

The Resurrection of the OLD into the NEW

“Then tell Pharaoh that this is what the LORD says: ‘**Israel is My firstborn son**, and I told you to let My son go so that **he may worship Me**. But you have refused to let him go, so **I will kill your firstborn son!**’” (Exodus 4:22-23)



This is an intriguing conversation between God Almighty and Pharaoh. Two immediate questions arise:

1. Is Pharaoh in this conversation the physical ruler or the heavenly ruler over Egypt?
2. Each have a firstborn son. Each “son” is a nation of people. What battle is at play here?

The answer to question one becomes clear when question two is understood. Question two involves the understanding of:

- God’s firstborn “son” as a nation.
- Pharaoh and the God of Israel both have an earthly firstborn “son” which also insinuates second, third, fourth... born sons. What does that mean?
- How did Pharaoh receive power and authority to rule over Egypt?
- Why was Pharaoh bent on enslaving the God of Israel’s firstborn son?
- Who is stronger: Pharaoh or the God of Israel?
- When does God’s firstborn son, Israel, come alive?

Each of these points are pieces to the great puzzle—the great story of when and why God chose a people for Himself, the nations and their inheritance and the role of mankind in God’s heavenly plan.

GOD'S FIRSTBORN "SON" AS A NATION.

When God identified His firstborn son, He identified **a nation of people**, Israel. The reference to "son" in the exchange with Pharaoh is broad because He is speaking from the widest view of all nations on earth. He is also identifying these people as **family members** and the **first of many more to come**. Through the scriptures, it is understood that firstborn applies not only being physically born first, but also spiritually born—born again.

PHARAOH AND THE GOD OF ISRAEL BOTH HAVE AN EARTHLY FIRSTBORN "SON".

The God of Israel also recognized that Pharaoh has a firstborn son; his son is the **nation of Egypt**. And again, firstborn meaning many more to come.

It may appear strange to Christians into the 21st century that the God they worship threatened Pharaoh that if he doesn't let His people go that He would kill Pharaoh's firstborn son and to add to the tension God said, "**But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go**" (Exodus 4:21b).

HOW DID PHARAOH RECEIVE POWER AND AUTHORITY TO RULE OVER EGYPT?

A review of the Song of Moses brings meaning to this conundrum. At the time of Babel, God gave the nations their inheritance (Deuteronomy 32:8). The nations received heavenly rulers to guide them in living God's way. God participated in this rulership; He inherited the descendants of Jacob—the Israelites (Deuteronomy 32:9). All the nations on earth received a heavenly ruler to guide in living righteously.

Unfortunately, in a relatively short period of time, the heavenly rulers over the nations turned against their God and taught the nations to worship them. This piece of history is often forgotten leading to misunderstandings and misconceptions of scripture and ancient history.

The heavenly ruler over Egypt was competing, along with all of the other rogue heavenly rulers over the nations, against the Creator to overthrow His Kingship and set up the earthly nations they ruled over as **first** to be resurrected into God's kingdom, which would have been renamed according to the heavenly ruler who would be successful.

God hardened this heavenly ruler's heart because they were at war in the heavens. God was displaying His supremacy over the heavenly Pharaoh and God wanted to assure him that he will fail to overthrow Him and the earthly nation he received as an inheritance would not be firstborn in eternity, but they will die if God's inheritance—Israel, was not allowed to worship Him. Pharaoh, the heavenly ruler, through the earthly Pharaoh was preventing God's people, Israel, from worshipping Him. This heavenly ruler was once an honored and respected leader in God's heavenly court. God observed the choices he was making and warned him that he would fail like all of the other heavenly rulers over the nations.

Pharaoh claimed to be a creator. "You say, 'the Nile is mine; **I made it for myself**'" (Ezekiel 29:3).

In great disappointment, God prophesied, “Who then is like you in glory and greatness among the trees [leaders] of Eden [God’s family]? **You also will be brought down to the depths of the earth** [imprisoned] to be with the trees of Eden. **You will lie among the uncircumcised** [wicked], with those slain by the sword. **This is Pharaoh and all his multitude**, declares the Lord God” (Ezekiel 31:18).

