

EXODUS Lesson 07

Exodus Chapter 7

Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies

Website: www.KjvBibleStudies.net

e-mail: mail@KjvBibleStudies2.net

Memory verses for this week: Pro 18:4 The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.

Introduction: We continue our study on Exodus this week. In last week's lesson, we studied about the seven "I WILLS" that God made in his covenant with Israel. God directs Aaron and Moses to return to Pharaoh to repeat their demand, but Moses questions whether Pharaoh will receive them.

Moses must have been discouraged by the failure of his first audience with Pharaoh (5:1-5). Then when his own people reject his leadership (5:20-21; 6:9), he is in great need of encouragement from the Lord. In our lesson today, we find that God revealed to him the coming struggle and the miracles, and from this point on Moses forged ahead without wavering. The conflict is between God and the Egyptians and this spelled doom for the Egyptians. All who fight against God will lose.

I. The Miracle of the Rod

Exo 7:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

Exo 7:2 Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land.

In these first verses of chapter 7, Moses is given assurance and instruction from the Lord. These men were chosen to go before the people, and this was an exalted place for Moses. This was not his decision, but God put him there. Please note that Moses is to be as "a god" to Aaron and to Pharaoh, and not "the God." Moses was the vicegerent of God, and Pharaoh was the emissary of Satan. Since I had never heard that word "vicegerent", I looked up its definition.

Vicegerent is a ruler's administrative deputy: a deputy appointed to act on the authority of a ruler or magistrate, especially in administrative duties.

Moses was to give God's Word to Aaron. God's men are to put forth the word of truth from the pulpit and be willing to defend the Word of God.

2 Timothy 4:2-3 "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to

themselves teachers, having itching ears.”

2 Timothy 1:13 “Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

1 Timothy 6:3-4 “If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings.”

The work of a prophet is to be one that speaks for another.

Exo 7:3 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.

Exo 7:4 But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments.

Moses is again warned that God will harden Pharaoh's heart. This does not make God the author of sin. The heart of the king is in the Lord's hand to move whichever way he desires to accomplish God's will.

Exo 4:21 And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.

The reality is that the same sun that melts the wax hardens the clay. God hardens some for destruction.

Deuteronomy 2:30 “But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.”

Romans 9:18 “Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.”

We are warned against the hardening of our hearts against His voice.

Hebrews 3:7-15 “Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the

beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.”

Hebrews 4:7 “Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”

God had reasons for this. If they had been allowed to leave on the first request, few would have remembered the great deliverance. The reasons for hardening his heart and prolonging the contest was to allow God an opportunity to work. When things don't go the way we want, we need to consider if we might not be going through a learning process from the Lord.

Ecc 7:13 Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?

*Ecc 7:14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity **consider**: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.*

Ecc 7:15 All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that longeth his life in his wickedness.

Ecc 7:16 Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?

Ecc 7:17 Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?

Exo 7:5 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.

This delay gave Egypt an chance to know God was Jehovah, the everlasting God. The plagues were used as judgments on the gods of Egypt proving them to be powerless and futile. (Exodus 12:12; 18:11; Number 33:4.)

All the false gods of Egypt could do nothing to stop the plague. It is tragic that some Israelites worshiped the defeated gods of Egypt.

Ezekiel 20:7-8 “Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.”

One example of this was the building and worshiping of the golden calf which is documented in Exodus Chapter 32. Some say it is good that we don't worship idols anymore. That is good if you don't, but an idol does not have to be some pagan gold statue. It can be your fishing pole, your money, your job...

anything that stands between you and serving God.

This delay by the hardening of Pharaoh gave full opportunity for the complete testing of human responsibility. It was for the trying of the faith of the saints, and it gave opportunity for the manifestation of all the perfections and attributes of Deity. This is apparently why God suffers the continuance of evil in His domain. Some people object to God hardening Pharaoh's heart.

They fear that God hardened his heart so he could not be saved. We need to realize that the subject is not salvation. The man was a rascal and a reprobate. And in all truth, none of us ever warrant salvation. It is all the mercy and grace of the good Lord, not any goodness in any of us.

Exo 7:6 And Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded them, so did they.
Exo 7:7 And Moses was fourscore years old, and Aaron fourscore and three years old, when they spake unto Pharaoh.
Exo 7:8 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,
Exo 7:9 When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent.

While showing initial reluctance, verse 6 records the obedience of Moses and Aaron. Some feel when they past middle age they can no longer serve God. Look at these two men. Moses was 80, and Aaron was 83. This clearly shows that God could and can use aged men and women in the ministry.

And even if we are not called to a called position to preach, God can use us in our daily lives every day. Even our work can bring honor and glory to the Lord when we put Him first in all things.

Col 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:
Col 3:23 *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*
Col 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

In verses 8 and 9, Moses and Aaron are instructed to use the miracle of the rod. Satan produces counterfeits, and there are many instances of it the Bible. Even in the tribulation we see the false 3 part evil 'god head' which mimics the real God Head of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Paul faced this in his travels when he encountered false brethren.

2 Corinthians 11:26 "In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren."

Satan also has his false gospel which comes forth from so many pulpits telling

people of a 'different way to be saved.' If it isn't God's way of salvation by grace by faith, it is not a true Gospel.

Galatians 1:8 "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

Satan has his own false ministers in many pulpits today.

