

Moses—Exodus 6, 7

God Begins to Perform Signs

I. Additional Scriptures...

1. Ex 12:12... *For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.*

The Ten Plagues on Egypt		
Number	The Plague	The Effect
01	Blood (Ex 7:20)	Pharaoh is hardened (7:22).
02	Frogs (Ex 8:6)	Pharaoh begs relief, promises freedom (8:8), but is hardened (8:15).
03	Lice (Ex 8:17)	Pharaoh is hardened (8:19).
04	Flies (Ex 8:24)	Pharaoh bargains (8:28), but is hardened (8:32).
05	Livestock Diseased (Ex 9:6)	Pharaoh is hardened (9:7).
06	Boils (Ex 9:10)	Pharaoh is hardened (9:12).
07	Hail (Ex 9:23)	Pharaoh begs relief (9:27), promises freedom (9:28), but is hardened (9:35).
08	Locusts (Ex 10:13)	Pharaoh bargains (10:11), begs relief (10:17), but is hardened (10:20).
09	Darkness (Ex 10:22)	Pharaoh bargains (10:24), but is hardened (10:27).
10	Death of the Firstborn (Ex 12:29)	Pharaoh and the Egyptians beg Israel to leave Egypt (12:31-22).

Data for this chart was taken from *The MacArthur Study Bible*, page 103.

2. 6:1... Deut 4:34; Ps 89:13.
3. 6:3... The patriarchs did know the name JEHOVAH in some sense... Gen 22:14; 15:7-8; 4:1; 18:13, 17; 26:2. The apparent contradiction can be explained in the fact that these children of Israel are about to KNOW MORE FULLY Jehovah than did their fathers through the powerful signs that will be used by Jehovah to keep His covenant with the descendants of Abraham.
4. 6:12, 30... Uncircumcised EAR (Jer 6:10); Uncircumcised in the heart (Jer 9:26); Uncircumcised in heart AND ears (Acts 7:51). Likely here, lacking eloquence (4:10).
5. 7:20... **all the waters:** “As the Nile was held sacred by the Egyptians, as well as the animals it contained, to which they annually sacrificed a girl, or as others say, both a boy and girl, God might have designed this plague as a punishment for such idolatry and cruelty; and to show them the baseness of those elements which they revered, and the insufficiency of the gods in which they trusted. All the punishments brought upon them bore a strict analogy to their crimes” [TSK].
6. 2 Timothy 3:8

II. Chronology.
BIBLE PERIOD: Egyptian Bondage.

III. Summary.

God speaks to Moses, again affirming that He will deliver the children of Israel out of the burdens they are suffering in Egypt. They will come to know better Who Jehovah is by the mighty signs that will be used to demonstrate His power. God promises to redeem the people and bring them out from under the burdens and He will do so with great judgments against Egypt. Furthermore, He says to tell the people that He will take them for a people and will be their God.

Moses delivered the message, but the people did not hearken because of anguish of spirit and for cruel bondage (6:9). The Lord sends Moses to Pharaoh. Moses protests that since the children of Israel had not listened to him, it would be unlikely that Pharaoh would listen either. God gave a charge to Moses and Aaron to deliver to the children of Israel and to Pharaoh. The family of Moses and Aaron is detailed (Ex 6:14-27).

God speaks once again to Moses and tells him to speak to Pharaoh that he should send the children of Israel out of his land. Pharaoh's heart will be hardened and one of the results of the signs used to soften his hear will be that the Egyptians will know that He is the Lord.

Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded them. Moses was eighty years old and his brother, Aaron, was eighty-three. When Pharaoh asked for a miracle, Aaron was to cast down his rod and it would become a serpent. Moses and Aaron did go before Pharaoh and did deliver the message and did throw down the rod and it became a serpent. The magicians did likewise, however, the rod of Aaron swallowed up the rods of the magicians. Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he refused to let the people go. The first of the ten plagues are begun in this chapter. The first plague was that of turning the Nile and all other waters in Egypt into blood. The magicians also were able to turn water to blood, so Pharaoh's heart was hardened and refused to let the children of Israel go. The Egyptians had to dig around the river to find water for drinking.