The Israelites were well aware of the rulership of the gods over the nations and the dazzling power they held. Confusion of the true Creator and Supreme God was widespread all over the earth. It is the diametrical opposite of today where the gods are considered mythology and the existence of a Creator God is uncertain or a belief for the weak-minded. After 400 years in Egypt, the Israelites had to sort through the lies and deception as their God revealed His supremacy over rogue heavenly sons. The earthly events before and during their exodus were essential to teaching both the Israelites and the Egyptians who was supreme. When the Israelites left Egypt, some Egyptians and foreigners went with them believing that the God of Israel is the supreme God of gods.

WHO IS STRONGER: PHARAOH OR THE GOD OF ISRAEL?

The Egyptian god through Pharaoh’s magicians presented a challenge for a time. At Moses’ request, Aaron threw down his staff and it became a snake. Pharaoh’s magicians could do the same, but to their dismay, Aaron’s staff swallowed up all of the staffs of the magicians (Exodus 7:12). The representation of a staff is an instrument of authority. Aaron, God said would be like a prophet of Moses who would, in turn, be in God’s place (Exodus 7:1) paralleled the magicians who too, were like prophets to Pharaoh who sat in place of his god in heaven. These gods in heaven have authority. That was never the question, it was always who is supreme. Right off the bat, Aaron’s authority proved superior to that of the magicians.

Then God told Moses to have Aaron strike the Nile River and it would be turned to blood. The Egyptian magicians were able to do the same through their magic calling on the power of their heavenly ruler. The ability to turn the Nile into a river of blood images the power of reconciliation the heavenly god had over the nation he ruled.

Seven days later, God told Moses to have Aaron stretch out his staff and bring up frogs over the land. The magicians too were able to do the same. So far, it appeared that the power the God of Israel had was not much more than the heavenly god ruling over Egypt, except that the magicians could not remove the plague of frogs. The god ruling over Egypt could not command the departure of the frogs because the higher commander forbade their departure, until He was called upon to remove them.

Pharaoh distressed and helpless asked Moses and Aaron to pray to their God of Israel for the removal of the frogs. The three evil spirits that came out of the mouth of the dragon, the beast and false prophet look like frogs (Revelation 16:13). Moses replied, “It will be as you say, **so that you may know there is no one like the LORD our God**. The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; **they will remain only in the Nile**” (Exodus 8:10-11). The evil spirits were corralled to their waters, their home—the Nile that Pharaoh made for himself.

When Pharaoh was relieved from the plague of frogs, he refused to let the Israelites go, so through Aaron's staff, God turned all the dust in Egypt into gnats. This is reminiscent of God's command to Moses to remove his sandals because the ground was holy (Exodus 3:5). Sandals are usually covered in dust imaging sin. Sandals are removed to keep sin out of holy ground. God was telling the rogue god of Egypt that his domain is covered in sin, which moves like thick clouds of many—his domain was thick in sin.

This was the first miracle the heavenly god of Egypt did not replicate. He knew what God was saying and he was not about to agree by increasing the number of gnats already present. All of Egypt and the Israelites suffered under the plague of gnats because sin was everywhere within Egypt and the Israelites.

The next plague, a plague of flies, would only affect the Egyptians because God intended to make a distinction between His inheritance—those He ruled over and the Egyptians under a different heavenly ruler.

Again, under the distress of disease carrying flies, Pharaoh promised to let the Israelites go if the God of Israel would take away the flies. One of the blessings God promised the Israelites if they obey Him is that there will be no sickness. For the Egyptians, disease and sickness is part of His curse for disobedience.

But again, Pharaoh changed his mind and refused to let the Israelites go. God continued in His lesson to both the Israelites and the Egyptians to show a distinction between not only the people of God and the Egyptians but their livestock as well. Through Aaron's staff, He caused only the Egyptian livestock to die.

