

Exodus 5:6-9

וַיֵּצֵא פַרְעֹה בַיּוֹם הַהוּא אֶת־הַנְּגַשִּׁים בָּעַם וְאֶת־שֹׁטְרָיו לֵאמֹר: 7 לֹא
תֵאסְפוּן לָתֵת תְּבֹן לָעַם לְלִבָּן הַלְּבָנִים כְּתִמּוֹל שְׁלֹשׁ הֵם יִלְכוּ
וְקִשְׁוּ לָהֶם תְּבֹן: 8 וְאֶת־מִתְכַּנֶּת הַלְּבָנִים אֲשֶׁר הֵם עֹשִׂים תִּמּוֹל
שְׁלֹשׁ תִּשְׁימוּ עֲלֵיהֶם לֹא תִגְרְעוּ מִמֶּנּוּ כִּי־נִרְפִים הֵם עַל־כֵּן הֵם
צָעֲקִים לֵאמֹר גַּלְכָּה נִזְבַּחַה לֵאלֹהֵינוּ: 9 תִּכְבֵּד הָעֶבְדָּה עַל־הָאֲנָשִׁים
וַיַּעֲשׂוּ־בָהּ וְאֶל־יִשְׁעוּ בְּדַבְרֵי־שֹׁקֵר:

Vocabulary

Verse 6

נגש noun (mpl with article): “taskmaster” (BDB, 620)

שטר noun: “official” (BDB, 1009)

Syntax & Miscellaneous

- The final *he* of the initial waw-consecutive verb, וַיֵּצֵא (root: צוה), has apocopated because of the retraction of stress.
- The two components of the compound direct object are each marked by אֶת and linked together with the conjunction waw.
- The infinitive construct, לֵאמֹר, designates the beginning of Pharaoh’s command (i.e. direct speech).

Vocabulary

Verse 7

תבן noun: “straw” (BDB, 1061)

לבן verb: “make brick” (BDB, 527)

לבנה noun: “brick” (BDB, 527)

תמול “yesterday” (BDB, 1069)

שלושם “three days ago” (BDB, 1026)

קשש verb: “gather stubble” (BDB, 905)

Verse 8

מתכנת “proportion, measurement” (BDB, 167)

לבנה noun: “brick” (BDB, 527)

תמול “yesterday” (BDB, 1069)

שלושם “three days ago” (BDB, 1026)

גרע verb: “diminish” (BDB, 175)

רפה verb (Niphal participle mpl): “be idle” (BDB, 951)

צעק verb: “cry out”

Exodus 5:6-9

נבלה verb (Qal cohortative 1cpl root הלך): “we shall go”

Verse 9

שעה verb (Qal jussive 3mpl): “regard” (BDB, 1043)

שקר “deception, falsehood”

Syntax & Misc.

Verse 7

- The final nun on the initial verb form, תִּאֲסֹפֹן, is a ::glossary(paragogic,paragogic nun):: (for more information on the morphology of this verb see GKC 68h).
- The word לָתֵת is the Qal infinitive construct of נָתַן “give.”
- The idiomatic phrase, תְּמוֹל שְׁלֹשׁ, designates a period of time previous to the statement—“formerly, previously.”
- The lack of the typical clause connector, *waw*, with the final clauses (הֵם יִלְכוּ (וְקִשְׁרוּ לָהֶם תָּבוּן) designates an asyndetic clause that functions epexegetically (to give explanation).

Verse 8

- The matrix sentence is אֶת־מִתְכַנֵּן הַלְבִּינִים תְּשִׂימוּ עָלֵיהֶם with the embedded relative clause, אֲשֶׁר הֵם עֹשִׂים תְּמוֹל שְׁלֹשׁ, modifying the construct phrase (i.e. direct object).
- The verbal idea of the relative clause is periphrastic with only the participle (עֹשִׂים) extant.
- The clause, לֹא תִגְרְעוּ מִמֶּנּוּ, uses asyndeton (see note on verse 7).
- The use of כִּי (temporal “when”) followed by עַל־כֵּן marks an inferential statement.

Verse 9

- The verb in clause initial position is jussive, תִּכְבֶּד “let it be heavy” (GKC 109).
- The final *waw* (וְאֶל־יִשְׁעוּ) functions as a clause connector designating purpose “so that.”
- The negative אַל is used with jussives and not the more frequent לֹא.
- The verb שָׁעָה sequenced with the *beth* preposition means to “have regard for” (see also Psalm 119:117, וְאִשְׁעָה בְּחִקְיָה תְּמִיד,