IV. Outline.

1. God gives further reassurance that He will deliver the people from Egyptian bondage (Ex 6:1-8).
2. The people would not listen to Moses (Ex 6:9).
3. Once again Moses goes to the Lord and he is reassured (Ex 6:10-13).
4. The family of Moses and Aaron listed (Ex 6:14-27).
5. God sends Moses to Pharaoh (Ex 6:28-30).
6. Instructions are given to Moses (Ex 7:1-5).
7. Moses and Aaron obeyed God's instruction (Ex 7:6).
8. The age of Moses and Aaron (Ex 7:7).
9. The rod changes into a serpent (Ex 7:8-13).
10. God gives instructions regarding the FIRST PLAGUE and Moses and Aaron follow the instructions (Ex 7:14-23).
11. The Egyptians had to dig for water to drink (Ex 7:24-25).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ The first plague lasted at least one week.
02. _____ The children of Israel would be redeemed with a stretched out arm.
03. _____ Moses was the older brother of Aaron.

04. _____ Moses was told that Aaron would be his prophet.
 05. _____ The names of both of Moses’ parents are given in this reading.
- Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)**
06. _____ The land that God swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would be given to the children of Israel as: (a) a sign; (b) an heritage; (c) a blessing.
 07. _____ What happened to the fish that were in the Nile River at the time of the First Plague: (a) they died; (b) they swam away; (c) they were eaten.
 08. _____ Not only would Pharaoh let the people go, he would: (a) pay them; (b) thank them; (c) drive them out of the land.
 09. _____ God said Pharaoh would ask them to show something, at that point they were to cast the rod before Pharaoh and it would become a serpent, show what: (a) a miracle; (b) why he should listen; (c) how to release the people.
 10. _____ Which of the following was NOT a son of Levi: (a) Gershon; (b) Kohath; (c) Merari; (d) Zohar.

Fill in the Blanks

11. _____ was the father of Moses.
12. During the plague, we are told the river (Nile) did this _____ (5 letter word).
13. God told Moses that He would _____ signs and wonders in Egypt.
14. Aaron’s sons: _____, _____, _____, & _____.
15. Aaron’s rod _____ the magician’s rods.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

ANSWERS to Lesson 01-53 ... [01—True, Ex 4:1, 31; 02—True, Ex 4:8; 03—False, Ex 4:16; 04—False, Ex 4:20; 05—False, Ex 4:27; 06—b, Ex 4:3; 07—a, Ex 4:10; 08—c, Ex 4:14; 09—b, Ex 4:17; 10—c, Ex 4:31; 11—stone, Ex 4:25; 12—looked, Ex 4:31; 13—go, in, peace, Ex 4:18; 14—eloquent, Ex 4:10; 15—anger, Moses, Levite, Ex 4:14.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **...by the name of God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them** (Ex 6:3). Since we do have several passages (Gen 22:14; 15:7-8; 4:1; 18:13, 17; 26:2) that plainly show that the patriarchs did know the name Jehovah, then there must be some other point being made in this statement. Brother Clyde Woods makes this comment in his Living Way Commentary: “The verb rendered ‘to know’ ([-yada]) usually involves ‘to know through experience.’ Thus ‘knowing the name’ of the Lord involves more than simply realizing that God is called Yahweh. Rather, the present passage teaches that Israel, by seeing the powerful acts of God (6-7) and thus experiencing the Lord’s faithfulness to his covenant promise, will come to comprehend the greatness of Yahweh as the covenant God more fully than did the patriarchs. The passage therefore focuses attention upon God’s revelation of Himself in the events of the exodus.”
2. **...and I have remembered my covenant** (Ex 6:5). The God of the Bible is a covenant-keeping God. It is such a tremendous blessing to learn about God’s dealings with man in time past and to learn that promises that He made are promises He kept. For Moses, there had to be selected a replacement leader, Joshua. During the time of the conquest of the promised land, this Joshua was able to make the statement in Joshua 23:14—*“And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.”* Study of the Old Testament enriches our understanding of **WHO** God is. Being beneficiaries of such study should make us stronger in the faith.

