

## TWO MEN WHO WOULD NOT BOW!

Presented by

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Things were not going well for the Israelites—and hadn't been going well for a long time. The Israelites had been captives in Egypt for **215 years**. God, however, finally had decided to deliver them from more than two centuries of slavery.

However, He was going to do it in a rather unusual manner. As Exodus 3 and 4 inform us, God had chosen a humble shepherd, Moses, and his brother, Aaron, to go to the Egyptian pharaoh with this message: "Let My people go!" (Exodus 5:1). The pharaoh, however, considered himself to be "a god on Earth." And because of his exalted position, he made it clear that he had no intention of allowing the Israelites to leave Egypt. In fact, in Exodus 5:2 he screamed at Moses and Aaron, "Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go." Two verses later he shouted, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people from their work? Get back to your labor" (Exodus 5:4).

Then, as if pharaoh's reaction wasn't bad enough, the Israelites themselves turned against Moses and Aaron as well! In Exodus 5:20-21 we read that the officers of the Israelites "met Moses and Aaron and said to them, 'Let the Lord look on you and judge you because you have made us repulsive in the sight of pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, who will put a sword in their hands to kill us.'"

Poor Moses and Aaron! On the one side was pharaoh, **who believed that he was god**, and on the other side were the faithless Israelites **who refused to believe in the true and living God!** Moses and Aaron **really** had their work cut out for them.

Things may have appeared bleak, but fortunately God was on their side. And God is **always** in control! The psalmist wrote, "Our God is in heaven, and He does whatever He pleases" (Psalm 115:3). As Elisha said to his servant in 2 Kings 6:16 when they were surrounded by the entire Syrian army, "Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them" (2 Kings 6:16). Or, as the apostle Paul put it in Romans 8:31, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

God **definitely** was with Moses and Aaron. In fact, in Exodus 6:1 we see what God said to them: "Now you shall see what I will do to pharaoh." And what did God have to say to the Israelites who had doubted His ability to save them? Exodus 6:6-8 tells us:

"I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."

The faithless Israelites tried to ignore Moses and Aaron, and the powerful Egyptian pharaoh tried to intimidate them. **But these two men would not bow to such pressure!** Instead, they believed God, trusted in His Word, and obeyed His commands.

And we all know how the story ended, do we not? Moses and Aaron led an estimated two million Israelites out of the land of Egypt after God had rained down ten terrible plagues on the Egyptians. Pharaoh lost, God won, and the Israelites walked away free after 215 years of captivity—all because two men refused to bow to pressure from either a pagan king or their own countrymen.

There is an amazing moral in this story for us, too, is there not? Perhaps the psalmist put it best when he said in Psalm 30:6-7, “I said in my prosperity, ‘I shall never be moved.’ By your favor, O Lord, you established me as a strong mountain.” God can do the same for us today. He promised us, “I will never leave you nor forsake you,” so that you may boldly say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’ ” (Hebrews 13:6). That pretty much says it all, doesn’t it?