

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Pinecrest Baptist Church  
a.m.

Sermon Series: Delivered; Rescued from Bondage  
Sermon #4 Title: *The Fall of Pharaoh's Philosophy*  
Sermon #4 Text: (Exodus 5:1-4)

We are studying that great Epic in History, when God Delivered the Nation of Israel, and Decimated the Nation of Egypt.

In our study this morning, here is where we are:

- 1.) God has Called Moses to Lead Israel.
- 2.) God has Called Israel to Leave Egypt.  
(God didn't just want to end their suffering, He wanted to change their address. He didn't work just to end their sorrow, He called them to leave their world.)

\*Note – And now this morning, we come to the place where  
3.) God calls Pharaoh to obey Him, and to let Israel go.

\*Note – Here is one of those times in the scriptures where we see something we don't often study – we see a conversation in which God, the High King of Heaven; converses with a lost and pagan king.

The framework of this conversation should be easy to see. - Through Moses, God informed Pharaoh of His divine will, explained His clear expectations, and instructed Pharaoh of His clear desire.

In these 4 verses, we are going to see 4 topics of consequence in one short conversation.

- The conversation contains 3 personalities, and 3 different structures.

- 1.) Ultimately, it is a conversation between God and Pharaoh.
- 2.) Materially, it is a conversation between God and Pharaoh through Moses.
- 3.) Humanistically, it is a conversation between Moses and Pharaoh.

\*Note – Now before we begin, we take note of exactly where we are in this epic. –

Vs 1 – “And Afterward”

In chapter 4, Moses obeyed God's instructions that were given to him at the end of chapter 3.

- God had told him to call the elders of Israel together, and tell them all that he had been instructed to do.

4:29 – 31 – *“And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him. And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel: And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. And 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.”*

\*Note – In short, Moses did what all people ought to do when they hear the Word of God from God – He obeyed.

\*Note – Now I don't know their demeanor at the end of chapter 4, but it does tell us the mood of both Moses and the people – “they believed.... And .... they worshipped!”

(Whatever else may be said about the end of chapter 4, we know this – they began this epic together, with their heads bowed and their hearts pointed in the right direction)

- The news was good
- God has heard our cry
- Moses is here to lead us out!

\*Note – The scripture does not say so, but I cannot help but think that the Spiritual and Emotional Morale of the people had to be at the highest point that generation had ever known.)

\*Note – Now “Afterward”

- This great worship service didn't bring them to a time of great joy, and then go home and bask in the emotions of that moment.
- This great worship service resulted in immediate obedience!

\*Note – That is one way that you know you have rightly worshipped the Lord – you come out with a zeal for obedience!

- Isaiah saw the Lord in the purest form of worship and said, “I am a man of unclean lips . . . the Lord dealt with him, and then he said . . . Here I am, send me!”

\*Note – I don't think anyone can enter the throne room of God and not come out looking for ways to obey God.

\*Note – That being said, Moses and Aaron now go to do what God called them to do.

- And this conversation we note four topics of consequence every man needs to observe.

- (Now remember – this is the Holy God of heaven interacting with a pagan man of earth)

I. The Points of Confrontation – vs 1 - “And 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.”

\*Note – Make no mistake about it, in one way, God is confronting Pharaoh in the same areas that He confronts every man!

\*Note – Now not every man is king of Egypt, nor is every man abusive or oppressive of other nations – yet every man has the same roots of sin, that manifests in different fruits of sin, and God meets Pharaoh at those points of confrontation.

**A. Sovereign Power** – First message to Pharaoh – “Thus saith the Lord God of Israel.”

1.) Now you may not see it this way at first, but this is a full-frontal assault on the presumed Sovereignty Pharaoh took to himself.

a.) In Egypt at that time, - the King was not merely a political leader, but he was in all counts by the people viewed as their sovereign ruler and elevated to the status of a god.

b.) The default mindset of the people, as well as Pharaoh was that he was the

supreme god over all of Egypt and all that Egypt possessed.

\*Note – Here's the point – and the point of confrontation – When Moses said, "Thus saith the Lord God of Israel" it was front door declaration that "You, Pharaoh, are NOT the God of Israel."

Now of course this could be carried further to say, Pharaoh, you are not god, at all! – You are not god of Egypt – you are not god of Pithom, Raamses, or any other city in Egypt, and for that matter, you are not even God over yourself....

(\*Note – All sane people will admit they are not God. Yet most sane people act as though they are as FREE as God, or FREE from God, which is nothing short of living like you are your own god. – Which is exactly what Satan was selling in the garden.)

\*Note – This is one of the first points of confrontation between God and man that all men have to face. –

- Not what it means that He is God – but what it means that you are NOT!

\*Note – Rarely do men think about all of the ground they are trespassing on, living like they have free reign, but are doing so with the Lord's permission!

- A man says, "I don't need the Lord's permission – Man you have to have the Lord's permission to breathe...."

