ended up in the Tabernacle they carried with them in the wilderness and became holy.).

²²And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son (always), even my firstborn (Israel will always have the pre-eminence; they will never lose the title, "my son" no matter how much they are scattered on the earth.):

²³And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.

²⁴And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him (Moses had neglected to circumcise his 2nd son, Eliezer, on the 8th day after his birth and to neglect the "sign" or "seal" or "token" of the covenant which established they were God's people, was considered a sin. Moses would never forget again about the rite of circumcision.).

²⁵Then Zipporah took a sharp stone (knife), and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me (Zipporah takes it upon herself to perform the circumcision but Moses was supposed to have done it.).

²⁶So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision (Zipporah did not know how to do the circumcision so that is why it was very bloody.).

²⁷And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him (It had been 40 years since they were together and it is a custom to kiss on each side of the cheek in meeting.).

²⁸And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him.

²⁹And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel (Now Moses and Aaron begin their commission from God. Aaron was the "spokesman" and Moses performed the miracles God wanted him to do and the elders believed that Moses and Aaron were men sent from God.):

³⁰And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people (A normal custom to have a "spokesman").

³¹And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped (The children of Israel had faith here; what they did not realize this was just the beginning.).

Exodus 5

Say - Moses and Aaron begin their commission from God and deliver their first message to Pharaoh in the name of God.

¹And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness (The "feast" was the Days of Unleavened Bread. The word "feast" means to

circle before God. Also Moses and Aaron are a type of the "two witnesses" which God will use during the great Tribulation to come upon the earth.).

²And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go (Pharaoh is saying, "I don't recognize your God over me").

³And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.

⁴And the king of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works? get you unto your burdens. ⁵And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them rest from their burdens (The "rest" was for the Sabbath day but the Pharaoh thinks they just want a day off.).

⁶And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters (Egyptian officer who kept track of the work done.) of the people, and their officers, saying,

⁷Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw (chaff or chopped straw) for themselves.

⁸And the tale (tally or number) of the bricks, which they did make heretofore, ye shall lay upon them; ye shall not diminish ought (anything) thereof: for they be idle (on the Sabbath day); therefore they cry, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God.

⁹Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein; and let them not regard vain words (This is what they are saying about God's Words that they are "vain"; they will soon learn whose words are "vain").

¹⁰And the taskmasters of the people went out, and their officers, and they spake to the people, saying, Thus saith Pharaoh, I will not give you straw. ¹¹Go ye, get you straw where ye can find it: yet not ought (nothing) of your work shall be diminished.

¹²So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble (reeds) instead of straw.

¹³And the taskmasters hastened them, saying, Fulfil your works, your daily tasks, as when there was straw.

¹⁴And the officers of the children of Israel, which Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten, and demanded, Wherefore have ye not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday (on the Sabbath) and to day, as heretofore?

¹⁵Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried unto Pharaoh, saying, Wherefore dealest thou thus with thy servants? ¹⁶There is no straw given unto thy

servants, and they say to us, Make brick: and, behold, thy servants are beaten; but the fault is in thine own people.

¹⁷But he said, Ye are idle (**lazy**), ye are idle: therefore ye say, Let us go and do sacrifice to the LORD. ¹⁸Go therefore now, and work; for there shall no straw be given you, yet shall ye deliver the tale (**tally or number**) of bricks.

¹⁹And the officers of the children of Israel did see that they were in evil case, after it was said, Ye shall not minish (**diminish nothing**) ought from your bricks of your daily task.

²⁰And they met Moses and Aaron, who stood in the way, as they came forth from Pharaoh (Now the children of Israel began to blame Moses and Aaron.):

²¹And they said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be abhorred (**stink**) in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.

²²And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, LORD, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people? why is it that thou hast sent me? (**Moses accuses God.**)

²³For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he hath done evil to this people; neither hast thou delivered thy people at all (**This is a great lesson on human nature for us all for the day will come when we must endure the trials of the great tribulation for the great joy of the 1st resurrection and the Kingdom of God which is ahead of us all.**).

Exodus 6

Say - We will see in this chapter the children of Israel refuse to listen to Moses and a glimpse of an abbreviated genealogy of Moses.

¹Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.

²And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD (Jehovah, the Eternal; rest assured I will bring all I say to pass.): ³And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty (El Shaddai, the one who sustains or gives nourishment both physically and spiritually), but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them (Your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob knew Him as the God of Nourishment but the children of Israel did not know Him as the one who fulfills His promises but they will learn this in future lessons as we continue to study.).