God then brought boils on all the Egyptians and their animals throughout the land, then thunder and hailstones. Each plague was designed to show every level of God's authority over His creation and the difference between righteous and wicked leadership. "The thunder will stop and there will be no more hail, **so you may know that the earth is the LORD's**" (Exodus 9:29).

Pharaoh continued to refuse to let the Israelites go so, God brought locusts that consumed what little grain was left in their fields, darkness followed imaging their spiritual condition and finally the death of their firstborn son that sent a powerful message to their heavenly ruler that this nation on earth will not be the firstborn in God's kingdom, rather God's people—the obedient children of Israel. "Then tell Pharaoh that this is what the LORD says: **'Israel is My firstborn son**, and I told you to let My son go so that he may worship Me. But you have refused to let him go, so **I will kill your firstborn son!**'" (Exodus 4:22-23)

Finally, after God finished teaching His people, the Egyptians, as well as reminding the rogue heavenly rulers over the nations that there is ONE Supreme God and that is the God of Israel who is the source of all power by which everything in heaven and earth was created. Everything

created is His. He only decides who of the nations on earth will be born first in His kingdom and it will be the repentant people of Israel—His inheritance.

In summary, the plagues God poured out on the Egyptians sent this message to the heavenly god ruling over Egypt. Your kingdom was once majestic, but it is now filled with evil spirits that you allow and sin covers your land. Your kingdom is cursed, not one living being, animal or any life will survive. Your kingdom is spiritually dead and this nation will not be the firstborn in the eternal kingdom of God.

WHEN DOES GOD'S FIRSTBORN SON, ISRAEL, COME ALIVE?

There is a double resurrection planned for God's people, Israel when Christ returns.

1. The repentant saints will be part of the first resurrection. They will receive eternal life.

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their right hands; and **they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.** But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection:** on such **the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years"** (Revelation 20:4-6).

"We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that **we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.** For **the Lord himself will come down from Heaven,** with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and **with the trumpet call of God,** and **the dead in Christ will rise first,** after that, **we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, encourage each other with these words" (I Thessalonians 4:14-18).

2. The physical resurrection of ancient Israel and certain Jews at the time of Christ.

The high priest who participated in Jesus' sentencing may be part of the first resurrection and see the return of Christ coming on the clouds of heaven. People will rise from the dead to witness an event that they ridiculed and mocked. For the first time, they will experience the true fear of dread.

"But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to Him, 'I charge You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God.' 'You have said it yourself,' Jesus answered. 'But I say to all of you, from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One **and coming on the clouds of heaven**'" (Matthew 26:63-64).

This will be a time of dread for the wicked, joy for the righteous and a time of uncertainty for the confused. After Satan is bound and the beasts of Revelation are destroyed with the prostitute, the nations who were all worshipping Satan and the beast will look to their conqueror, Jesus Christ and the God of Israel, with apprehension. To their amazement, a resurrection of ancient Israel into their physical bodies will take place.

“He led me back and forth among them [a valley full of very dry bones]... I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life... **these bones are the whole house of Israel [all twelve tribes]**. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off’” (Ezekiel 37:2, 11). They believe that God has rejected them and there is no opportunity for eternal life. God’s love for His people is everlasting, despite their rebellion and many sins. He said, “O my people, **I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel**. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. **I will put my Spirit in you and you will live**, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it” (Ezekiel 37:12b-14).



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The God of Israel prophesied long ago detailing this gathering of old and new. “Behold, they will come from far away, **from the north and from the west, and from the land of Sinim**” (Isaiah 49:12). Into the 21st century, God prophesied to the ancient Israelites through Isaiah that Judo-Christians will come from the north and west and from the distant land mass pushed into the extreme far west [Sinim].

God is very excited about their rescue and return. “Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; break into joyful song, O mountains! For the **LORD has comforted His people, and He will have compassion on His afflicted ones**” (Isaiah 49:13).

