

Last week: Moses is finally called, by God, to go back to (9) Egypt and to be the leader of God's plan to deliver the Hebrew people (Israelites) out of their captivity. Moses is now 80 years old. Up to the age of 5 he was raised by his parents in a God fearing Israelite household. From about 6 till he was 40 he was a part of Pharaoh's household, being trained in all things Egyptian although he never "left" his Hebrew (Israelite) heritage. One day he noticed an Egyptian taskmaster mistreating a slave and ended up killing the Egyptian. His people, the Israelites, rejected him and Pharaoh sought to kill him so he fled to Midian. He would spend 40 years there caring for his father-in-law's herds. He married and his wife bore him 2 sons. She was a midianite woman. That brings us to today where God had just asked Moses to go back to Egypt and to facilitate the Israelites removal from Pharaoh's strong grasp. God also tells him exactly how all this will take place including the set backs that will occur.

Exodus 4:1-5 Moses is basically saying, "I am ready, but I want some reassurance that all these things will happen as you said they would." So God performs a miracle with the rod that is in Moses hand. Moses casts it on the ground and it turns in to a serpent. When he grabs it by its tail it turns back in to a rod. (Side note: It's sad that we always need a sign! We can not logic things to be how God said they would be, so we ask for a sign. Jesus' whole ministry, absolutely all of it, was full of miracles and wonders to prove who He was. Even up to His last moments He heard, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

Exodus 4:6-9 God is suppling Moses with miracles to take to Pharaoh in order to give him some confidence so that he will actually do as he is told. Remember: (1) God said that He would be with him and even gave him a play by play account of how all things would come to pass, even up to the Israelites leaving and taking Jewelry and Supplies with them.

Exodus 4:10 "I am", "I am" is a recurring response from many of God's people and from all of those people who are not of God. It means, "I am not able". God doesn't ever

ask His servants, children, people to do anything that they are not equipped to do. We just have to get out of our own way! David, a "boy" after God's own heart, said it best: "The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of the Philistine," (1 Sam 17:37) and "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head..." (1 Sam 17:45-46).

(See printed Hebrews 11:7-27) - It's been a while
Exodus 4:11-12 God is getting somewhat disappointed in Moses. He is saying, "Are you kidding Me? I created you, don't you think I know what you are capable of?"

Exodus 4:13 Notice Moses' lack of faith. (And remember how God bragged about him to the writer of Hebrews some 1500 years later, which we just read).

Exodus 4:14-17 "Alright, I see your faith needs some fine tuning so I'll allow Aaron to step in for you for a while".

Exodus 4:18-23 Again, God rehearses with Moses exactly how things are going to happen, in order. ① I am going to have you perform miracles in front of the king (Pharaoh) so that he knows you come as a spokesman for me. ② It will not, at first, go smoothly because I will harden the king's heart. (This is not God being cruel to Pharaoh or making it more difficult for Moses. This is God giving Pharaoh what he deserves because of all his afflictions upon the nation of Israel. So it will be for all the continually, without pause, always evil and God the Son rejecting people of the Tribulation when they too will recognize they are doing evil but

Continue to do so anyways. (see Printed Genesis 15).
- God also, again, rehearses that He will eventually kill all of the firstborn of Egypt causing the Exodus.

Exodus 4: 24-26: These two verses come abruptly and set us back as if we were missing a whole chapter! (11) But, that is not the case: When God calls a person to service,

serve Him, He expects a change in lifestyle and compliance to His commands. Abraham was given the Covenant of circumcision some 500 years earlier. Moses, having taken a Gentile bride from the Priest of Midian, chose not to have his boys circumcised. Assuredly, God had been reminding Moses of this covenant and Moses either did not comply on purpose, figuring that the boys were well past the 8th day, or he figured that he was special and the covenant did not apply to him. So God makes known to him that his disobedience (continued disobedience) could lead to his death! Moses' wife Zipporah, angry, but sensing that she was about to be husbandless circumcises the (assumably) second son and lets Moses know how much she despises him for it.

Exodus 4:27-31 Now in compliance, Moses is sent Aaron. Aaron and Moses go to the Israelites and tell them all about what God had told Moses and how that God had heard their cry's of affliction. The two tell the elders of the Israelites how this will all take place and contrary to the first time Moses went to the Israelites, this time they accept him as their leader and submit to his leadership.

Exodus 5:1-2 This is why God is hardening Pharaoh's heart! Pharaoh thinks he is god and if anything he worships a whole bunch of female gods of which the Egyptians were experts at creating. "I do not know the LORD" implies that he sure does know of the LORD since he is calling him LORD, or Jaweh or Jehova. He knows of the LORD but does not respect Him. Again, this must be a life long "knowing of" but rejecting that has lead to God multiplying his misery by hardening his heart so that he will not only suffer, but his people will suffer, and eventually his army will be wiped out.

Pay close attention to the Egyptian mindset through our study.

It is one of I am going to do what gives me pleasure, not what is right. Having slaves and servants and living richly off their labor verses "doing unto others" mindset leads to a fast tracking of a hardened heart!