⁴And I have also established my covenant with them (**individually, Genesis 50:24**), to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers (They "sojourned" in Canaan but they "dwelt" in Egypt).

⁵And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant (the one God made with Abraham; do you remember where to find it in your Bible). ⁶Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem (save) you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments (punishment):

⁷And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians (Because you are going to experience My deliverance.).

⁸And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage (The land of Canaan; the promised land; a land flowing with milk and honey): I am the LORD.

⁹And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage (The children of Israel do not believe what Moses is saying because the Egyptians had increased the afflictions on them daily and it was worse than before the promise of deliverance.).

¹⁰And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹¹Go in, speak unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, that he let the children of Israel go out of his land.

¹²And Moses spake before the LORD, saying, Behold, the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me; how then shall Pharaoh hear me, who am of uncircumcised lips ("Uncircumcised lips" means slow of speech, stammering)? (Moses is still lacking faith in God. Instead of Moses saying, "I will do as you ask" he wants out of this position; he still has to learn some lessons at this point.)

¹³And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, and gave them a charge unto the children of Israel, and unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁴These be the heads of their fathers' houses: The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel; Hanoch, and Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi: these be the families of Reuben.

¹⁵And the sons of Simeon; Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman: these are the families of Simeon.

¹⁶And these are the names of the sons of Levi according to their generations; Gershon, and Kohath, and Merari: and the years of the life of Levi were an hundred thirty and seven years. ¹⁷The sons of Gershon; Libni, and Shimi, according to their families.

¹⁸And the sons of Kohath (Moses, Aaron and Miriam were grandchildren of Kohath); Amram (father of Moses), and Izhar, and Hebron, and Uzziel: and the years of the life of Kohath were an hundred thirty and three years.

¹⁹And the sons of Merari; Mahali and Mushi: these are the families of Levi according to their generations. ²⁰And Amram took him Jochebed his father's sister to wife (Married

his aunt before Sinai and after Sinai it was no longer moral to do so.); and she bare him Aaron and Moses: and the years of the life of Amram were an hundred and thirty and seven years.

²¹And the sons of Izhar; Korah, and Nepheg, and Zichri. ²²And the sons of Uzziel; Mishael, and Elzaphan, and Zithri.

²³And Aaron took him Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab, sister of Naashon, to wife; and she bare him Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ²⁴And the sons of Korah; Assir, and Elkanah, and Abiasaph: these are the families of the Korhites.

²⁵And Eleazar Aaron's son took him one of the daughters of Putiel to wife; and she bare him Phinehas: these are the heads of the fathers of the Levites according to their families.

²⁶These are that Aaron and Moses, to whom the LORD said, Bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their armies (host, meaning that which goes forth).

²⁷These are they which spake to Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring out the children of Israel from Egypt: these are that Moses and Aaron. ²⁸And it came to pass on the day when the LORD spake unto Moses in the land of Egypt, ²⁹That the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, I am the LORD: speak thou unto Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say unto thee.

³⁰And Moses said before the LORD, Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips (meaning slow of speech or stammering), and how shall Pharaoh hearken unto me? (Moses felt unfit for the job to stand before God - who am I to do this and speak Your Words but God knew Moses better than he did.)

MEMORY VERSE

And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent... And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

EXODUS 4:2-4

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS AND YOUTH

"LET MY PEOPLE GO"

ONE DAY WHEN MOSES WAS TENDING HIS FLOCK, FROM A BURNING BUSH, JESUS, A MESSENGER OF GOD, STARTED TO TALK; THEN GOD CALLED OUT FROM THE MIDST OF THE BUSH SAYING, "MOSES! MOSES! HERE I AM, TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES FOR THE GROUND IS HOLY WHERE YOU WALK!"

MY PEOPLE IN EGYPT ARE IN SLAVERY STILL; THEIR SLAVE MASTERS ARE WORKING THEM AT THEIR WILL; FROM DAYLIGHT UNTIL DARK WITH AFFLICTIONS PLENTY, THEY ARE OPPRESSED AND WEARY AND THEIR SORROWS MANY AND IT IS TIME FOR MY COVENANT TO FULFILL!

MOSES, YOU I HAVE CHOSEN UNTO PHARAOH YOU MUST GO AND DELIVER MY CHILDREN OUT OF EGYPT'S HOLD; I HAVE A GOOD LAND WHERE THE "MILK AND HONEY DOES FLOW"; "THE LAND OF THE CANAANITES" IS WHERE THEY MUST GO.

