

Moses – part 7
Moses and Aaron Strike Egypt with Plagues
by Victor Torres

The Lord has begun to show His power through the miracles performed by Moses and Aaron. First, the Lord told Moses and Aaron to turn Aaron's stick down in front of the pharaoh and it will turn into a snake.

Exo 7:8 – 9 (CEV) The LORD said, "Moses, when the king asks you and Aaron to perform a miracle, **command Aaron to throw his walking stick down in front of the king, and it will turn into a snake.**"

Exo 7:10 Moses and Aaron went to the king and his officials and did exactly as the LORD had commanded--Aaron threw the stick down, and it turned into a snake.

You'll notice that it is Aaron's stick that turned into a snake and not the staff of Moses. Remember in the beginning when the Lord first spoke to Moses, the Lord turned Moses' staff into a snake and told Moses to perform this miracle in front of Israel to make them believe that the Lord appeared to him. Now it is Aaron's stick that turned into a snake to show the Lord's power to Pharaoh. What is the point being taught us here? Why not just Moses changing his walking stick into a snake again, but this time in front of the pharaoh? This is because God wants to teach us that whatever power He has given to Christ (represented by Moses), He has also given to His messengers, the people who compose the body of Christ (represented by Aaron).

Mat 28:18 (KJV) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

Luk 10:19 (KJV) Behold, I give unto you power to tread **on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

The elect has the power to tread on or trample serpents and scorpions. These snakes and scorpions are poisonous animals. Of course we have learned that this is a figure of speech. I don't want you going around trying to step on snakes or scorpions.

Psa 110:1 (BBE) **A Psalm. Of David.** The Lord said to my lord, **Be seated at my right hand, till I put all those who are against you under your feet.**

Psa 110:2 The Lord will send out the rod of your strength from Zion; be king over your haters.

These poisonous animals are symbols of God's enemies. Their poison is their false teachings. The elect are not convinced of their false teachings; that's the power given to them. The elect knows the true teaching of Christ, so they are

able to distinguish which doctrines or teachings lead to life and which ones lead to death.

Exo 7:11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: **now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.**

Notice how these magicians of Egypt changed their walking rods into snakes: "with their enchantments". They did it using witchcraft. We learned from the story of Jacob that witchcraft is a very bad thing. Laban, Jacob's evil father-in-law, practiced witchcraft. There are no good witches. They are all bad, and those who practice such things will be punished by God.

Exo 7:12 (CEV) they threw down sticks that turned into snakes. But Aaron's snake swallowed theirs.

Aaron's snake swallowed these magicians' snakes! What an incredible sight to behold. And we learned earlier that this is a symbol of God's elect winning over their enemies.

Exo 7:13 (KJV) And he (the Lord) hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, so the Pharaoh was unimpressed by Aaron's snake swallowing his magicians' snakes. Most people are blinded to the amazing truth in the verse we just read. The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart. It's right there in front of us. Of course, when we are blind, we can't see things even if their right under our noses.

Exo 7:14 (CEV) The LORD said to Moses: The Egyptian king stubbornly refuses to change his mind and let the people go.

Exo 7:15 Tomorrow morning take the stick that turned into a snake, then wait beside the Nile River for the king.

Exo 7:16 Tell him, "The LORD God of the Hebrews sent me to order you to release his people, so they can worship him in the desert. But until now, you have paid no attention.

Exo 7:17 "The LORD is going to do something to show you that he really is the LORD. I will strike the Nile with this stick, and the water will turn into blood.

Exo 7:18 The fish will die, the river will stink, and none of you Egyptians will be able to drink the water."

Exo 7:19 Moses, then command Aaron to hold his stick over the water. And when he does, every drop of water in Egypt will turn into blood, including rivers, canals, ponds, and even the water in buckets and jars.

It was again Aaron who turned the waters into blood by Moses' command, showing us that the Lord does everything through His body [of believers].

Exo 7:20 (CEV) Moses and Aaron obeyed the LORD. Aaron held out his stick, then struck the Nile, as the king and his officials watched. The river turned into blood,

Exo 7:21 the fish died, and the water smelled so bad that none of the Egyptians could drink it. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.

The rivers, canals, ponds and even water in buckets and jars turned, into blood. This is a terrifying sight. Some of you might be thinking, "If I were pharaoh, I would have thrown my hands in the air right then and there. Okay, that's it, I give up. I will let Israel go". But the Lord had other plans. He hardened pharaoh's heart once more so that he would not listen to Moses and Aaron.

Exo 7:22 (KJV) 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.

The Lord let Egypt's magicians come up with some water that they can turn into blood. They used witchcraft again, and this may have contributed to Pharaoh staying convinced not to let God's people go.

We learned last week the spiritual meaning of these waters turning into blood. A teacher in the body explained that the blood is a symbol of God's words. And God's words kill the old man within us, as the fish symbolize. Here are the words that our Lord spoke using those symbols.

