

— Exodus 7.1-13 —
Exodus Series 10
Showdown

Ex 7¹ So the LORD said to Moses: “See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. ²You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land. ³And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. ⁴But 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. ⁵And 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.”

⁶Then Moses and Aaron did so; just as the LORD commanded them, so they did. ⁷And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh. ⁸Then 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.’”

¹⁰So 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. ¹¹But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. ¹²For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods. ¹³And Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

► Our passage opens with God explaining to Moses exactly how he is setting up the _____ pieces on the board for everything that is going to play out – all the way to the _____ of Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea.

- Remember that the recent Pharaoh’s have apostatized from _____ in the one true God, which Egypt learned from Joseph, who saved Egypt from death in the great famine. The Pharaohs have turned back to the gods of Egypt, who are _____, but not _____, for they are fronts for real demonic powers.

1Cor 10²⁰ [T]he things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God

- The false gods of Egypt have been substituted for the one true _____; Pharaoh has been substituted for the one true _____, Lord, and Savior; and Pharaoh’s magicians have been substituted for Christ’s true _____.

- So God now sets himself in opposition to the false gods of Egypt; he sets _____, the Christ-type, in opposition to Pharaoh; and he sets _____ in opposition to the magicians / false prophets of Pharaoh (1).

- Yet God makes it clear that Moses, unlike Christ who is to come, is not actually _____ (2).

- God says he will _____ Pharaoh’s heart (3), which will be a major theme going forward. Sometimes it will say that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and sometimes it will say that Pharaoh hardened his own heart. Both are _____.

Rm 1¹⁸ [T]he wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness ... ²¹because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened ... ²⁴Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, ... to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator ... ²⁶For this reason God gave them up to vile passions ... ²⁸And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, ... ²⁹being filled with all unrighteousness

Jn 3¹⁹ “[T]his is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

► Pharaoh understands that this is a _____ between the God of Joseph, Moses, and Aaron, on the one hand, and the gods of Egypt, Pharaoh, and his magicians on the other. This confrontation is full of _____ by which God demonstrates he is the one true God, and the gods of Egypt are not.

- Moses and Aaron are in their _____ (7), and yet they will prove to be much more powerful than Pharaoh and his magicians.

- When Moses thru Aaron tells Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land (2), Pharaoh demands they perform a _____, just as God predicted he would (9).

- Moses, obeying God, commands Aaron to cast his _____ before Pharaoh so that it becomes a _____ (9).

- Moses' and Aaron's rods, like Pharaoh's and his magicians', were shepherd's _____ – a long staff bent into a semi-circle at the top.

- The serpent, particularly the female _____, was very significant, for that was the form the goddess protector of the Pharaohs took, and a golden cobra appeared on their _____. That is likely what Aaron's staff became when he threw it before Pharaoh, for that would have constituted a powerful, direct _____.

- Pharaoh calls his magicians, and they do the same with their staffs, and so we have _____ cobra vs many (11-12).

- Aaron's rod/cobra _____ all the rest (12), which is proof that the God of Moses and Aaron is the one true God, and all the Egyptian gods together are no _____.

- Pharaoh's heart grows hard, and he does not heed Moses and Aaron and the one true God, even in the face of such clear _____ (13).

► Application: We need to recognize that God is preaching the _____ to Pharaoh and his magicians, and to the Israelites, who will hear of what happened. Indeed, that is what God is going to do thru the ten plagues and all the way to the _____ of Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea.

Ex 15³ "The LORD is a man of war ...⁴ Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea ...⁵ The depths have covered them ...¹² ... The earth swallowed them."

- Remember Heb 12.25-28: Christ _____ the nations is an essential part the gospel. When Christ shakes the nations, people grab for what they think will save them – they grab for their gods – which Christ must expose as false, so that people turn to him, the only _____ from the storms of life and final judgment to follow. Is it loving for Christ to leave people to their self-deceptions? _____. Is it loving for Christ to expose people's self-deceptions? _____.

Heb 12²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven,²⁶ whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."²⁷ Now this ... indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, ... that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

- Dragging out the shaking of Egypt over ten plagues – that's _____, that's _____ – for it gives the Egyptians and the Israelites more time to consider what is happening and to turn to the one true God and Savior.

- The _____ is everywhere in the OT, if only we have the eyes to see.