



Exodus

Freed to Worship

Exodus 7:14-25

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Message #13 of 50 – SN019



Sunday Evening Service

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Exodus: Freed to Worship

Exodus 7:14-25

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Exodus 7**
- We are continuing our study: **Freed to Worship**
- Last time, we stooped at verse 13
- Moses and Aaron had just done what the Lord had told them to do and gone into see Pharaoh
- The Lord predicted that Pharaoh would ask for a sign that what they were was true
- The Lord told them to do the sign of the rod turning into a serpent
- And so that is exactly what they did
- And then, probably to Moses and Aaron's dismay and surprise, the magicians of Pharaoh's court also were able to turn their rods into serpents
- Some would like us to believe that was sleight of hand or some sort of trick by the magicians
- The language of the text doesn't suggest that, it says they did exactly what Moses and Aaron had done
- Behind all of this is the reality that the enemy of mankind, Satan has supernatural power
- He has the power to do some of the things that we attribute to God
- But everything he does is a weak counterfeit of what God has done
- In the last message we saw Satan's agent's duplicate God's miracle
- But then something else happened, Aaron's rod swallowed up all the other rods
- That is a very symbolic thing, even though God allowed them to duplicate his miraculous act, He still proved His power by swallowing up their rods
- And there was nothing they could do to stop it
- This reality is lost on Pharaoh, as verse 13 says that Pharaoh's heart grew heart
- He was insensitive to the reality of any God other than the ones he permitted to exist

- Gods of his own design and character
- But Pharaoh was totally unwilling to yield his heart to a God who claimed to be his superior
- Let's get into tonight's text

Teaching

- **Exodus: Freed to Worship**

- **Exodus 7:14**

- When God makes up his mind about something, He is not going to change it **Number 23:19**

God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

- When God says something, it becomes a fixed reality in the universe
- Turn to **Jeremiah 18**
- God had made it clear that the people of Israel were to be released
- If Pharaoh had responded immediately, he could have spared his nation the disasters that were coming
- Because people or nations do what God says He will relent from judgment
- **Jeremiah 18:1-6**
- This is God claiming His sovereign right to do whatever He wants in the universe
- And because we know that God is perfectly good, holy, and righteous, we know that everything He does is perfectly good, holy, and righteous, even when we don't understand what He is doing
- The Bible teaches that we don't understand because God is so much greater than we are, that we are incapable of understanding everything He does **Isaiah 55:8-9**

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

- It's okay that we don't understand, it is an opportunity to prove that we trust God
- **Jeremiah 18:7-11**
- God would rather relent from bringing judgment upon a nation
- But if that nation refuses to repent, He will not relent

- And just as it is true with nations, it is true with groups and individuals
- God takes no delight in judgment, but His holy nature demands that sin be punished
- But God's love is so great that He went to extravagant lengths to save people from that judgment **Romans 5:8**

God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- God's desire is that all would repent, so that He can relent from judgment
- Turn back to **Exodus 7**
- The book of Revelation is proof that no matter what comes in this world, one thing can know for certain is that God is going to run out patience waiting for the world to repent
- The unfulfilled prophecies of Revelation are proof that mankind as a whole will harden their collective hearts until God is left with no choice but to do what He said He was going to do
- The first of ten plagues begins in verse 14
- In verse three of chapter seven the Lord refers to these plagues as signs and wonders
- Plague is used in chapter 9 and 11, as well as many other places in Scripture
- The phrase 'signs and wonders' is important
- These were not just coincidental events that happened that God used to punish Egypt
- God used His mighty power to sovereignly control the things of nature and He caused them to be
- Once we believe that God can create everything out of nothing, it is easy to believe that God can control what he created
- These ten plagues were intended to do more than just punish Egypt
- God had an even greater purpose than simply that
- Speaking to Pharaoh, the Lord said if I wanted to I could completely destroy you – like Sodom and Gomorrah **Exodus 9:16-17**

But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. ¹⁷ As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go.

- Pharaoh and Egypt were going to be an object lesson for the whole world to see
- God is not to be trifled with
- And His people are not to be messed with
- Back in Exodus 7, the Lord continues His instructions to Moses and Aaron
- **Exodus 7:15**
- It is not explained why Pharaoh was coming down to the water
- The river is the River Nile
- The Nile was crucial to the life and prosperity of the Egyptians
- It was one of the primary sources of transportation
- It was a source of nourishment
- There was an active and thriving fishing industry in the Nile
- It also provided all the water for their crops
- And every year the Nile would flood bringing rich soil from further north
- It was so important to the Egyptians that it became an object of worship
- At least three of their eighty most significant gods were associated with the river Nile
- It is very likely that this is a morning ritual of paying homage to one or more of the gods of the Nile
- God is going to confront Pharaoh in the place of his misplaced trust
- **Exodus 7:16**
- Pharaoh, in case you have forgotten, God wants you let His people go
- Different day, same message
- **Exodus 7:17-18**
- By telling Moses to tell Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord’ letting Pharaoh know this is not a work of flesh
- This is a divine work of God
- You are resisting and fighting the God who created the Nile and all the fish in the River
- He is prepared to prove His Lordship over all creation, which included Pharaoh and his nation
- Jesus also worked many miracles during His ministry on the earth

