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THE LIFE OF MOSES – LESSON 18

PHARAOH OFFERS A COMPROMISE

After the seventh plague of hailstones mingled with fire, Moses was again sent by God to Pharaoh (Exodus 10:1-20). Moses told him that these judgments of plagues were signs that Jehovah was the true God, and this was to be rehearsed in the ears of Pharaoh's lineage generationally.

Moses rebuked him, asking in verse 3, ***“How long will you refuse to humble yourself before [Jehovah]?”*** (NKJV). Moses told the king that his refusal would bring hoards of locusts to eat anything green that remained from the hailstorm.

Pharaoh's servants begged him to relent. They were already convinced about Jehovah. It is reasonably safe to assume the entire Egyptian population also understood this by now, as evidenced when they voluntarily yielded up all their goods when Israel departed at the Passover which was yet to come.

Pharaoh asked Moses who he intended to take to the wilderness for the feast to Jehovah. Moses replied “everybody, young and old, plus our flocks” (my paraphrase). Pharaoh tried to negotiate a compromise to let only the grown men go.

Pharaoh said in verses 10-11 (NIV), ***“The LORD be with you [i.e., god help you] if I let you go, along with your women and children! Clearly you are bent on evil [to not return]. No! Have only the [grown] men go...”*** He was not about to risk losing his slave labor which numbered into hundreds of thousands of men.

The Amplified Version tells it well (Ex. 10:10-11). Pharaoh's reply to Moses was ***“The LORD be with you [to help you], if I ever let you go with your children [because you will never return]! Go now, you who are men [without your families] and serve the LORD, if that is what you want.”***

Moses and Aaron were then forcibly driven out from the king's presence by his guards.

Sorry, Pharaoh! God does not compromise His plans according to the desires or demands of man. Folks, have we ever tried to bargain with God, especially when His word is very clear on a matter? Sometimes we try to force our way or our desires even if Holy Spirit or the written word (rhema or logos) indicates otherwise. Wisdom says we should yield and choose to subject ourselves to the better path or to His revealed plan. To “have it your way” leads to an unsatisfactory result.