

Discussion Questions
Exodus 5-6

1. Read 5:1-10. By what authority does Moses ask Pharaoh to allow the Israelites to go to worship their God? By what authority does Pharaoh make his decrees? What does Pharaoh's response to Moses' request reveal about Pharaoh's character?

2. Moses' appeal to Pharaoh produces a disastrous result: the intensification of Israel's hardship and affliction. What did God tell Moses in 3:19 that should have prepared him for Pharaoh's answer? In light of question 1 above, what might be God's purpose for this?

3. In Exodus 5:15-23, the Israelites began to grumble after Pharaoh not only forbid them to leave, but also made their forced labor even harder. As we will see, such grumbling becomes a major theme of the entire book of Exodus and a characteristic of the people of Israel thereafter. If we are honest with ourselves, we too are prone to grumble in difficult situations. In what ways can our confidence in the Lord be revitalized through meditating on a passage such as this?

4. Count how many times the word "I" appears in verses 6:1-8. To whom does it refer? By whose hand will the Israelites be ultimately be freed? Why is this fact important as we go forward?

5. Exodus 6:14-30 contains a genealogy of Moses and Aaron linking them back to the twelve sons of Israel from Genesis. Why is such a genealogy significant at this point in the narrative?

6. Considering the Lord's unfolding plan of redemption from Genesis to this point in Exodus, if you are a Christian, how is the Lord's initiative in redeeming Israel a picture of our own redemption through Jesus Christ? If you are not a Christian, what is preventing you from receiving redemption in Christ? Given our study thus far, with whom are you fighting?