

EXODUS 7:14-24

LESSON: A PLAGUE OF BLOOD —October 6, 2019

INTRODUCTION:

CHAPTER 7:1-13 The Lord told Moses that He has made him a god; an ambassador to Pharaoh and Aaron, his brother shall be his prophet. Moses will speak all that God commands, and Aaron his brother will be the spokesman to Pharaoh, so that the children of Israel are allowed to leave out of his land. God will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply the miracles in the land of Egypt. But Pharaoh still won't listen to Moses, and God will crush Egypt, and deliver His people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. And all the Egyptians shall come to know indeed that He is God when He shows them His power, and bring the children of Israel out from among them. Moses and Aaron did what the Lord commanded them to do. At this point Moses was 80 years old, and Aaron was 83 years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh. The Lord continued to speak to Moses and Aaron He tells them that when Pharaoh speaks to them, and he wants to see a miracle, Aaron is to take his rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it will become a serpent. The time has come for Moses and Aaron to go see Pharaoh, and they did as the Lord commanded. Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. Pharaoh then called his wise men and sorcerers—the magicians of Egypt, and they also did in the same manner with their enchantments. Their rods became serpents too, but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. Just as the Lord predicted, Pharaoh hardened his heart, and would not listen to them.

LESSON: I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FIRST PLAGUE EXODUS 7:14-19

7:14 And the Lord said unto Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go. Pharaoh still wouldn't listen because his heart is hardened by God, and he refuses to let the people go.

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. Well, God tells them to go try this again; go to Pharaoh in the morning by the water because that's where he'll be, and stand by the river's brink to meet him, holding the same rod that's in his hand that turned into a serpent. This is like getting ready for round two of signs and wonders.

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 wouldst not hear. God tells Moses and Aaron what to say and do. This is the third request.

1. Tell Pharaoh who sent you: *"The Lord God of the Hebrews."*
2. Tell Pharaoh why you were sent: *"Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness."*

But, the result is that when Pharaoh is told this: *"thou wouldst not hear"*; Just as previously, he would not hear or believe. The Lord identifies Himself with the people of Israel although they are slaves (*the God of the Hebrews; my people*). Pharaoh thinks *the God of the Hebrews* has no power or authority to

make such a request because He identifies Himself with (*my people*); slaves.

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.

God is saying that in this miracle, Pharaoh will now know who the Lord is, for God will smite with the rod that's in Aaron's hand upon the waters; the River Nile, and the water will turn to blood. This is the beginning of the first Plague God releases upon the Egyptians—**Water turned into blood.**

7:18 And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall loathe to drink of the water of the river. This will cause the death of the fish in the river, plus the river will begin to stink, and the Egyptians will be disgusted and find it impossible to drink the water from the river.

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. All the while God had been talking to Moses, now God tells Moses to say to Aaron; instruct Aaron to do what He had just said. If most people had seen the movie *The Ten Commandments*, you would think that Moses had struck the water, but we see that Aaron is the one who takes the rod and stretches out his hand upon the waters of Egypt, streams, rivers, ponds, even their pools of water for them to become blood; blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even the water stored in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone in the homes to turn to blood.

II. ENACTMENT OF THE FIRST PLAGUE EXODUS 7:20-21

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. Moses and Aaron did what the Lord had commanded of them. In the sight of Pharaoh and his officials, Aaron lifts up the rod and hits the water in the River Nile and all the water became blood.

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 fish in the river died, and the smell from the river was so bad that the Egyptians could not even drink its water. There was blood everywhere in Egypt, just as the Lord had said.

III. RESPONSE TO THE FIRST PLAGUE EXODUS 7:22-24

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. Well, the Egyptians thought this was a chance to see who could out-do who. And the magicians of Egypt did likewise where they seemed to perform what appeared to be the same miracle with their magic, that it caused Pharaoh's heart to remain hard and stubborn, so that he could not listen to Moses again as the Lord had said he would do.

7:23 And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also. Pharaoh's response was that he just turned and went into his palace unimpressed. He didn't even take it to heart; didn't even think about the sign that was displayed to him. He probably thought Moses and Aaron

were no more than just clever magicians.

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. This should have alerted Pharaoh of the hand of Moses and Aaron's God in striking the water where they couldn't even drink the water. This was so far off the edge that it took to digging holes to even get water to drink. Why couldn't the Egyptian magicians bring it to normal after turning the river to blood also? They could not even drink the bad water in the river. Therefore they all had to resort to digging holes near the River Nile to see if they could get to the clean water. This should have seemed strange to them!

NOT A PART OF THE LESSON

7:25 And seven days were fulfilled, after that the Lord had smitten the river. However, a week had to pass by after the Lord had smote the river, before the water was cleansed or free from the plague of blood.

SUMMARY:

Pharaoh still wouldn't listen because his heart is hardened by God, and he refuses to let the people go. Well, God tells them to go try this again. He tells Moses and Aaron what to do and say: go to Pharaoh in the morning by the water and stand by the river's brink to meet him, and hold the same rod that turned into a serpent in his hand, and tell Pharaoh who sent them and why they were sent. But, behold, he won't hear. And in doing this Pharaoh will know who the Lord is, for God will smite with the rod that's in Aaron's hand upon the waters, and the water will turn to blood. This will cause the death of the fish in the river, the river will stink, and the Egyptians will be disgusted and find it impossible to drink the water from the river. The Lord speaks to Moses and tells him to instruct Aaron to take the rod, and stretch out his hand upon the waters of Egypt, the streams, rivers, ponds, and their pools of water, so 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. (7:14-19).

Moses and Aaron did what the Lord had commanded of them. In the sight of Pharaoh and his officials, Aaron lifts up the rod and hits the water in the River Nile and all the water became blood. The fish in the river died and the smell from the river was so bad that the Egyptians could not even drink its water. There was blood everywhere in Egypt (7:20-21).

The magicians of Egypt did likewise where they seemed to perform what appeared to be the same miracle with their magic, that it caused Pharaoh's heart to remain hard and stubborn, so that he could not listen to Moses again as the Lord had said he would do. And Pharaoh just turned and went into his palace unimpressed. He didn't even take it to heart; didn't even think about the sign that was displayed in the front of him. He probably thought Moses and Aaron were no more than just clever magicians. The Egyptians could not even drink the bad water in the river, therefore they all had to resort to digging holes near the River Nile to see if they could get to the clean water. However, a week had to pass by after the Lord had smote the river, before the water was cleansed or free from the plague of blood (7:22-25).