EXCUSES MOSES MADE SAYING, "WHO AM I THAT I SHOULD GO UNTO KING PHARAOH WHOM I DON'T WANT TO KNOW?" "NO ONE WILL BELIEVE ME NOR LISTEN TO MY VOICE FOR THEY WILL SAY GOD HAS NOT TO ME SPOKE".

BUILDING FAITH IN MOSES, GOD SAID, "WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND?" MOSES SAID, "IT IS A SHEPHERD'S ROD"; GOD SAID, "CAST IT TO THE GROUND" AND A SERPENT IT BECAME ALL BY THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD!

GOD SAID, "PUT FORTH YOUR HAND TAKE IT BY THE TAIL"; THE SERPENT STIFFENED AND BECAME A ROD IN HIS HAND! GOD SAID, "MOSES, I WILL BE WITH YOU TO THE END FROM EGYPT I WILL LEAD MY PEOPLE WITH A MIGHTY HAND!"

MOSES SAID SURELY A HELPER I WILL NEED AND AARON, HIS BROTHER, BECAME HIS HELPER INDEED! OFF THEY WENT WITH THEIR SHEPHERD'S ROD IN HAND, OFF TO BRING THE CHILDREN TO CANAAN WITH GOD IN THE LEAD.

SOON MOSES AND AARON BROUGHT GOD'S MESSAGE TO TELL BUT
THE PHARAOH HAD NEVER HEARD OF THE GOD OF ISRAEL;
"LET MY PEOPLE GO" WAS THE MESSAGE BOLD; PHARAOH SAID, "I
KNOW NOT YOUR GOD AND NEITHER WILL I LET ISRAEL GO" IS
WHAT HE SAID.

PHARAOH INCREASED THE WORKLOAD OF THE SLAVES FROM THAT
DAY ON; THE TASKMASTERS MISTREATED THEM IN
EVERYWAY;
FROM DAYLIGHT UNTIL DARK HE WORKED THEM IN THE BLAZING
SUN MAKING BRICK BY BRICK UNTIL THE WORK WAS DONE
AND THEY WERE TO DO IT JUST AS HE DID SAY.

THE ISRAELITES RESTED ON THE SABBATH DAY BUT PHARAOH SAID,
"YOU ARE LAZY" AND YOU'RE BEHIND IN THE NUMBER OF
BRICKS YOU ARE TO MAKE TODAY;
NO MORE SHALL WE GIVE THE ISRAELITES STRAW BUT WE WILL
SCATTER THEM THROUGHOUT EGYPT AND THEY CAN GATHER
THE STUBBLE ON THEIR OWN EACH AND EVERY DAY.

THE ISRAELITES CRIED, "LET US GO AND SACRIFICE TO OUR GOD".
MOSES WENT TO GOD AND SAID, "WHEREFORE HAST THOU
SO EVIL ENTREATED THIS PEOPLE?"
GOD SAID, "NOW YOU WILL SEE WHAT I WILL DO TO PHARAOH FOR
WITH A STRONG HAND, HE SHALL DRIVE OUT MY PEOPLE".

GOD CONTINUED, "I HAVE HEARD THE GROANING OF THE CHILDREN
OF ISRAEL WHOM THE EGYPTIANS KEEP IN BONDAGE AND I
REMEMBER MY COVENANT I MADE WITH ABRAHAM,
ISAAC AND JACOB;"

"I WILL BRING YOU OUT FROM THE BURDENS AND BONDAGE FOR I
AM THE LORD AND I WILL SAVE YOU WITH AN OUTSTRETCHED
ARM FOR I WILL BRING GREAT PUNISHMENT UPON
EGYPTLAND"!

BY B. R. B.

AND THE LORD SAID UNTO HIM (MOSES)
WHAT IS THAT IN THINE HAND? AND HE
SAID, A (SHEPHERD'S) ROD. AND HE SAID,
CAST IT ON THE GROUND.

AND HE CAST IT ON THE GROUND,
AND IT BECAME A SERPENT;
AND MOSES FLED FROM
BEFORE IT.

PUT FORTH THINE
HAND AND TAKE
IT BY THE TAIL.

AND HE PUT
FORTH HIS HAND
AND CAUGHT IT,
AND IT BECAME A
ROD IN HIS HAND.

EXODUS 4:3-4