1 Corinthians 11:13 "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ."

Satan initially wanted to be like God, and he will even provide a false Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

Exo 7:10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

Exo 7:11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

Exo 7:12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

Exo 7:13 And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

Just as God had promised Moses, the rod becomes a serpent. The miracle was viewed by Pharaoh, and he calls in his 'wise men and sorcerers and magicians' and the sorcerers duplicate the miracle. If you don't think Satan has power, look at this. I mean here false workers, those opposed to God can duplicate the rod becoming a serpent. Some people think they can dabble in black magic and occult things and nothing will come of it. My word of advice is to stay as far away from it as you can. Some don't have an adequate fear of Satan, but even Michael the archangel was not willing to fight against the devil.

*Jud 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the **body of Moses**, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.*

We are not to have an in-ordinate fear as God is greater than Satan, but we should have a reasonable understanding that the occult is real and dangerous. These occult religionists, who had the power of Satan, did indeed work a miracle. The anti-christ will have power to work miracles.

Matthew 24:24 "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

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

Their serpents are swallowed by Aaron's rod in verse 12. This shows the superiority of the true God over the false gods of Egypt, and points to the final triumph over evil. Some of these evil magicians are named in the new testament.

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

Pharaoh's heart hardened, just as the Lord had said.

II. The First Plague: Water Turned to Blood

Exo 7:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go.

Exo 7:15 Get thee unto Pharaoh in the morning; lo, he goeth out unto the water; and thou shalt stand by the river's brink against he come; and the rod which was turned to a serpent shalt thou take in thine hand.

Exo 7:16 And thou shalt say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness: and, behold, hitherto thou wouldest not hear.

While it was Moses and Aaron who went before Pharaoh, they were certainly not alone. Verse 14 records where the Lord gives Moses instruction. He tells him that Pharaoh's heart was hardened.

Proverbs 21:11 "When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge."

Moses was directed to meet Pharaoh at the river. Whether he was going to bath or to offer a sacrifice to the river god, it matters little, for God knew he would be there. Again, Moses is to demand that Israel be let go.

Exo 7:17 Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.

Exo 7:18 And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall lothe to drink of the water of the river.

Exo 7:19 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of

wood, and in vessels of stone.

The plague caused Pharaoh to know that the Hebrew God was Jehovah. Their water for drink and fish for food, was to be cut off. All the ponds, streams, and rivers to be affected. Man can live several days without food, but we perish quickly without water. Water is crucial for all mankind and animal to survive.

III. The First Plague of Judgment

*Exo 7:20 And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote 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.
Exo 7:21 And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.*

The water turned to blood in the sight of Pharaoh as God had promised. As Christians, we believe exactly what the Bible says about this. It was not red from soil or from some plant growth, but the water literally turned to blood. The Nile River was a god of the Egyptians. Hapi was the god of the Nile, and Isis was the goddess of the Nile.

*Exo 7:22 And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.
Exo 7:23 And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also.*

Trying to not be outdone, the magicians perform their enchantments. This turning water to blood has much symbolism.

Water is an emblem of the Word.

John 15:3 "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

Ephesians 5:26 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."

Blood poured out speaks of death, and death is the wages of sin.

Revelation 6:12 "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood."

The water turned to blood reveals that the Word of God is either a savour of life unto life, or death unto death.

2 Corinthians 2:15-16 "For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them

that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?"

Even after this display of great power, verse 23 says Pharaoh was unchanged. It reminded me of a billboard out on US 287 south of town that reads "You can't fix stupid, but you can vote them out of office." Pharaoh exhibits a very strong will in this matter, and can not be considered wise at this point.

Exo 7:24 And all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink; for they could not drink of the water of the river.

Exo 7:25 And seven days were fulfilled, after that the LORD had smitten the river.

The Egyptians begin a desperate search for water, but none was to be found. This continued for 7 days which was the length of the plague.

J. H. Kurtz in the Annotated Bible said:

"The plagues of Egypt are founded on the natural features which Egypt presents, so that they are unprecedented and extraordinary, not so much in themselves, as on account of their power and extent, and their rapid succession when Moses simply gives the command. As they are, consequently, both natural and supernatural, they afford both to faith and to unbelief the freedom to choose (in Pharaoh, unbelief prevailed); they are, besides, adapted to convince the Egyptians that Jehovah is not merely the national God of the Israelites, but a God above all gods, who holds in his hand all the powers of nature likewise, which Egypt was accustomed to deify."

Study Questions

1. What is the meaning of Moses being a god to Aaron and to Pharaoh?

Moses is to be as "a god" to Aaron and to Pharaoh, and not "the God." Moses was the vicegerent or emissary of God, and Pharaoh was the emissary of Satan.

2. Explain the purpose of God in hardening the heart of Pharaoh.

Allowed the Jews to recognize who delivered them from the bondage.

3. Give the age of Moses and the age of Aaron.

80 and 83

4. How did the sorcerers duplicate the miracle of the rod turning into a serpent?

It was done by the prince and power of the air.

Where did they get their power? Satan

5. Which waters of Egypt turned to blood?

the Nile, the ponds, and all the rivers of Egypt.

6. Where did the magicians get clear water to turn into blood?

Very good question. Appears from verse 24 that the water was not polluted if you dug down near the river, just in the river was it blood.

7. Where did the Israelites get water during this plague?

God must have provided it for them or they dug around the river to get water like the Egyptians (Verse 24)

8. What is water a symbol of in the Scriptures?

Symbol of the word of God.

9. What is poured out blood a symbol of in the Scriptures?

Blood poured out speaks of death, and death is the wages of sin.

10. How long did the plague last?

7 days.

* Base outline for lessons by permission from:

THE BOOK OF EXODUS

By E. L. Bynum

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.