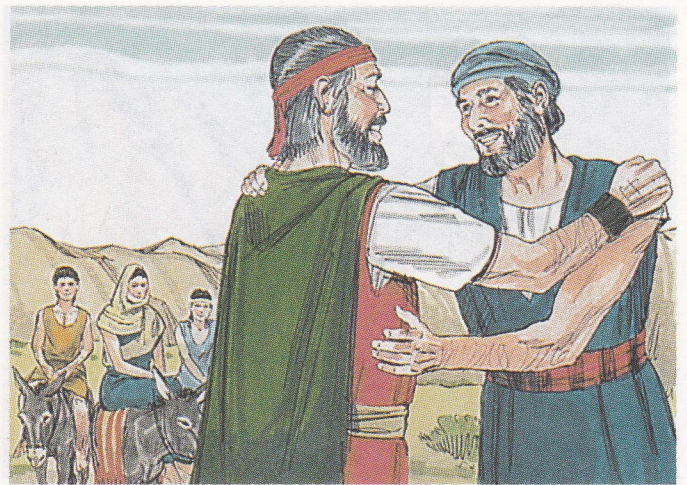


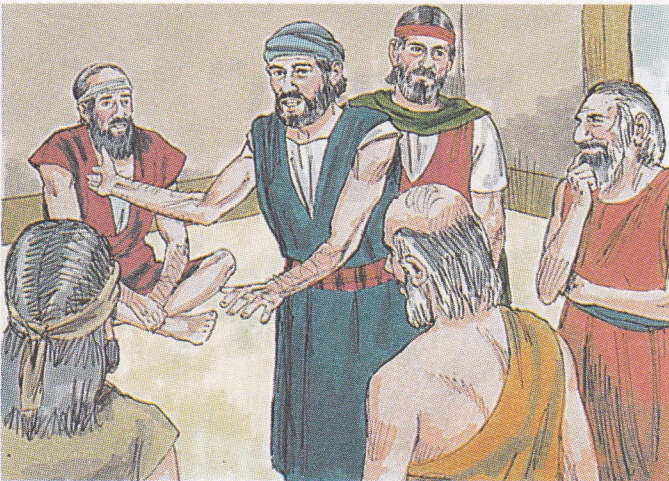
Moses Confronts Pharaoh



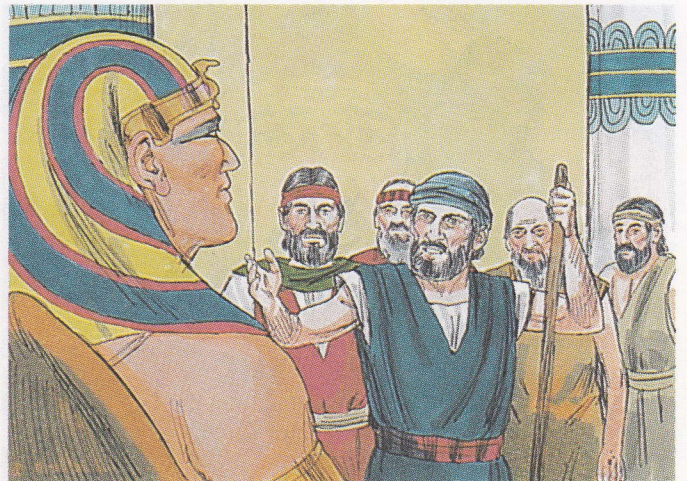
1 At the burning bush, God assured Moses that he would be able to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses went back to Midian, got his wife and sons, and set out for Egypt.