3. **And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God...** (Ex 6:7). What a remarkable and wonderful announcement that Moses is being instructed to make to his brethren!!! If the word GOSPEL means good news, and it does, then Moses was a “gospel preacher” in the delivery of this message. Out of all of the people whom the Lord could have selected, He chose these people. Moses wrote these words in Deuteronomy 7:6—“*For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.*” I suspect that if these chosen ones had meditated more on this statement, they might have behaved themselves differently in the months and years that follow this announcement. This statement is applicable today to the “Israel of God,” those who have an inward circumcision of the heart (Gal 6:15-16; Rom 2:28-29; Gal 5:6; Col 3:11), members of the Lord’s church. We are the ones whom God has called through the preaching of the gospel (2 Th 2:14). What a blessed privilege to be a part of God’s chosen people!!!
4. **And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage** (Ex 6:9). By having the completed revelation and looking at this rejection of Moses’ message, we have great difficulty understanding this verse. Not only was the announcement made to this people that God has chosen them to be His people and that He would bring them out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, but also they were told about a land which was to be given to them by the Lord. The “anguish of spirit” and “cruel bondage” must have been VERY EXTREME to cause this people not to listen to such words of hope and promise from Moses.
5. **...the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me; how then shall Pharaoh hear me, who am of uncircumcised lips?** (Ex 6:12, cf., v. 30). This expression “uncircumcised lips” is best defined by the earlier statement Moses made to God in Ex 4:10—“*And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou has spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.*” He may have had an actual speech impediment or he may have been fearful of using the language after being away from Egypt for 40 years. Stephen does say of Moses that he was “mighty” in word (Acts 7:22). Evidently his slowness of speech was something that he was able to overcome. At any rate, God had provided Aaron to solve this problem.
6. **And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, ... And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord** (Ex 7:3-5). The hardening of Pharaoh’s heart would serve the good purpose of demonstrating powerfully to the Egyptians that the God of the Israelites is God indeed. Later, the powerful signs God performed were noticed by other nations and Rahab told the spies that it had caused their hearts to melt (Joshua 2:1-11).
7. **...but Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods** (Ex 7:12). Though the magicians were able in some way to make rods into serpents, there was no question about the superiority of the demonstration of the power of the God represented by Moses and Aaron!
8. **...and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood** (Ex 7:20). This beginning of the plagues would be a very severe blow to the Egyptians. The importance to them of the Nile River could hardly be exaggerated. They even worshipped the river and sacrificed babies to the river and the creatures in it. God would, through these plagues, execute judgment against the gods of the Egyptians. These powerful signs would eventually result in the freedom of His chosen people.

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

M N B V C X Z L R J H G F D S A P O U T
 Y T R E W Q L K J O H G F D S A M U P T
 R E W Q S D C X Z A D E D C V F R Y T G
 B N H Y U J T H R O U G H O U T G M N B
 V C X Z U Y T R E W S X C D E E R F V Y
 H N B V S C X S Z X C V B N M K D J H G
 F D S D W E C V T N M B V C X Z R I U Y
 H N N E D C R E V I R V B N M Y I R F V
 S O X C V B N G T R N E D C X S N W S X
 P C V B N M B G T R F K V C C D K W E R
 F V B N H Y T L G B V F R E D C X S W X
 Z X C V B N M J O U Y H N T G B R F V E
 E D C V F R S T G O H N Y T G B V F R E
 E D C V F L R T G B D Y H N M J U I K M
 Z A Q W E S X H C V R F V B S T G B N H
 Y U J S M N D S R F V B G T L Y H N V F
 E D S C F R F I T G B N H Y O U J M K I
 R E F V C D E F E W S X Z A O Q A Z X C
 D E D C V F R T G B N H Y U P M N B V C
 X Z K J H F D S A W E R T Y U I O P M N

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

¹⁷Thus 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**. ¹⁸And 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. ¹⁹And 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. ²⁰And 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. ²¹And 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**.