

EXODUS 7:14–25

When the River Became Blood

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CONTROLLING QUESTION: What happens when the LORD confronts the things people trust to give them life?

GOVERNING TRUTH: When the LORD reveals that He alone gives life, every counterfeit is exposed and every heart is brought into the light.

LISTEN FOR THE ANSWER

The LORD meets Pharaoh at the Nile—the place where Egypt’s physical life, economic confidence, and religious worship were concentrated. The river will expose both the emptiness of Egypt’s gods and the allegiance of Pharaoh’s heart.

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE REVEAL ABOUT THE LORD?

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE REVEAL ABOUT THE HUMAN HEART?

1. THE LORD CONFRONTS PHARAOH AT EGYPT’S SOURCE OF LIFE

Exodus 7:14–18

“Pharaoh’s heart is stubborn; he refuses to let the people go.”

A HEAVY HEART: The Hebrew word in verse 14 means heavy. Pharaoh’s heart was burdened with guilt and fixed against the LORD, even after God had spoken clearly.

SIN NEVER REMAINS PRIVATE

Pharaoh’s refusal would eventually touch every home in Egypt. A heavy heart eventually places a heavy burden upon other people.

Where has another person’s bitterness, anger, pride, control, or secret sin placed a burden upon people around them?

Where might one of your own choices be affecting others more deeply than you have admitted?

THE LORD CONFRONTS OUR FALSE SOURCES OF LIFE

Exodus 7:15–18

THE NILE: Egypt saw permanence, security, and life. The LORD saw a river that flowed only because He commanded it.

God still confronts us at the places where our confidence is concentrated—the things we look to and say, ‘As long as I have this, I will be all right.’

WHAT AM I TEMPTED TO TRUST?

Money, health, a relationship, control, success, approval, comfort, or something else?

What does my anxiety, anger, or fear reveal about the weight I have placed upon that gift?

TRUTH TO REMEMBER: The thing you are trusting cannot carry the weight you have placed upon it. The gift remains dependent upon the Giver.

FREED FROM PHARAOH—FOR THE LORD

Exodus 7:16–17

“Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness.”

The Hebrew word translated serve can mean work, serve, or worship. Israel was not being released to live without a master. God was delivering His people from a cruel master so they could worship their rightful Lord.

THE GOSPEL CLAIM: Jesus does not merely save us from judgment and leave us to belong to ourselves. We have been bought with a price. Our lives belong to Him.

Where do you want Christ’s forgiveness or comfort without yielding to His rightful lordship?

What part of your life—body, marriage, money, future, worship—needs to be consciously placed under Christ today?

2. THE LORD TURNS EGYPT'S SOURCE OF LIFE INTO A SIGN OF JUDGMENT

Exodus 7:19–21

FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE: Moses and Aaron were not asked to produce the miracle. Their responsibility was faithful obedience. The outcome rested in the sovereign hands of God.

Where are you carrying responsibility for an outcome God has not asked you to produce?

What act of faithful obedience has God actually placed before you?

THE JUDGMENT FITS THE CRIME

Egypt had cast Hebrew sons into the Nile. Now the LORD made the river bear witness against the nation. The blood declared that God had seen, remembered, and would answer Egypt's injustice.

How does God's perfect remembrance warn the person hiding sin—and comfort the person wounded by another's sin?

WHEN A GIFT TAKES THE PLACE OF THE GIVER

Exodus 7:20–21

AN IDOL EXPOSED: A gift becomes an idol when we begin asking it to take the place of the Giver.

Money makes a terrible god. A spouse cannot be a savior. Health cannot promise tomorrow. Work cannot define who you ultimately are. Family cannot give eternal life.

What good gift have you been asking to give you identity, security, satisfaction, or life?

Has a recent disappointment or loss revealed how much weight you had placed upon that gift?

LOOK TO CHRIST: The LORD does not expose a counterfeit source of life merely to leave you with nothing. He exposes it so you will turn to the One who is life and gives life.

3. THE LORD EXPOSES THE HEART THAT REFUSES TO TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY

Exodus 7:22–25

COUNTERFEIT POWER: The magicians could imitate judgment, but they could not reverse it. They could not cleanse the Nile, restore the fish, or give Egypt water. Their best effort only produced more of the problem.

Pharaoh did not need a convincing argument. His rebellious heart only needed a convenient excuse. A small imitation allowed him to dismiss everything else God had shown him.

When you question Scripture, are you seeking understanding so you can obey—or seeking an excuse to remain unchanged?

“Then Pharaoh turned and went into his house with no concern even for this.”

What truth has God made clear that you keep turning away from?

PHARAOH WENT INTO HIS HOUSE—HIS PEOPLE WENT INTO THE DIRT

Exodus 7:23–25

COUNTERFEIT LORDSHIP: Pharaoh was willing to let his people suffer so he could remain upon his throne. Protecting his pride mattered more than the suffering of his people.

When does maintaining your throne become more important than caring for the people affected by your choices?

Every refusal trains the heart. The first refusal may trouble the conscience; the second becomes easier. Eventually a person can hear truth that once disturbed them and feel almost nothing.

Is there something God has been saying to you that you have refused to take to heart?

RESPOND TODAY: Set your heart upon what God has said. Agree with Him. Confess it. Turn from it. Rest in the mercy He offers through Jesus Christ.

LOOK AGAIN AT JESUS CHRIST

The LORD alone is the Lord of life

Pharaoh remained upon his throne while his people suffered. Jesus left His throne and entered our suffering. Pharaoh protected himself at the expense of his people. Jesus gave Himself for the sake of His people.

In Egypt, blood announced that judgment had come. At Calvary, the Son of God poured out His blood and bore judgment in the place of sinners. On the third day He rose from the dead and demonstrated that He truly is the Lord of life.

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

TRUTH TO CARRY: Do not keep digging beside a river that cannot satisfy your soul. Jesus Christ is not merely one of God’s gifts. He is your life.

What counterfeit source of life must you stop asking to do what only Christ can do?

What specific act of repentance, trust, obedience, or worship will you take this week?

ONE SENTENCE I WANT TO REMEMBER

MY PRAYER AND ADDITIONAL NOTES

Responding to the Lord of life

PRAY TOWARD THIS: Ask the LORD to expose false sources of life, make your heart tender to His Word, and deepen your rest in Jesus Christ.

MY PRAYER

ADDITIONAL NOTES