


God's Mighty Power and Pharaoh's Unrepentant Heart

Exodus 7:8 – 8:19


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The staff becomes a *tannin* – i.e. a large reptile or possibly “crocodile.”

■ **Exodus 7:8, 9**

Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, “When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, ‘Work a miracle,’ then you shall say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent.’”



The practitioners of magic duplicate the sign

■ **Exodus 7:10 - 11**

So Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and thus they did just as the Lord had commanded; and Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh also called for the wise men and the sorcerers, and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same with their secret arts.



God's Greater Power

■ Exodus 7:12, 13

For each one threw down his staff and they turned into serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said.



God's Greater Power

■ 1John 4:4, 5

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.



Moses is to rebuke stubborn Pharaoh

■ Exodus 7:14 - 16

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is stubborn; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he is going out to the water, and station yourself to meet him on the bank of the Nile; and you shall take in your hand the staff that was turned into a serpent. And you will say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, 'Let My people go,' that they may serve Me in the wilderness. But behold, you have not listened until now.'"



God reveals Himself by the plagues

- Exodus 7:17 – “by this you will know I am the LORD”
- Exodus 8:22 – “in order that you will know that I, the LORD, am in the midst of the land.”
- Exodus 9:14 – “so that you will know there is no one like Me in all the earth.”



The first plague – Nile turned to blood

■ **Exodus 7:17, 18**

Thus says the Lord, “By this you shall know that I am the Lord: behold, I will strike the water that is in the Nile with the staff that is in my hand, and it shall be turned to blood. And the fish that are in the Nile will die, and the Nile will become foul; and the Egyptians will find difficulty in drinking water from the Nile.”



The plague is intensified

■ **Exodus 7:19**

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, over their streams, and over their pools, and over all their reservoirs of water, that they may become blood; and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.’”



They obey and God keeps His Word

■ Exodus 7:20, 21

So Moses and Aaron did even as the Lord had commanded. And he lifted up the staff and struck the water that was in the Nile, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, and all the water that was in the Nile was turned to blood. And the fish that were in the Nile died, and the Nile became foul, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. And the blood was through all the land of Egypt.



A false sign helps harden Pharaoh's Heart

■ Exodus 7:22 – 25

But the magicians of Egypt did the same with their secret arts; and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said. Then Pharaoh turned and went into his house with no concern even for this. So all the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink, for they could not drink of the water of the Nile. And seven days passed after the Lord had struck the Nile.



The second plague – Frogs

■ Exodus 8:1, 2

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, Let My people go, that they may serve Me. But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite your whole territory with frogs.'"



The frog plague will touch Pharaoh himself!

■ **Exodus 8:3, 4**

“And the Nile will swarm with frogs, which will come up and go into your house and into your bedroom and on your bed, and into the houses of your servants and on your people, and into your ovens and into your kneading bowls. So the frogs will come up on you and your people and all your servants.”



The frog plague is also duplicated

■ **Exodus 8:5 - 7**

Then the Lord said to Moses, Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your staff over the rivers, over the streams and over the pools, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.’ So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. And the magicians did the same with their secret arts, making frogs come up on the land of Egypt.



Now Pharaoh IS concerned!

■ **Exodus 8:8, 9**

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Entreat the Lord that He remove the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the Lord.” And Moses said to Pharaoh, “The honor is yours to tell me: when shall I entreat for you and your servants and your people, that the frogs be destroyed from you and your houses, that they may be left only in the Nile?”



Another night with the frogs

■ Exodus 8:10, 11

Then he said, "Tomorrow." So he said, "May it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the Lord our God. And the frogs will depart from you and your houses and your servants and your people; they will be left only in the Nile."



Moses intercedes for Pharaoh

■ Exodus 8:12 - 14

Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the Lord concerning the frogs which He had inflicted upon Pharaoh. And the Lord did according to the word of Moses, and the frogs died out of the houses, the courts, and the fields. So they piled them in heaps, and the land became foul.



Pharaoh only wanted relief, not obedience to God

■ Exodus 8:15

But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, as the Lord had said.



The third plague – Gnats

■ Exodus 8:16, 17

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, that it may become gnats through all the land of Egypt.’” And they did so; and Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff, and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats through all the land of Egypt.



The magicians acknowledge God but Pharaoh does not

■ Exodus 8:18, 19

And the magicians tried with their secret arts to bring forth gnats, but they could not; so there were gnats on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said.



Applications

- 1) False signs and wonders harden the hearts of sinners
- 2) Sinners tend to unbelief even in the face of overwhelming evidence about God
- 3) Seeking relief from consequences is not true repentance



- 1) False signs and wonders harden the hearts
of sinners

■ **2Timothy 3:5, 8**

holding to a form of godliness, although they
have denied its power; and avoid such men
as these . . .

. . . And just as Jannes and Jambres
opposed Moses, so these men also oppose
the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected as
regards the faith.



- 2) Sinners tend to unbelief even in the face of
overwhelming evidence about God

■ **Revelation 9:20, 21**

And the rest of mankind, who were not killed
by these plagues, did not repent of the
works of their hands, so as not to worship
demons, and the idols of gold and of silver
and of brass and of stone and of wood,
which can neither see nor hear nor walk;
and they did not repent of their murders nor
of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor
of their thefts.



- 3) Seeking relief from consequences is not
true repentance

■ **Acts 8:20, 21**

But Peter said to him [Simon Magus], "May
your silver perish with you, because you
thought you could obtain the gift of God with
money! You have no part or portion in this
matter, for your heart is not right before
God."



3) Seeking relief from consequences is not true repentance

■ **Acts 8:22 - 24**

"Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity." But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."