

Exodus 7 - Thursday, September 4th, 2008

- Last week in chapter six, we left Moses still arguing with the Lord because he was still doubting the Lord. God is still reassuring him.
- The Lord continues to encourage Moses to speak all that He has commanded him to do and He reminds Moses that it won't be easy.
- This week in chapter seven, the Lord and Moses are still having this dialogue of sorts, as He informs Moses of how difficult it will be.

1 So the LORD said to Moses: "See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. 2 You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land.

- Why would the Lord tell Moses that He has made him "as God to Pharaoh?" Is Moses going to become a little God?
- One thought is that because Pharaoh has rejected Moses' God, he will now see God and deal with God through Moses.
- Also, the Lord may be preparing Moses for the rejection so he won't take it so personally when Pharaoh refuses.
- In other words, Pharaoh isn't refusing or rejecting Moses; he is refusing and rejecting the Lord.

- Also, for the Lord to say that Aaron will be his prophet is to sort of reaffirm that he doesn't speak without Moses' direction.
- Just as Aaron is not to do anything without Moses' direction, so too is Moses not to speak without God's direction.

3 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.

- God isn't hardening Pharaoh's heart against his will, He is simply giving Pharaoh over to his already hardened heart against God.

"God's judgments hardened Pharaoh's heart. They are sure to harden if they do not soften. The monarch was of such a nature that terrors and plagues only made his spirit more unbending."

Charles Spurgeon

4 But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. 5 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them."

- God is telling Moses that because Pharaoh will not heed him, His heavy hand of judgment must come down on Egypt to release Israel.
- For God to say that the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord is like He's answering Pharaoh's question of; "Who is the Lord?"
- Suffice it to say, Pharaoh and all of Egypt will soon know; "Who the Lord is," after He stretches out His hand on Egypt to deliver Israel.

6 Then Moses and Aaron did so; just as the LORD commanded them, so they did. 7 And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh. 8 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 9 "When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Show a miracle for yourselves,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and cast it before Pharaoh, and let it become a serpent.'

- The Lord has effectively given Moses and Aaron enough courage to do just as He had commanded to do even after failing the first time.
- It's interesting that God tells Moses that this time they are to show Pharaoh the miracle of the rod cast down and turning into a serpent.
- It sort of makes you wonder if God wanted them to do that before Pharaoh the first time, and that it was not just for the Elders of Israel.

"10 So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the LORD commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. 11 But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. 12 For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

- I wonder how Moses and Aaron feel when Pharaoh's magicians were able to do the same thing with their rods becoming serpents.
- I'm sure it delighted them when God, in His power, had Aaron's rod swallow up the rods belonging to Pharaoh's magicians.
- This brings up an interesting question, how were the magicians able to do this? It was done by Satan, who is the master counterfeiter.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, 10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie 12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness. NIV

2 Timothy 3:8-9 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth-men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. 9 But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone. NIV

13 And Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

- Pharaoh's heart grew hard and he didn't heed them just as the Lord had said. He didn't harden his heart because of it, but against it.

"He concluded that Moses was only a magician, like those in his own pay, and he therefore again defied the power of Jehovah."

Charles Spurgeon

14 So the LORD said to Moses: "Pharaoh's heart is hard; he refuses to let the people go. 15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him; and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand. 16 And you shall say to him, 'The LORD God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness"; but indeed, until now you would not hear! 17 Thus says the LORD: "By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood. 18 And the fish that are in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river.'"

- One suggested that the plagues were not just because Pharaoh wouldn't let the Israelites go, but because he didn't acknowledge God.
- This would explain why Pharaoh sinned against Israel; he had already sinned against God because he didn't acknowledge God.
- It's also interesting to note that the plagues come in sets of three's. The first two come with a warning, but the third plague does not.

- Some skeptics have tried to explain these plagues as natural occurrences that can happen in certain ways under normal conditions.
- The problem is that if they were natural, then why was Pharaoh so impacted by them and why do his magicians counterfeit them.

- Also, these plagues are deity specific, so to speak, in that they come upon an Egyptian deity. Egyptians worshipped the Nile as a god.

As one commentator said; "The Nile itself was worshipped as a god, and we have papyri recording hymns sung in praise of the river. The Egyptian god *Khnum* was said to be the guardian of the Nile, and this showed he was unable to protect his territory; the god *Hapi* was said to be the spirit of the Nile, and was dealt a defeat; the great god *Osiris* was thought to have the Nile as his bloodstream - now, he is truly bleeding!"