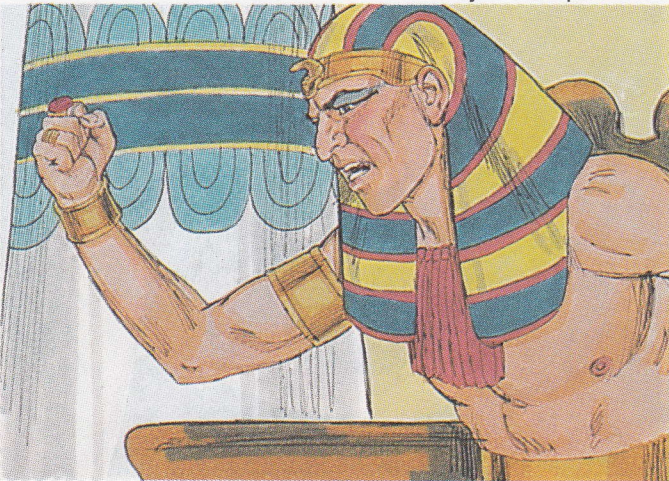
2 In the meantime God had appeared to Aaron, Moses' brother, and told him to go into the desert to meet Moses. When Aaron found Moses, he learned about God's plan.



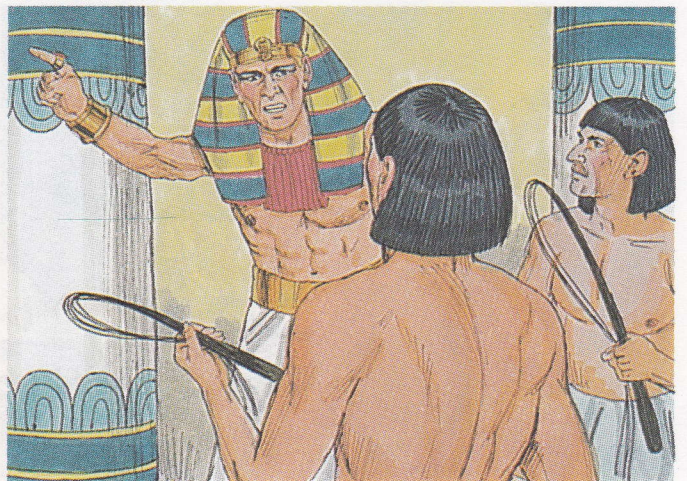
3 So Moses and Aaron went back to Egypt. They told the leaders of the Israelites about God's plan. When the leaders saw the miracles, they believed that God was about to rescue them and they worshiped him.



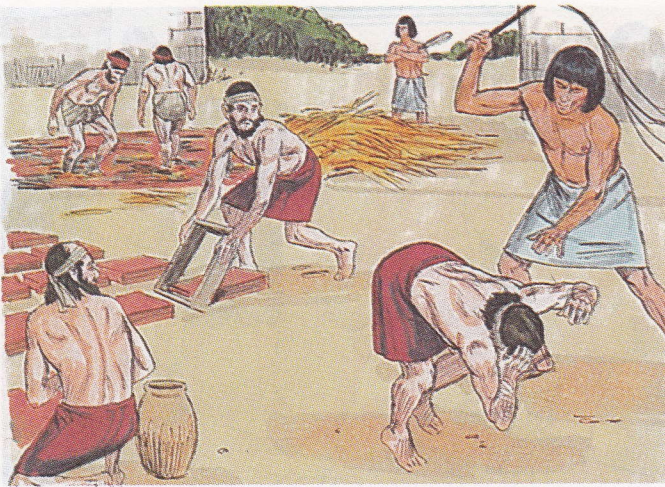
4 Moses and Aaron and the leaders of Israel went to the Pharaoh. They boldly said to him, "The Lord our God says, 'Let my people go, so that they can worship me in the desert.'"



