

## Exodus Chapter 7

---

- Initially, as he is directed by God, Moses approaches Pharaoh and demands that he let the children of Israel go into the wilderness to worship God.
- Pharaoh responds rather cynically – “*who is God that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord...*”
- Pharaoh is about to be introduced to a series of events that will bring him to an understanding of who God is, and at the same time cause him to yield to the will of God.
- As we go through the various plagues described here in Exodus, we’ll see a pretty clear correlation between the plagues of Egypt and the plagues upon the earth as God’s wrath is poured out in the book of Revelation.
- In both Exodus, and in the book of Revelation; Israel is afflicted, either by Pharaoh the god of their present world, or by the Anti-Christ – the god of this present world.
- In both cases God’s people cry out in desperation for deliverance, and in both cases, God hears their cry.

**Jeremiah 31:18-20**      “<sup>18</sup>I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the Lord my God. <sup>19</sup>Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth. <sup>20</sup>Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he a pleasant child? For since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the Lord.”

---

V: 1    “*And the Lord said unto Moses....*”    Continuing the conversation from the previous chapter.

- “**god**” – Elohim, deference to a magistrate or judge; the word here is used in the context of a judge over Pharaoh.

**Psalm 97:7**    “Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship Him, all ye gods.”

**Exodus 22:8**    “If the thief be not found, then the master of the house shall be brought unto the judges / gods, to see whether he have put his hand unto his neighbor’s goods.”

V: 2-3 Speak to Pharaoh all the things that I give you to say; but Pharaoh will not listen.

- This is a faith test: boot camp / move the rock!
- God will harden Pharaoh's heart.
- God will multiply His signs and wonders.
- Both stated in the future tense, these are things that will happen.
- He we see **the sovereignty of God** – “I will...” He doesn't need to explain or justify, He just does.

**Isaiah 55:8-9**      “<sup>8</sup>For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways saith the Lord. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

- Later we will see another characteristic of God; **His omniscience**.

**Isaiah 46:9-10**      “<sup>9</sup>Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me, <sup>10</sup>declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure:”

*“I will multiply My signs and My wonders”*

- God is displaying His power: He is the Lord God Almighty – El Shaddai – God is **omnipotent**.

- 
1. Over the next few chapters we'll read about how Pharaoh hardens his heart, and about how God hardened Pharaoh's heart.
  2. We need to understand the order of things and the words that are being used to properly understand these passages.
  3. There are two Hebrew words used in these passages that are both translated into English as “hardened”.
- One of the Hebrew words that we're talking about is the word: “**kabad**”, the other word is “**chazaq**”.

There is a distinction between the two:

- Pharaoh “hardened” – (H3513) kabad, kaw-bad'; obstinate, dull, heavy, stubbornness, act of rebellion.

- God “hardened” – (H2388) chazaq, khaw-zak'; confirm, be constant, constrain, be established, fasten, force, fortify, make hard, harden, hold fast, maintain, retain.
- It would seem unfair and un-just for God to harden Pharaoh's heart, then to punish him and the people of Egypt for Pharaoh's hard heart.
- The Calvinist would simply say that Pharaoh was pre-destined for wrath and they might even use these scriptures to prove their point, but it would be incorrect.
- Understanding what is taking place here: Pharaoh is confronted with the word of God and he has to make a choice. Pharaoh rebels against the word of God, he digs in his heels and refuses to submit to the authority of One greater than himself. Pharaoh is obstinate, stubborn, and is in rebellion. He makes his own choice to “kabad” / harden his own heart.
- Up to this point God hasn't interfered, God has only predicted what He is going to do.
- After Pharaoh continues in his stubborn rebellion, God confirms or establishes Pharaoh's heart in the place that Pharaoh left it, God maintains Pharaoh's heart, holds it fast, or as it is translated “hardens” Pharaoh's heart.
- Very much like pottery that is initially shaped, formed into something which is what Pharaoh did when he hardened his heart. Then God came along and confirmed it, placing it into the oven wherein it was fired and glazed, hardened if you will into that form.
- Pharaoh had the choice to make, just as we do; but there is a point where God will “confirm” or “harden” our hearts as well.

**Revelation 16:7** “And I heard another out of the altar say, even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.”

V: 4 Pharaoh will not listen;

- So that God can show Himself strong on their behalf.
- This demonstrates another one of God's characteristics: **His faithfulness**, He keeps His promises.

Jesus said:

**Matthew 24:35** “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.”

**Isaiah 40:8** “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.”

V: 5 Thus far we have two reasons for all of these things happening:

**Exodus 6:7** "... and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."

*"the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord,..."*

- This isn't just for Pharaoh's benefit, but for the nation of Egypt.

**2 Peter 3:9** "The Lord.... Is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

- Just like in our lives, it isn't always the "blessings" in our lives that people take note of in relation to what we're about. If we win the lottery, the world will just say we were lucky – no glory to God there.
- But, when they see us go through difficult trials and circumstances in life, and they see the power of God manifest in our response to that, the grace and peace of God working effectually in our lives – then they are impressed with our God.
- That is when they start to think that the same thing will work for them.

- 
- Another thought on this whole process is that it is designed to bring glory to God, not necessarily to just deliver the children of Israel.
  - God will deliver the children of Israel, and as they cry out they are wishing it would happen sooner, more on their time table as opposed to God's timing of things.
  - Why the difference?
  - God doesn't exist for us. We exist for God.
  - God's plans are bigger than our lives, He loves us for sure – but His plan is that He would be glorified in the process.

**Revelation 4:11** "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

V: 6-7 Moses and Aaron were obedient to the Word of God.

- Moses is walking in obedience.

