

# Exodus

## Moses returns to Egypt

- He secures leave from his father-in-law Jethro 4:18-20
- The LORD prepares Moses for Pharaoh's resistance. 4:21-23
  - The hardening of Pharaoh's heart is God's response to Pharaoh hardening his own heart.
  - The LORD reveals the lengths to which He will go to free his children

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- Zipporah averted disaster by circumcising one of their sons. 4:24-26
  - Moses seemed to be incapacitated and near death
  - Zipporah discerned that this condition was God's judgment due to disobedience regarding the circumcision of every male child born to His people.
  - Circumcision was the absolute, unmistakable mark that distinguished the chosen people of God.
  - Perhaps Moses' last desperate attempt to disqualify himself for this task to which God had called him was to show up in Egypt having neglected the command of God that every male was to be circumcised on the eighth day of life.

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- Reconnection with Aaron and meeting with the leaders of Israel. 4:27-31
  - God sent Aaron to meet Moses
  - Together they met with the leaders of Israel.
    - Related the words God had spoken to them
    - Performed the sign God had ordered them to show.
    - The people believed and worshipped God.

## Moses' and Aaron's first encounter with Pharaoh.

- On behalf of Yahweh, the God of Israel, they deliver the message: Let my people go that they may hold a feast in the wilderness.
- Pharaoh responded that he had never heard of this God called Yahweh.
- He further flatly denied the request.
- Moses and Aaron make an appeal based on the fact that the God of the Hebrews had appeared to them with this message and to disobey put them in danger of falling under His judgment.

## Moses' and Aaron's first encounter with Pharaoh.

- Pharaoh's response was to determine that the people had too much time on their hands which has led them to entertain such foolish notions.
- He ordered that their workload increase by making them gather their own straw for bricks and produce the same number of bricks as when the straw had been provided to them.
- The Israelite foremen were beaten when the quota of bricks were not maintained.

## Moses' and Aaron's first encounter with Pharaoh.

- Reactions to this first encounter:
  - The foremen approach Pharaoh with the unreasonable situation of making the bricks without the provision of straw.
  - Pharaoh chides them with the accusation that the appeal to go into the wilderness and sacrifice to their God is a result of too much leisure time.
  - The foremen are dismayed and accuse Moses and Aaron of creating this hardship
  - Moses complained to the LORD that He had done evil to these people
  - Moses questioned God's judgment in sending him on this mission
  - Moses complained that God had not delivered the people as He promised.