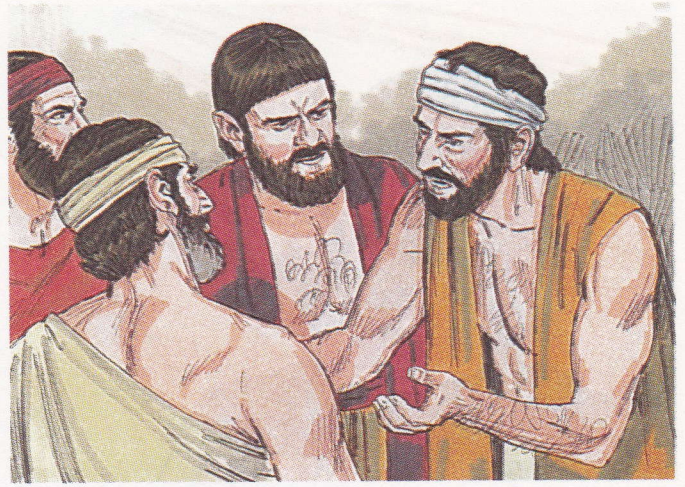
5 But Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord? Why should I listen to him and let you go?" Pharaoh was angry with them for causing the Hebrew slaves to do less work than before.



6 That same day Pharaoh commanded the Egyptian slave masters to stop giving the Hebrews straw. From now on they would have to find their own straw. But they had to make just as many bricks.



7 So the Hebrews had to go all over Egypt looking for straw. It took so much time that they couldn't make as many bricks as before. So the Egyptian slave masters beat the Hebrew foremen.



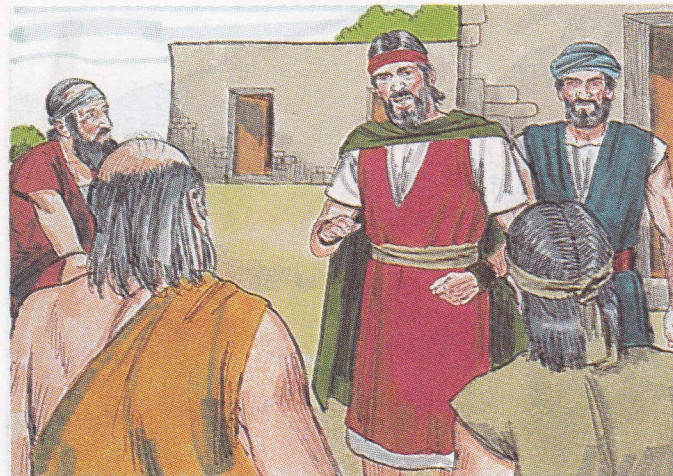
8 The foremen complained to Pharaoh, but he only told them to get back to work. Then they were angry with Moses and Aaron. "God will surely punish you for making Pharaoh hate us more," they said.



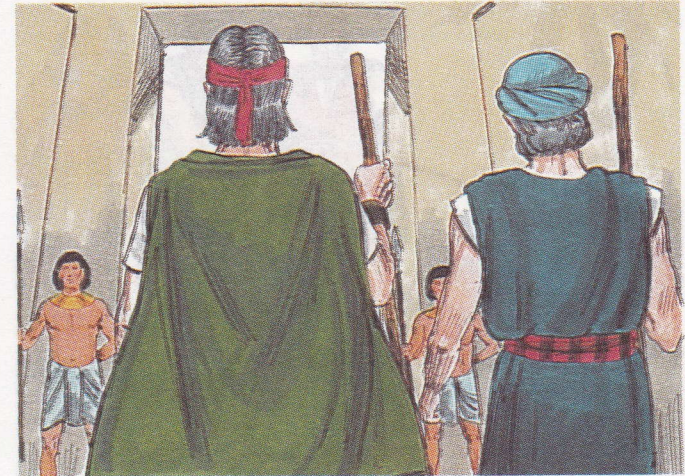
9 Moses himself was very upset that God had done nothing to help. What good had it done for God to send him if it had only made the Pharaoh treat the people worse?



10 God answered Moses, saying, "You are about to see what I will do to Pharaoh. I will force him to let my people go."



11 Moses told the people what God had said, but they would not believe him. Their cruel slavery had made them too discouraged.



12 The Lord told Moses to go before Pharaoh again and tell him to let the Israelites leave Egypt. God was now ready to use his power against Pharaoh.