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## The First Encounter with Pharaoh

### 5:1 to 6:27



The first encounter between **Pharaoh, Moses and Aaron** was confrontational. The episode served to demonstrate **Pharaoh's** true colors. **He** was playing at being god. Therefore, **he** persecuted **the Hebrews** still more and imposed even greater burdens upon them. **The Hebrew** prophets were certainly surprised by such a turn of events. **They** were rather confident that **the king of Egypt** would let **the people** go because **God** had commanded it. They were disappointed indeed.

But **YHVH** was at work. **He** was in the process of hardening **Pharaoh's** heart so that **the king** would not release **the Israelites**. The reason was very clear. It was so **the LORD** would then bring judgments upon **Egypt** and miraculously bring **His people** out of that wicked land. And, in that manner, **God** would be highly glorified.<sup>76</sup>