



When God told Moses that he was to lead the Israelite people out of Egyptian slavery, Moses felt unable. He begged God to send someone else, but God promised to be with Moses. Because Moses felt that he could not speak well, God told Aaron, Moses' brother, to go into the wilderness to meet Moses. Aaron would speak to the people for Moses. When they met, Moses told Aaron all that God had said.

Together Moses and Aaron went before the elders of Israel. Aaron "spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people." (The signs that God had told Moses to show to the people were these: Moses' rod turned into a serpent, his hand turned leprous, and the river water turned to blood.) The people believed, just as God had promised they would (Exodus 3:15-18). When they heard that God "had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped" the Lord.

Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh and said, "Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness." To this 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."

Moses and Aaron asked for permission to go into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord, but Pharaoh told them they were hindering the people from their work. Then Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters not to give straw to the Israelites anymore for making bricks. (Mud and straw were mixed together, placed into a mold, and then dried to make bricks.) The people had to search for straw, yet still make the same number of bricks! This order of Pharaoh's was unfair and cruel. The people had to scatter abroad throughout the land to find straw. That made their work even harder.

Church of God Sunday School

MOSES AND AARON GO BEFORE PHARAOH

Exodus 4:27 — 6:11

When the Israelites could not keep making the same amount of bricks as before, the officers of the children of Israel were beaten. They went and cried to Pharaoh, asking why he was mistreating them. The officers told Pharaoh that the fault was with his own taskmasters, because they would not give the people straw to make bricks. Pharaoh said the people were idle, because they wanted to go sacrifice to God. He told them to go back to their work. They would be given no straw!

The officers of Israel met Moses and Aaron as they left Pharaoh and complained that Moses was giving the Egyptians a reason to want to kill them. Moses went to God, asking Him why He had sent him, because the people had only been treated worse.

Then God spoke strong words to Moses: "Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh . . . I am the LORD." God assured Moses that He had heard the groaning of the children of Israel. He remembered His covenant. He was going to bring Israel out from their terrible bondage with "a stretched out arm, and with great judgments."

God said Israel would be His people, and He would be their God. He would bring His people to the land He had promised to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. He would give it to them "for an heritage" (inheritance).

Moses told all of this to the children of Israel, but they did not believe him "for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage." The Lord told Moses to speak to Pharaoh and tell him to let the children of Israel go. God was going to harden Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 4:21), so that all the Egyptians would see His "great judgments" on the land of Egypt. Then they would know, without a shadow of doubt, that God had delivered His people!

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments."*  
—Exodus 6:6  
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