

Recap: In a matter of days, or at most a week or two, (16) God has repeatedly told Moses that he has been chosen to lead the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt. Repeatedly, Moses responds with, "how am I", "I can not", "Why me?", And, "I can't speak" which leads God to allow Aaron to speak for Moses, on behalf of God. Notice, the LORD has also, with great detail, explained how everything will take place, and even that Pharaoh will not let the people go at first, but eventually they all will not only be let go but be fully supplied with articles of Gold, silver, fine, linens, supplies, oxen, carts and everything else that they need for the journey to the promised land that God has prepared for them and that when they get to this promised land, flowing with milk and honey, all they will have to do is step in to it and take what lies there as their own country. Furthermore, they will not need to lift a finger to inhabit it; just walk in. (Now, before we come down hard on Moses, or the stubborn Israelites, let's first look in the mirror. Yes, God has promised Israel a glorious future, if they just believe but God has promised us so much more. God lets Paul get a glimpse of it when he is stoned to death and dragged out of the city as dead. It is a place so glorious that human words can not contain, or explain, it. And from then on, he longed to be there but he endured this life, his hard life here, so that he could tell more people about what they too can have. So why do I get bogged down in the affairs of today? Why do I sometimes worry about tomorrow? Why do I let satan distract me from keeping my hope on what awaits? It's no different than Moses and the Israelites. (See printout 2 Corinthians).

Exodus 7:1-5 Note that God is making clear that He will facilitate everything! Even to the hardening, and unhardening, of Pharaoh's heart. He will even give the words that are to be spoken. Then He will stretch out His Hand on Egypt (with Signs and Wonders in the form of plagues. After which He will bring the children of Israel out of Egypt. All Moses, and Aaron have to do is follow His plan (in faith). Participate and believe prior to it happening. (Remember, Jesus could not perform miracles in His own hometown because of unbelief.

Exodus 7:6-7 Moses is 80 ($\approx$ 5 years at home, 35 years in 17 Pharaoh's household with Pharaoh's daughter as his adopted mother - and 40 years in the wilderness of Midian herding flocks for his father in law). And notice: Aaron is 83. This means that 3 years before Moses was born things had not yet gotten so bad that Pharaoh needed to wipe out all the Hebrew baby boys. And we know that Moses had at least one older sister, Miriam, since she was the one who negotiated Moses' adoption by Pharaoh's daughter and also facilitated Moses rearing at home until then.

Exodus 7:8-13 (Satan can only counterfeit God - to a limited extent). (He can not create life and he can only have power to counterfeit as much as God will allow him to): This is typical spiritual warfare; God causes a miracle to happen, and the master deceiver has his sorcerers emulate it. Notice also, that God allowed Pharaoh's magicians to duplicate His miracle then He had Aaron's rod swallow up the false prophet's rods.

Exodus 7:14-21 God this time instructs Moses to tell Aaron to take his rod and to strike the river so that all the waters turn to blood (note: even the water stored in ponds, pools, and buckets had this chemical change. Shall be blood (not "like" blood) 55% liquid plasma and 45% cellular elements; no longer H_2O). I think God is trying to make clear that the life is in the blood, but this time the blood will snuff out the life. The irony of this plague is that Pharaoh did not go to the river (Nile) to bathe but rather to worship it. The Nile was worshipped as a god.

Exodus 7:22-24 These two verses are somewhat perplexing. Did the sorcerers and magicians go to the Nile to "copy" the plague. Make the water more undrinkable? Or to possibly reverse it? Here it says "the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments". Obviously, they did not reverse it and they probably would not have wanted to make it worse so what did they actually accomplish? Then they decided to forget the magic and grab a shovel. Maybe the water underground was not affected even though the sealed water bottles at the local Aldi's all had blood in them?!?! Never the less it was bloody water for 7 days.

* God hardened Pharaoh's heart just like the firm God haters of the Tribulation Period who could no longer repent.

Exodus 8:1-4 (Next up: frogs!) Yes, the goddess (18)

Heget was the goddess of child birth and she resembled the frog. Hence, frogs were worshipped as "birth" givers. And so since they were so worshipped God decided to give the people all the frogs, all the time, every where, in ovens, in cookware, in houses, hopping on people. In every place that an Egyptian, or their servants, lived. By the way this excluded the Israelites homes and peoples. God's people, in God's Will, doing God's Work will never accidentally be affected by God's wrath. Calamities yes, but these are specific torments inflicted on Egypt for their mistreatment of God's people over the last 400 years.

Exodus 8:5-15 (So Sad!) Pharaoh finally comes to his senses, or so it would seem, and says, "O.K., Tomorrow I will let your people go." "Tomorrow?" Why not? "O.K., I repent. I will let your people go right now!" Because God is not yet done pouring out His wrath on these murderous, false god worshipping, evil people. There is more suffering yet needed before they are wiped out!

Another lesson to be learned: Don't play around with God! Don't say, "If you get me out of this one LORD"... and then forget all about Him when He does. Scripture tells us, "Let your yes be yes, and your no be no." God knew that Pharaoh was speaking empty promises even before his words crossed his lips.

Exodus 8:16-19 Lice or Knats! Absolutely horrendous for the Egyptians who were a scrupulously clean people. These tiny critters were every where. I have fruit flies around my garbage can and let me tell you they buzz right by my eyes and nose and dive bomb me whenever I am in that area. Or how about on a humid day when you are pulling weeds and the hundreds of blood sucking mosquitoes are attacking from all sides. Now multiply that by infinity! They were every where. Notice, the magicians had tried to replicate all the plagues so far (to try and make them worse???) but this one they could not replicate. They knew it was God!

And then they even tell Pharaoh that it was definitely from the Hand of the God of the Hebrews. The response: "But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them. (just as the LORD had said). This is why elections matter." Don't elect non-Christian leaders and you won't elect God's wrath.