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THE LIFE OF MOSES – LESSON 9

FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH PHARAOH

After Moses' illness, he proceeded onward to Egypt. His brother Aaron was sent out into the wilderness by God to meet him. After Moses had told everything to Aaron, they went together into Egypt and gathered all the elders of the Hebrews. Aaron told them everything and performed the three miracle signs for them. The elders believed them and were glad that God had responded to their affliction (Exodus 4:27-31.) They bowed down and worshipped. Now it was time to speak to Pharaoh.

God had previously told Moses something he was to say to Pharaoh, specifically in Exodus 4:22-23, "***Israel is my son, even my firstborn...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.***" This prophesied the tenth and final plague that was yet to happen. God also said that Pharaoh's heart would be hardened, so Moses knew this was going to be no easy task.

This message was very important because the people of that time put great stock in a firstborn son, even to the point of all inheritance going to him. For the king, it also meant his oldest son was next in line to become Pharaoh. (Pharaoh was the official title of the king, not his personal name.)

We read now of Moses and Aaron's first encounter with Pharaoh (Exodus 5:1). Their request to take the people three days into the desert to sacrifice to their God was denied. Not only did Pharaoh deny the request, but he also responded very harshly.

Tomorrow we will look into that response and its consequences and Moses' response.