- At one point John the Baptist who had been thrown into prison sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus if He was the Messiah **Matthew 11:2-6**

When John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples ³ and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: ⁵ *The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.* ⁶ And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”

- Jesus referred to His miracles as one of the proofs of His claim to be the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah, the Savior of the world
- And then the Lord tells Moses and Aaron exactly what is going to happen

- **Exodus 7:19**

- This plague was not going to be limited to just the river Nile, but to every body of water in the land of Egypt
- Including the water stored in containers
- Try to imagine that – truly disgusting
- And so Moses and Aaron set out to do what they are told – always a good idea
- I wonder how many miraculous things we miss because we don’t do what God is telling us to do?

- **Exodus 7:20-21**

- In Numbers 33 it says that God executed the gods of the Egyptians
- That does not mean that the gods were real
- It is just that the things that the Egyptians were worshipping and trusting in were attacked by God to prove His absolute power over all created things
- This is a warning to everyone, be careful what you put your trust in
- God will not tolerate any competitors
- It is not God is threatened by those things
- It is because those things are a threat to you
- If you put your trust in someone or something other than God, he knows that eventually it is going to fail or it is going to work to move you further and further away from Him
- And so, in order to save you from that, He may attack the very thing you are putting your trust in

- Put your trust in a job that threatens to draw you away from Him and He will either take that job away or He will make it very uncomfortable for you
- Though, in His grace He will warn you, give you clues along the way
- He will remind you over and over again that He expects your love, worship, and service
- Be careful what you allow to become a god in your life
- The skeptics and liberals try to explain w=away miracles like this by trying to explain them naturally
- They attempt to spiritualize or rationalize things like this, so that they are easier to accept
- Like saying this was an algae bloom that was red in color so that it looked like blood
- Or that it was red sediment from upstream that made the water look like blood
- Besides if this could have been explained naturally Pharaoh would have been unimpressed
- The problem is that the language does not give us the liberty to do that
- Nothing in the text suggests that is symbolic
- In fact, quite the opposite
- At the end of verse 20 says the waters were ‘turned’ to blood
- That word ‘turned’ = changed, or transformed
- What was water was changed into something else
- The something else is blood
- That word in the Hebrew can only mean one thing – blood
- Wherever possible, we should always interpret the Bible literally
- It will tell us when we are to interpret symbolically
- This is not one of those times
- What happened? God turned all the water in the land of Egypt to blood
- This miracle is going to happen again, except on a much larger scale

Revelation 16:3-6

Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead *man*; and every living creature in the sea died.⁴ Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

⁵ And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, the One who is and who was and who is to be, because You have judged these things.⁶ For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due."⁷ And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

- I am so thankful that I am not going to be here to see that
- Because this miracle of the blood being turned to blood couldn't be explained naturally Pharaoh calls in his magicians again
- **Exodus 7:22-23**
- The magicians were again able to duplicate the miracle
- They were able to change water to blood
- But notice something, they could turn water to blood, but they couldn't change blood to water
- God allowed them to duplicate the miracle, but He didn't allow them to override it – they couldn't reverse it
- This is further proof that God is sovereign, that His power overrules all others
- The crucifixion of Jesus is another example of that
- From a human perspective the death of Jesus on the cross was a defeat for God
- When, in fact, it was the greatest victory of all
- The death of Jesus atoned for the sins of the whole world, making a way for all who would believe to be freed from the bondage of sin
- To be forgiven for all their sins
- To make a way so that all could have direct access to the God who loves them
- And to make a way for them to spend all of eternity with Him in heaven
- And then the resurrection defeated the greatest enemy of mankind – death **1 Corinthians 15:54-57**

So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "*Death is swallowed up in victory.*"⁵⁵ "*O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?*"⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- No longer does sin or death have any power over us
- In what the world saw as defeat Jesus won the war for the souls of all humanity

- God wins every time – no matter what it looks like from a human perspective
- The text says that after the magicians duplicate the miracle that Pharaoh hardens his heart again
- Instead of turning to God in humble repentance, he goes into his house
- **Exodus 7:24-25**
- Says 7 days passed
- The sense I get from this is that it took seven days for this plague to pass
- Try to imagine having to clean up every place where the water had been turned to blood – how hard would that be if there was no water
- Imagine the stench – all the dead fish – nasty
- Verse 24 says that they had to dig for water around the river
- There is great symbolism in that
- They had put their trust in the river, to the point that they had deified it
- God struck it, and now they are trying to do for themselves what their gods could not do for them
- If you put your trust in something other than God and He chooses to strike it in some way
- Don't be like Pharaoh, humble yourself before God, choose to trust in Him alone
- Better yet, always trust in Him **Psalm 18:1-3**
I will love You, O LORD, my strength. ²The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.³I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies.
- Trust in the Lord and watch Him do amazing things
- This plague will last seven days
- Think about this week, and we will see you in seven days, just in time for the second plague - frogs
- That is for later – we will stop here for the night – God bless you
- **Amen?!**