God’s holy priesthood of the law shamefully wandered into sin. They will remember their waywardness and they will fear that their LORD has rejected them. “Zion said, ‘The LORD has forsaken me; the Lord has forgotten me!’” (Isaiah 49:14)

God replied hundreds of years ago and assured 21st century Israel that He will never forget His people. "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or lack compassion for the son of her womb? Though she may forget, **I will not forget you!** Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me" (Isaiah 49:15-16).

God is prophesying to the ancient Israelites. "Soon your descendants will come back, and all who are trying to destroy you will go away. Lift up your eyes and look around. **They all gather together; they come to you.** As surely as I live, **you will wear them all as jewelry and put them on like a bride**" (Isaiah 49:17-18). These righteous descendants will be honored, revered and will bring exceptional beauty to Zion.

The righteous ancient Israelites dwindled into a very small remnant. They were cast out of their land and it fell into ruin. Yet, God's handiwork prevailed the fall of His sacred priesthood in Zion and Jerusalem and far away God's people heard His word and repented. These people grew in number and when they return, they will need more land than what was originally given to Abraham.

"For your ruined and desolate places and your ravaged land will now indeed be **too small for your people**, and those who devoured you will be far away. Yet **the children of your bereavement will say in your hearing, 'This place is too small for us; make room for us to live here.'** Then **you will say in your heart, 'Who has begotten these for me? I was bereaved and barren; I was exiled and rejected.** So, who has reared them? Look, I was left all alone, so **where did they come from?'"** (Isaiah 49:19-21) The priesthood of the mother church, Zion in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. will wonder how righteousness blossomed into the 21st century nations of Israel. Millions of people in twelve nations will deeply repent during Jacob's trouble in the 21st century. The nations of the world will be shocked when these repentant nations are identified as descendants of ancient Israel.

To the surprise of the ancient twelve tribes of Jacob resurrected from the grave, they will awaken to walk among their righteous, God-fearing great, great, great... grandchildren and they will finally see and bend their knee. "Therefore, the LORD who redeemed Abraham says of the house of Jacob: 'No longer will Jacob be ashamed and no more will his face grow pale. For **when he sees his children, the work of My hands AMONG HIM, they will honor My name, they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and they will stand in awe of the God of Israel.** Then **the wayward in spirit will come to understanding, and those who grumble will accept instruction**" (Isaiah 29:22-24).

God took care of the descendants of Jacob. Throughout time, He watched over them. Even during Jacob's trouble, He never left them alone. "This is what the Lord GOD says: 'Behold, I will lift up My hand to the nations, and raise My banner to the peoples. **They will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders.** Kings will be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. They will bow to you face-down and lick the dust at your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD; those who hope in Me will never be put to shame'" (Isaiah 49:22-23).

After three and a half years of worshipping Satan and the beast from out of the sea, the nations will watch the God of Israel rescue and give victory to the remnant of the twelve nations of 21st century Israel against the raging nations obeying the military orders of the beast. Then, they will watch the God of Israel resurrect the ancient Israelites and witness the joining of two fractured houses as they bend their knee to form one Godly kingdom in servitude to Jesus Christ and the Almighty God of Israel. After Jacob's trouble, the LORD says, "Even the captives of the mighty will be taken away, and the plunder of the tyrant will be retrieved; I will contend with those who contend with you, and **I will save your children**. I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh; they will be drunk on their own blood, as with wine. **Then all mankind will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob**" (Isaiah 49:25-26).

Regardless of the alien arrival of Satan, the beast from out of the sea and the great miracles of the beast from the earth, the God of Israel will outshine their wonders as He works to humble, to rescue, to save, to fight for and with, to re-establish and to heal His people who wandered over time like lost sheep caught in toxic snags. The nations will marvel and see the work of His hands and say, "'Come, **let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.**' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Micah 4:2, Isaiah 2:3).

God will hold His arms open and welcome the people from the nations.

"And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD to minister to Him, to love the name of the LORD,

and to be His servants—all who keep the Sabbath without profaning it and who hold fast to My covenant—I will bring them to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar, for My house will be called **A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS**" (Isaiah 56:6-7).



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