19 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in buckets of wood and pitchers of stone.'" 20 And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. 21 The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

- Moses and Aaron do as God commanded them to do by taking the rod and stretching out their hand over the waters of Egypt.
- We're told that all the water in the streams, rivers, ponds, and pools and even the water in their buckets and pitchers turn to blood.

"Horrible! A crowd of horrors! Their drink becomes blood; the river which they accounted sacred pours forth an intolerable stench; the delicious water grows worse than putrid; and the fish which were a great part of their food float dead upon the abominable stream! This was a plague indeed."

Charles Spurgeon

Lo, Moses scatters plagues of wrath,
A ministry of fire and death,
But our Immanuel cometh forth,
With life and love in every breath.
He turn'd their water into blood,
For vengeance was his dread design:
But, thanks to our incarnate God,
He turn'd our water into wine.

22 Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said. 23 And Pharaoh turned and went into his house. Neither was his heart moved by this. 24 So all the Egyptians dug all around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the river. 25 And seven days passed after the LORD had struck the river.

- This is interesting; the magicians counterfeit this as well, and Pharaoh's heart grows hard and once again he doesn't heed them.
- How were the magicians able to do this if all the water had turned to blood? By the water they dug all around the river that wasn't blood.
- Why didn't the magicians turn the blood back into water? Because; Satan can't perform constructive miracles, only destructive ones.

"Alleviation of human suffering is no part of the program of the devil or his agents. That can only come from Jehovah, through the believing cry of his servants."

F.B. Meyer

Lessons I can learn from Exodus chapter seven:

1. Like with Moses, the Lord doesn't pay us as our doubts deserve. He's always rich in mercy and patient with us as He encourages us.
2. Like with the Lord speaking to Moses, sometimes He will give us a heads up of sorts by letting us know that our calling won't be easy.
3. Like with Moses and Aaron speaking for the Lord to Pharaoh, we should never speak or do anything in His name without His direction.
4. Like with Pharaoh, the whole world will know Who the Lord is, and they will bow down before Him confessing Him as Lord of Lord's.
5. Like with the rod turning into a serpent, sometimes the Lord may want to do miracles for the Pharaoh's of this world as well as us.
6. Like with the magician's counterfeiting the rods becoming serpents, just because it's supernatural doesn't mean that it's true.
7. Like with Aaron's rod swallowing the magician's rods, we shouldn't fear. Greater is He that is within us than he that is in the world.
8. Like with Pharaoh sinning against Israel and thus sinning against God, so too, we sin against God when we sin against other people.
9. Like with the first plague turning the Nile into blood, there is no deity, or god greater than Jehovah God. Who is like unto Him?
10. Like with Egypt and Israel, God may delay our liberation, for many reasons, not the least of which is His revelation to the world.

EXODUS	REVELATION
Israel enslaved	Israel afflicted
Israel oppressed and deceived by Pharaoh	Israel attacked and deceived by the Anti-Christ
Two representatives, Moses and Aaron	Two Witnesses, believed to be Moses & Elijah
Israel cries out to God, and He hears	Israel cries out to God, and He hears
Israel flees to the wilderness	Israel flees to Petra
Israel is delivered	Israel is saved
Plagues come down as God's judgment	Wrath poured out as God's judgment

PLAGUE	EGYPT	TRIBULATION
#1 Water becomes blood	Exodus 7:20, Psalm 105:29	Revelation 8:8-9, 11:6, 16:3-6
#2 Frogs	Exodus 8:6, Psalm 105:30	Revelation 16:13*
#3 Lice	Exodus 8:24, Psalm 105:31	Revelation 11:6**
#4 Flies	Exodus 9:6	Revelation 11:6***
#5 Food source (livestock) destroyed	Exodus 9:6	Revelation 8:9****
#6 Boils	Exodus 9:10	Revelation 16:2
#7 Hail	Exodus 9:23, Psalm 105:32	Revelation 8:7, 16:21
#8 Locusts	Exodus 10:13, Psalm 105:34	Revelation 9:3
#9 Darkness	Exodus 10:22, Psalm 105:32	Revelation 8:12, 9:2, 16:10

*Though not an infestation of frogs, this is undoubtedly a plague like the frogs in Egypt.

**Though lice are not mentioned specifically, they could be among the plagues brought by the two witnesses.

***As with the lice, flies are not specifically mentioned, but it's believed that they may be among the plagues as well.

****Though not a direct correlation, there is a similarity in that the food source of God's enemies is destroyed.