Mar 14:24 (KJV) And he said unto them, **This is my blood of the new testament,** which is shed for many.

Mar 1:16 (ESV) Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

Mar 1:17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become **fishers of men.**"

As we learned, Pharaoh is a symbol of our old man or old self. Our old man cannot receive the words of God. We lean on our own understanding instead of listening to God's advice. This is the message being taught to us by this next verse.

Exo 7:23 (KJV) And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart

to this also.

The Egyptians are symbols of the same thing, our old self which cannot receive the words of God, symbolized by the water turned into blood.

Exo 7:24 The Egyptians had to dig holes along the banks of the Nile for drinking water, because water from the river was unfit to drink.

Exo 7:25 Seven days after the LORD had struck the Nile,

You see how these Egyptians rely on their own strength, their own wisdom to take care of themselves? This is in total contrast to the people of Israel who are shepherds who rely in God's grace to provide for them.

Exo 8:1 he said to Moses: Go to the palace and tell the king of Egypt that I order him to let my people go, so they can worship me.

Exo 8:2 If he refuses, I will cover his entire country with frogs.

Exo 8:3 Warn the king that the Nile will be full of frogs, and from there they will spread into the royal palace, including the king's bedroom and even his bed. Frogs will enter the homes of his officials and will find their way into ovens and into the bowls of bread dough.

Exo 8:4 Frogs will be crawling on everyone--the king, his officials, and every citizen of Egypt.

Exo 8:5 Moses, now command Aaron to hold his stick over the water. Then frogs will come from all rivers, canals, and ponds in Egypt, and they will cover the land.

Exo 8:6 Aaron obeyed, and suddenly frogs were everywhere in Egypt.

This is really gross. But the Lord is trying to teach us something here. Here's the meaning of the frogs, as shown in Revelations.

Rev 16:13 **An evil spirit that looked like a frog** came out of the mouth of the dragon. One also came out of the mouth of the beast, and another out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Rev 16:14 These evil spirits had the power to work miracles. **They went to every king on earth, to bring them together for a war against God All-Powerful.** But that will be the day of God's great victory.

So these frogs are evil spirits coming out of the mouth of the dragon. The dragon is Satan, God's main enemy. He uses these evil spirits to convince people to

disobey God. These evil spirits will rule our lives if we are disobedient to God.

Exo 8:7 (CEV) But the magicians used their secret powers (enchantments/witchcraft) to do the same thing.

Come to think of it, why would these magicians or sorcerers continue to duplicate Moses and Aaron's miracles? Wouldn't it be more impressive if they were to reverse these plagues? Wouldn't the pharaoh be happy if they turned the blood back into water and made the frogs disappear? But the Lord didn't give them that power.

Exo 8:8 (CEV) The king sent for Moses and Aaron and told them, "If you ask the LORD to take these frogs away from me and my people, I will let your people go and offer sacrifices to him."

Exo 8:9 "All right," Moses answered. "You choose the time when I am to pray for the frogs to stop bothering you, your officials, and your people, and for them to leave your houses and be found only in the river."

Exo 8:10 "Do it tomorrow!" the king replied. "As you wish," Moses agreed. "Then everyone will discover that there is no god like the LORD,

The Pharaoh wants to let the Israelites go. The poor guy cannot sleep or eat. Frogs are everywhere; in his bed, in the ovens and in his food. Disobedient people receive no food and rest from God.

Exo 8:11 (CEV) and frogs will no longer be found anywhere, except in the Nile."

Exo 8:12 After Moses and Aaron left the palace, Moses begged the LORD to do something about the frogs he had sent as punishment for the king.

Exo 8:13 The LORD listened to Moses, and frogs died everywhere--in houses, yards, and fields.

Exo 8:14 The dead frogs were placed in piles, **and the whole country began to stink.**

Exo 8:15 But when the king saw that things were now better, he again did just as the LORD had said and stubbornly refused to listen to Moses and Aaron.

When we are stubborn as the Pharaoh, no amount of prayer or sacrifice will please God. Our good works stink to God like dirty rags.

Isa 64:6 (CEV) We are unfit to worship you; **each of our good deeds is merely a filthy rag.** We dry up like leaves; our sins are storm winds sweeping us away.

The Lord continues to punish Egypt for Pharaoh's stubbornness. We cannot outlast God. He is God! He doesn't get tired of punishing us until we repent. His mercy endures forever!

Exo 8:16 (CEV) The LORD said to Moses, "Command Aaron to strike the ground with his walking stick, and everywhere in Egypt the dust will turn into gnats."

Exo 8:17 They obeyed, and when Aaron struck the ground with the stick, gnats started swarming on people and animals. In fact, every speck of dust in Egypt turned into a gnat.

Exo 8:18 When the magicians tried to use their secret powers to do this, they failed, and gnats stayed on people and animals.

Exo 8:19 The magicians told the king, "God has done this." But, as the LORD had said, the king was too stubborn to listen.

Next time, Lord willing, we will continue to see the spiritual lessons behind these