**1 Samuel 15:22** "And Samuel said, hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

- Notice that we're not hearing any more excuses from Moses, he's simply doing what God has instructed him to do.

V: 8-9a Another characteristic of God as He demonstrates His omniscience – the fact that He is all knowing – telling Moses exactly what Pharaoh will say and do.

- Pharaoh will demand a sign or miracle.

Jesus said:

**Matthew 16:4** “A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign...”

- Pharaoh and his court probably fit the bill on this count.

V: 9b-13 God instructs Aaron to cast down his rod, just as God had shown Moses in the wilderness.

- Aaron casts down the rod and it becomes a serpent.
- Pharaoh calls in his sorcerers and magicians who seemingly perform the same sign.
- They / plural, at least two; possibly more.

We know at least a couple of their names from Paul's letter to Timothy:

**2 Timothy 3:8** “Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, and so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.”

- There have been in the past, and there still exist in Egypt today sects of snake charmers. These men even claim that to this day they can charm snakes and make them become stiff or rigid like a staff, then of course release them from this state.
- In the earlier years of this cult, back in the time of Moses there is the tradition, the folklore that they were able to make their rods into serpents. This was beyond mere snake charming, but was a demonstration of demonic power, the occult from which many who are involved in what they call the magic arts had their start.
- None of this is surprising or beyond the scope of imagination, given what Paul spoke in warning us about spiritual warfare.

**2 Corinthians 11:14** “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”

**2 Thessalonians 2:9** “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,”

- As we follow along we'll see that Pharaoh's magicians can mimic to a point, but then there is a breaking point where they can go no further and they are overwhelmed by the power of God.

V: 12 It is significant that the serpent from Aaron's rod swallowed up all the other snake / rods of Pharaoh.

- They duplicated the sign but were not able to duplicate the power behind it.
- God has a lot of practice in dealing with snakes:
- In the garden He cursed the snake and said he would eat dust all the days of his life.

Jesus sent his disciples out: Don't worry about the snakes.

**Mark 16:18** "They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them..."

**Acts 28** – Paul survives the ship wreck, viper fastened on his hand – barbarians thought he was a murderer – "he shook off the beast into the fire and felt no harm."

**Revelation 20:2-3** "<sup>2</sup>And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, <sup>3</sup>and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up..."

- As believers, we're not free from attack, but we are immune from it's effects. Just shake it off and keep going.
- Pharaoh's heart is hardened and he won't listen.

V: 14-16 God repeats the information to Moses, confirming it.

- God again speaks to Moses about what Pharaoh will do next and develops a plan to meet him at the river.
- Moses goes out to speak to Pharaoh, who is going out to the Nile River, no doubt to worship there.
- The Nile River was the number one god in the Egyptians pantheon of gods.
- They worshipped and sang song about how the Nile gave & sustained life, etc.
- This next sign or demonstration of the power of God will be a direct challenge to the chief Egyptian god.

V: 16 The name of the challenger is “*The Lord god of the Hebrews...*”

- Moses again obediently repeats the message that God wanted spoken to Pharaoh, repeating the demand that Pharaoh let the children of Israel go and worship Yahweh in the wilderness.
- The point, Pharaoh says who is Yahweh that I should listen to Him? And basically God says this is who I am...

V: 17 “*Thus saith the Lord, in this thou shalt know that I am the LORD....*”

- KJV is only translation that makes a distinction between singular or plural references in personal pro-nouns. “you” could mean the whole room, but “thou” is specific to Moses.
- God wants Moses to know that God is Yahweh, personally.
- God is teaching Moses, strengthening him in faith, simultaneously with every thing else that is going on.

In “My” hand, God is taking credit for what is about to happen

V: 17b-22 Moses & Aaron obey God's word and strike the River Nile which turns to blood.

<sup>1</sup>River Nile. <sup>2</sup>Streams. <sup>3</sup>Rivers. <sup>4</sup>Ponds. <sup>5</sup>Pools of water.  
<sup>6</sup>Water in vessels of wood. <sup>7</sup>Water in vessels of stone.

- Blood is mentioned in verses 17, 19, 20, and 21. The Hebrew word “dam” literally means “blood” as in the blood of a man or an animal.
- There is great discussion amongst commentators about red tide type phenomenon's; volcanic eruptions that deposit iron ore, or clay, or different natural phenomenon's that would explain the river turning red and being un-inhabitable for fish.
- It wasn't just the Nile, but the vessels of wood and stone – miraculous.
- I believe that if God had wanted to communicate red like fruit punch, or red tide, or anything else He would have done just that – so I believe that it turned into blood which is the most literal point of view, taking it at face value.

V: 19 “*Take thy rod...*” God could have had Moses raise his hands, or simply speak on cue – but God had them take the rod – so that there would be no confusion on the part of Moses or Aaron that it wasn't them.

V: 20 All this was done in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, no confusion about where this is coming from.

- The interpretation of this was obvious: when the Nile turned to blood, that meant that it died, their God was dead.

V: 21 The fish die and stink the place up. There is no water to drink.

- The Nile is no longer able to give life, nor sustain life, no longer able to quench their thirst.

**John 7:37** "... if any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. 38He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

V: 22 And the magicians of Egypt did so as well.... (?)

- Again they can do some things to a point, but where did they find clean water to turn to blood?
- Like the people, that had to dig it up, dig new wells.
- Notice that while they duplicated the "problem" they couldn't fix it, or countermand God – they only made things worse.
- Look, we found some clean water – and we turned it to blood.... Very helpful, thanks...

V: 23 Pharaoh's heart wasn't moved, he wasn't impressed.

V: 25 7 days of blood, just like 7 years of tribulation.

- "Fulfilled" – as predicted or planned by God.

**Luke 21:24** "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

- Then we too will be delivered from the bondage of this world.