**Moses**
Part 8
Exodus 6-10

In Exodus 6 God reassures Moses that he will, with a might hand, deliver Israel from Egypt. He also sends a message to the Israelites with several reassuring promises.
The Lord says to Israel: (Vs. 6-8)

- **I will bring you out**
- **I will free you**
- **I will redeem you**
- **I will take you as my own people**
- **I will be your God**
- **I will bring you to the land I swore**
- **I will give you the land as a possession.**

- The Lord then tells Moses to go back to Pharaoh to tell him to let the Israelites go out of Egypt.

**Exodus 7**

**1** Then the Lord said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. **2** You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country. **3** But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, **4** he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites. **5** And the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it."

**6** Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded them. **7** Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh.

- Pharaoh has rejected any belief in the Lord, as he said in Exodus 5:2: “Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? Now, God will prove himself to Pharaoh through Moses.

**There is a powerful sequence of things to note here:**
Vs. **2** You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh…

Vs. **4** he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt.

Vs. **5** And the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord…

- **May this be a lesson to us in the hour we live.** We ought to share the Word of God exactly as it is written. Even if hearts are hard and unwilling to listen, the word of God provides a framework for God to work in peoples lives. Perhaps/Hopefully in the process of time God will confirm his Word to them and they will also know that the Lord is the God.

**Vs. 7** Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh.

- When I think about the age of both Moses and Aaron I’m reminded that their youthful strength is gone. Their youthful strength and vigor is gone and they can no longer rely on themselves. They both have lived enough life to know their own limitations. This, believe it or not, is a tool and advantage for God. Much like it was in the life of the Apostle Paul when the Lord says to Paul:

**1 Corinthians 12:9** “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”.

- It’s always better to be aware of our own shortcomings and utter reliance on God, than to trust in our own strength and understanding.

## Exodus 7 Aaron's Staff Becomes a Snake

**8** The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, **9** "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a miracle,' then say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,' and it will become a snake."

**10** So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. **11** Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: **12** Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. **13** Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

- The sign that Moses and Aaron bring to Pharaoh was originally meant to convince the leaders of Israel that God had sent Moses. There was first the staff that turned to the serpent. Second, the hand in the clock that turned leprous and then back to a restored hand. Third, the water from the nile poured out on the ground that turned to blood.

- Interesting Fact: The word used for serpent when Aaron drops his staff before Pharaoh is different than when Aaron drops his staff before the Israelites. The Hebrew changes to tannin ('great serpent, dragon, or crocodile)… So the sign unto Pharaoh was even greater than it was before Israelite leaders.

## Exodus 7 Nile turned to Blood

**14** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. **15** Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the river. Confront him on the bank of the Nile, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. **16** Then say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my

people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness. But until now you have not listened. **17** This is what the Lord says: By this you will know that I am the Lord: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. **18** The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.'"

———

**20** Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood. **21** The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink its water. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.

**22** But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said.

- In the beginning of this contest between God and Pharaoh, Satan provided Pharaoh reasons to doubt – Vs. 11 & 22 "the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their sorcery."

- The Egyptian magicians manage to detour Pharaohs heart from yielding to God's appeal by copying the the first three signs given to Pharaoh; the staff turning to a serpent, the nile turning to blood and the plague of frogs.

- The enchantments of the Egyptian magicians were examples of dark, demonic power showing itself in what at least appeared to be miracles.

- This shows that Miracles are also part of Satan's arsenal. The apostle Paul wrote about this in:

**2 Thessalonians 2:9-10**
**9** The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, **10** and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

- John also warns about this in the last times:

**Revelation 13:13–14**
The second beast (the False Prophet) "performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast [the Antichrist], it deceived the inhabitants of the earth

- This means that even though miracles prove that something is supernatural, it doesn't prove that it's of God and that it's true.

