

Exodus 7 The Beginning of the Plagues

Exodus 7: 1-7 The Lord transmits His message through His prophet Moses through Aaron to Pharaoh. God affirms Moses by reminding him that He will use Aaron as the one to confront Pharaoh (as Moses had requested), that Pharaoh's heart will be hardened, and that the hand of the Lord will deliver Israel. This will enable the Egyptians to understand that the Lord is the Lord of all, all through the work of 80-year-old Moses and his 83-year-old brother.

Exodus 7: 8-13 The Lord orders Aaron to throw down his staff before Pharaoh. It becomes a snake. In Hebrew the word translated snake is really monster, or crocodile (same word is used in Ezekiel 29: 3 as a designation for Egypt and her Pharaoh). Pharaoh called his wise men and sorcerers, and they threw down their staffs, which also became snakes. Then the "monster" of Aaron swallowed all the snakes of the men of Pharaoh.

How did this happen? Two of the magicians are named in 2 Timothy 3:8, Jannes and Jambres. Was it by sleight of hand or by demonic power or a combination of the two? Regardless, the staff of Aaron by God's power, has authority overall.

Exodus 7: 14-25 Then the Lord said to Moses...

This is how each sequence of three plagues begins. Nile to blood, frogs, and gnats. Then Flies, death of livestock, boils. Then hail, locusts, darkness. Then death of firstborn.

Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded. The water turned to blood in the Nile, canals, ponds, even in vessels of wood and stone. The fish died and the Nile stank. The magicians and sorcerers did the same thing by their magic arts.

What caused the water to turn to blood? Flooding in Ethiopia? Red algae – Crimson Tide? Actual blood?

Seven full days passed after the Lord had struck the Nile.

Read Chapter 8 for the next time.