The Lord confronted Pharaoh at the question of Sovereign Power.

\*Note – The Lord confronted Pharaoh over the question of Sovereign Possession.

**B. Sovereign Possession** – "Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let MY people go." - These people are mine – not yours.

\*note – Not only do you not have sovereign power – you have no sovereign possession – These are "My people" and I am telling you what to do with them.

Possession is not 9/10ths of the law, Possession is 100% the Lord's.

1.) Pharaoh had no right to exercise authority over the people of Israel contradicting the Will and Word of God.

2.) Egypt – had no divine right to exercise authority over the people of Israel that God did not give them as a nation.

\*Note – The most corrosive philosophy that permeates a worldly mind is any notion that a man actually and ultimately owns something to the exclusion of Divine Right.

\*Note – Now thirdly we see where Pharaoh will have to respond to God's Sovereign Aggression.

**C. Sovereign Aggression** – "Let my people go...that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness."

\*Note – God has directly through Moses directed and commanded this lost pagan Pharaoh to respond to Him in obedience.

\*Note – Now note the instructions:

1.) "Let them go . . . to the wilderness."  
- away from you – they may go – you may not come.

\*Note – It should be noted that the Lord could have said, I am taking them away from you! – He did not! – He said, You are going to let them go and come to me!

(The reality here is that God is not telling Pharaoh yet what He is going to do; God is telling Pharaoh what He expects Pharaoh to do.)

2.) Why – That they may have a feast unto me!

\*Note – While there is much here in understanding this call for the Israelites to worship; there is also a degree of mercy, love, and care for the heart and mind of the Egyptians.

a.) The Israelite feast would have meant the slaughter and consumption of cattle, and sheep. – While it would have done good for Pharaoh to watch the Israelites EAT their Cow gods; there were Egyptians that such an offense to them would close their hearts forever to the God of the Hebrews.

There are times that God deals with people in blunt shock and awe like divine carpet bombing. Then there are times when God sees that there are still people within a nation whose hearts and minds are not so far gone that they cannot be reached with the truth. He knows when to Offend bluntly – and when to Teach mercifully.

\*Note – All of that being said, these are the points of confrontation between God and Pharaoh!

II. The Factors of Devastation - Vs 2 - “And 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.”

\*Note – If you ever need a lesson in how NOT to respond to the God of the Bible, this Egyptian madman was it!

- There are two factors of deadly ignorance that he puts on full color display for all to see.

**A. Brazen Arrogance** – “Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?”

1.) Now if there has never, ever, no never, been even the slightest hint of knowledge about the God of the Hebrews, this might seem like an honest and natural question.

2.) But that is not the case here –

\*Note – If you know anything about Egypt, even in ancient history, they were obsessed with keeping records of history. (I am not speaking about Modern Egypt now, I am speaking about Egypt then; and it is fundamentally absurd to think that such a Pharaoh would be intellectually and academically ignorant of the God of the Hebrews.)

- Genesis 41:37 – “*And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is....Thou shalt be over my house and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.*”

Up until this Pharaoh’s father had become king, Egypt had lived for over 300 years with a full clear understanding of the God of the Hebrews!

- Though they did not convert to Him – They lived under the acknowledgment of Him over the Jews.

- Furthermore, before one became Pharaoh, he was schooled in Egyptian knowledge, and trained in Egyptian might.

\*Note – The History of how the Hebrews came to live in Egypt at that point in time had to be ensconced in the national history.

(\*Note – Now when we read that the previous Pharaoh, knew not Joseph, is not a statement saying that he was academically ignorant of Joseph – but that he had no regard, or respect for what Joseph meant to the nation of Egypt.

- That is what is happening here.
- This Pharaoh, is given the direct opportunity to restore respect, acknowledgement, not only of Israel's history, but of Egypt's as well; and he refuses to.

\*Note – Let me ask you this.... Who saved Egypt from Famine 400 years before this point in time? – It was not Joseph... It was the God of the Hebrews.

- 1.) It was the God of the Hebrews that spoke to that Pharaoh in a dream.
- 2.) It was the God of the Hebrews that provided a man with wisdom to Egypt that they might prepare for the trouble.

The Historic health and well-being of the Egyptian nation had been provided by the God of the Hebrews; and now that God of the Hebrews is speaking again!

- It is Brazen Burning and Belligerent Arrogance to say with a bold face, and a stubborn look – “Who are you talking about?!! I don't Owe him anything!!”

**B. Blind Defiance** – “I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.”

- 1.) One historian, (I cannot speak to the accuracy of this account, just the claim of it)

states that this was an ancient way of speaking about foreign relations among nations.

- In other words – “to be an ally with another nation” was to be “in the know” with that nation. To not be in the “know” of that nation was to say, “We are not allies”.

\*Note - Now whether that was national language or not, it most certainly has the exact same effect! – “I am no ally of the God of Israel – know that, and know it well!”