**Because of Pharaoh's hard heart, this starts a series of plagues against Egypt**

**1st - Plague of Blood (Ch. 7)**

**2nd - Plague of Frogs (Ch. 8)**
**Exodus 8:6** So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land.

**3rd - Plague of Gnats/Lice (Came without God's Warning to Pharaoh)**
This is the first plague that the Magicians tried to copy and couldn't. They even say to Pharaoh in **Vs.19** "This *is* the finger of God."

- This also proves Satan's power is limited.  Where Satan's power ends God's power is just getting started…

**4th - Plague of Flies**. (This is the first plague where God protects his people living in Goshen and from this point on Israel is not affected by the 7 following Plagues)

**Exodus 8:22,23** "But on that day I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I, the Lord, am in this land. **23** I will make a distinction between my people and your people."

**5th - Plague of Livestock (Ch. 9)**

**Exodus 9:4,6**

**4** But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.
**6** And the next day the Lord did it: All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one animal belonging to the Israelites died.

**6th - Plague of Boils (Came without God's Warning to Pharaoh)**

**7th - Plague of Hail**

**Exodus 9:16-18**

16 But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.
17 You still set yourself against my people and will not let them go.
18 Therefore, at this time tomorrow I will send the worst hailstorm that has ever fallen on Egypt, from the day it was founded till now.

**26** The only place it did not hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were.

- This Plague was so severe in the land that Pharaoh confessed in Vs. 27…"This time I have sinned, The Lord is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong".

- Yet Pharaohs heart was hardened again and he would not let God's people go.

**8th - Plague of Locust (Ch.10)**

**Exodus 10** 13…By morning the wind had brought the locusts; 14 they invaded all Egypt and settled down in every area of the country in great numbers. Never before had there been such a plague of locusts, nor will there ever be again. 15 They covered all the ground until it was black. They devoured all that was left after the hail—everything growing in the fields and the fruit on the trees. Nothing green remained on tree or plant in all the land of Egypt.

**9th - Plague of Darkness**

**Exodus 10** 21Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness spreads over Egypt—darkness that can be felt." 22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. 23 No one could see anyone else or move about for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

———

27 But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go. 28 Pharaoh said to Moses, "Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die."

29 "Just as you say," Moses replied. "I will never appear before you again."

**10th - Plague on the Firstborn (Ch. 11,12)**

- Each Plagues that God chooses was not just a random selection of things but a clear message and attack on the god's of the Egyptians

**Plague of Blood:** This Plague targeted 3 Egyptian gods: Hapi (god of the Nile), Khnum (guardian of the Nile), and Isis (goddess of the river).

**Plague of Frogs:** Targeted Heqet (the frog-headed goddess of fertility and birth).

**Plague of Gnats/Lice:** Targeted Geb (earth god).

**Plague of Flies**: Targeted Khepri or Re (sun/creation gods).

**Plague of Livestock**: Targeted Hathor (cow goddess) and Apis (bull god of fertility).

**Plague of Boils**: Targeted Sekhmet (goddess of healing/disease)

**Plague of Hail :** This plague also targeted 2 Egyptian gods (sky goddess), and Set (storm god).

**Plague of Locusts**: Targeted Osiris (crop god).

**Plague of Darkness**: Targeted Ra (the supreme sun god) and Horus.

**Plague on the Firstborn**: Targeted Pharaoh himself, who was viewed as a living divine ruler.

- God starts by dismantling the waters and the sky, undoing the fertile order that the Egypt worshipped, culminating in the blackout of light (darkness) and the taking of life from the firstborn.
- This showed that Yahweh the God of the Israelites holds the ultimate power to both form life and take it.

First Pharaoh denies knowing the Lord and mocks God. Later Pharaoh calls Moses “bent on evil” (10:10) and says only the men can go and worship the Lord. But this is not what the Lord requires. Pharaoh doesn’t understand that God doesn’t bend his will to man. Pharaoh will learn that the Lord will have his way even if it costs Pharaoh and all Egypt their first born sons.