

Sermon Outlines

Moses Being Trained By God - Part 5

- 1) Pharaoh, whichever one of the Pharaohs he was is irrelevant, ruled over all of Egypt and was seen as a god. His word was absolute and therefore, for this nomad Moses to come out of the wilderness and tell him what to do was to his mind, foolishness and impudence. For this “unknown god” making demands of Him was not a matter to be considered. Pharaoh stands like a rock, unmoved despite the warnings of his magicians. He would not let Israel go. It is written:
 - a) His heart was hardened (Ex. 7:22), a fact God had revealed (Ex. 7:14; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 12, 34, 35).
 - b) God hardened Pharaoh’s heart (Ex. 7:13; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:8).
 - c) Pharaoh had the free will to obey God or not do as God commanded. Consequently, God started to deal with him in judgment, hardening his heart. In other words, becoming more stubborn with every plague.
 - d) In Exodus 7:13 it says, “He” hardened Pharaoh’s heart. In Hebrew the verb is not passive. Furthermore, it is not clear who is doing the hardening. In the first plague, Pharaoh hardens his own heart. It is an act of his own will.
 - e) No matter how stubborn an agnostic, atheist or evolutionist may be, they will bow to the Lord and acknowledge Him as Lord (Phil. 2:10-11).
- 2) The descriptions of the plagues
 - a) The plagues are described by several names:
 1. Signs - (Ex. 4:28). It indicates a signal, a token, an indication of ownership. (Ex. 8:23). That which shows, confirms, and demands attention.
 2. Wonders - (Ex. 7:3) - to convince.
 3. Judgments - (Ex. 6:6)
 4. Temptations - (Deut. 4:34). It is better translated as trials to prove obedience and loyalty.
 5. War indicates the anger of God against Pharaoh.
- 3) How God delivered the Israelites
 - a) With a Mighty Hand (Ex. 32:11), which is strong to deal blows, which grasps the enemy so that there is no escape.
 - b) Great terrors are those afflictions which cause mental, emotional terror, dismay, consternation.
 - c) The use of the finger, hand and arm of God. The finger of God (Ex. 8:19). “Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This [is] the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.”
 - d) The hand of the Lord (Ex. 9:3) “Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle which [is] in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: [there shall be] a very grievous murrain.”
 - e) The stretched out arm (Ex. 6:6) “Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I [am] the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments”
 - f) The Egyptians had mocked God and his servant. They had shown, to their mind, by their sleight of hand and satanic activity the impunity of God; now God will show them. They had sought to disgrace Him; now He will disgrace them (the servants of the gods) and their gods.
- 4) There is a built-in behaviour in man that if told not to do something, he will do it. If a bench has a sign “Wet Paint Do not touch”, it is a natural thing to touch it. When God came down to deliver the Israelites and dwell among them, there was the danger of God becoming, in their minds, casual and as in the case of Nadab and Abihu, the possibility of “Let’s see what will happen if”. Because of this possibility, God gave the laws by which one could come to Him.

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Plague	Who hardened	Reference	Magicians
Water to blood, fish die and stink	Pharaoh, and he did not harken	ch 7:22	did the same
Frogs	Pharaoh recognizes this God	ch 8:15	did the same
Lice	The magicians acknowledged this is the finger of God Pharaoh hardened his heart	ch 8:19	Tried to do the same but could not (ch 8:18)
Flies	Do not go very far Pharaoh hardened his heart	ch 8:32 ch 8:15	
Murrain (a Plague)	The heart of Pharaoh was hardened	ch 9:7	
Boils	The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh	ch 9:11	Magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils
Hail	Heart of Pharaoh was hardened	ch 9:34	
Locusts	Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart	ch 9:27	
Darkness	Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart	ch 10:21-24	
Death	Pharaoh and his people urged the Israelites to go (Ex. 12:31-32)	Ch 12:30	

- 1) The ninth plague was darkness (ch 10:21—24)
 - a) From chapter 10:24-11:8 Moses is before Pharaoh and Pharaoh being furious at Moses says, “Get thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in that day thou seest my face thou shalt die” (ch 10:28). Then Moses answers, “Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more” (ch 10:29). Moses went out from Pharaoh in anger (ch 11:8). I then see chapter 11:9-10 are a repeat of that which God had already told Moses.
 - b) In between the time when Moses went out from Pharaoh until the Passover, God told Moses words of encouragement (ch 11:1), what to say to the people and what they did (ch 11:2-3).
- 2) Finally, God gave Pharaoh the last opportunity to save the life of his son. This was God's last voice to the Egyptians and His first voice to the redeemed.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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