2.) But more than that – here's the short answer – “NO!”

- “I know not – I will obey not!”

\*Note – Now here is the reality for THAT Pharaoh

- “I refuse to know the god of the Hebrews ... and I choose to not obey Him.”

\*Note – Now it is not hard to find people in the world that brazen today. – They are all over the news, all over the inner-city sidewalks, and the openly hostile universities. – They will say it, say it proud, and say it loud.

\*Note – But what is harder is finding people who are saying that with their lives, but not their lips. People who from the inside out, WILL NOT give up their idols – WILL NOT give up their “world” in order to be obedient to God.

Now here's the point – Those two attitudes, whether subtle, or hostile – Brazen arrogance, and Blind Defiance are two factors that set one on the downhill slide to devastation.

- MUCH Sorrow in Egypt, could have been avoided in the first two verses of chapter 5.

- Friend, you may be following the footsteps of a Fallen Pharaoh, when those two attitudes operate the controls of your life.

III. The Picture of Dedication - Vs 3 - "And 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 sword."

\*Note – Notice the change in Moses' message. He has gone from quoting God directly, to testifying of himself.

- Verse 1 – "Thus saith the Lord"

- Verse 3 – "Moses is speaking for himself now."

\*Note – We now see that this Mediocre man, who has spent 40 years on the backside of a Midianite mountain, is now a changed man. (He will still have his weak moments; but he will have them pointed in the right direction)

**A. Personal Connection** – "The God of the Hebrews hath met with us."

1.) We have Met With GOD Himself.

a.) It could never have been said of Pharaoh, that Ra had met with him.

b.) It could never have been said of any Egyptian, that any Scarab had met with them.

\*Note – This was a claim that no doubt was a foreign concept to Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

- "gods" were not something that "met with men" – they were something to be appeased by men.

We have met God, and God has met us!

(Now that is one way of saying to Pharaoh – We're no longer impressed with you!)

**B. Personal Conversion** – "let us go" (Hebrews 11)

\*Note – This Moses is different than the one who fled Egypt. He is not different merely by age, He is different by Conversion. (How do you know that?)

1.) Hebrews 11:24-27 – *"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible."*

\*Note – Remember Exodus 2:14-15 – When Moses was confronted about the killing of the Egyptian, the Bible says – 'And Moses feared . . . and then fled . . .'

Moses fled in fear, and returned in faith! – Moses fled from a Murder, and returned in Mercy.

**C. Personal Conviction** – "lest He fall upon us with pestilence or sword."

1.) Moses knew that Disobeying God was far worse, than disobeying Pharaoh.

\*Note – Now Moses doesn't say it this way, but the effect of what he said is this way...

a.) Look – we can leave with God, or be destroyed by God – but our days under you are over.

\*Note – Moses said, “I would rather suffer the consequences of making you mad, than the consequences of not following my God.”

- I can find no BETTER picture of a dedicated servant than one who knows His Connection with the Lord, Lives His Conversion before the People, and Stands in Conviction on God’s Word.

God had told Moses – come out and worship me. – And ultimately and eventually such a thing would happen!

IV. The Moment of Disintegration Vs 4 - “And the king of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works? Get you unto your burdens.”

\*Note – There are two things that come out of Pharaoh’s response to Moses here.

**A. Slander** – “Wherefore do ye Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works?”

1.) The first thing that Pharaoh does is attack the character, and integrity of Moses and Aaron.

- a.) Pharaoh labeled their motives
- b.) Pharaoh defined their purpose

\*Note – Pharaoh did what the enemy has always done, which is not merely to reject the truth of the message, but to insult and slander the integrity of the messenger. – Assigning motives, and defining purposes.

\*Note – One of the first characteristics of those who are hostile to the God of the Bible, is not that they reject Him, but that they want you to as well! – And do all they know to do, to bully you in the process.

**B. Pressure** – “Get you to your burdens” – We tell you what you need to be doing.

\*Note – Moses and Israel would stand between two commands and two words, and two powers. They would stand between the earthly pressures and the divine leadership.

1.) To get to your burdens

a.) Pharaoh’s way of saying – you are nothing by my slave.

(1.) I control your time

(2.) I control your energy

(3.) I control your attention

\*Note – By the way, there are countless people living under the whip of invisible Pharaoh’s right now.

- Something or someone OTHER than the Lord Controls your time

- Something or someone OTHER than the Lord Controls your energy and your attention!

\*Note – All of that being said, it is here where the lug nuts on Pharaoh’s chariots start to get loosened. It is here where his defiance and delusion begins to accelerate into sheer madness.

(No man Curses the Light, and then does well in the dark)

Conclusion: God has spoken to your Pharaoh – and said to let you go....but you have to want to leave. God has spoken to you AS Pharaoh, and said trust me and obey me. God has spoken to you, I am here to lead you out...follow me.

- It does you no good to want to go to Canaan, if you are unwilling to leave Egypt.