

Exodus 5:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.

Analysis

Verse 21 content addresses the systematic oppression through impossible brick quotas. The removal of straw while maintaining production requirements embodies how evil systems break spirits through mathematically impossible demands.

Historical Context

Archaeological evidence confirms ancient Egyptian brick-making used straw as binding material. The escalating oppression in verses 6-21 follows documented patterns of ancient slave economies.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do impossible expectations create false guilt in modern systems?
2. What does this passage teach about systemic injustice?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר וְאֶלָּם יְהוָה הָיָה	עַלְיכֶם
And they said	look unto them The LORD
H559	H413 H7200 H3068
וְיִשְׁפַּט עֲלֵיכֶם כִּי תִּחְנֹן	בַּיּוֹם כִּי תִּשְׁפַּט
upon you and judge	to be abhorred because ye have made our savour
H8199	H834 H887 H853 H7381
וְיִשְׁעַר עַבְדֵיכֶם לְתֹתֶת סָבָבֵיכֶם	וְיִשְׁעַר עַבְדֵיכֶם לְתֹתֶת סָבָבֵיכֶם
and in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of his servants	and in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of his servants
H5869	H6547 H5869 H5650
בְּ יָדֶךָ כִּי תִּשְׁלַח אֶת כְּבָשָׂעֵן	בְּ יָדֶךָ כִּי תִּשְׁלַח אֶת כְּבָשָׂעֵן
in their hand to slay	to slay
H3027	H2026

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 34:30 (Parallel theme): And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.

Exodus 6:9 (Parallel theme): And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage.

1 Chronicles 19:6 (Creation): And when the children of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the children of Ammon sent a

thousand talents of silver to hire them chariots and horsemen out of Mesopotamia, and out of Syria-maachah, and out of Zobah.

Genesis 16:5 (Judgment): And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and thee.

1 Samuel 13:4 (Parallel theme): And all Israel heard say that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.

1 Samuel 27:12 (Creation): And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant for ever.

2 Samuel 10:6 (Parallel theme): And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ish-tob twelve thousand men.