

Exodus 7

Verses 1- 5

Then the Lord said to Moses, “See, I make you as God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. ² You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall speak to Pharaoh that he let the sons of Israel go out of his land. ³ But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart that I may multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt. ⁴ When Pharaoh does not listen to you, then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring out my hosts, my people the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt by great judgments. ⁵ The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out my hand on Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst.”

But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart that I may multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.

We will look at each plague and see what the text says about the king’s heart

There will be three options

The king hardened his own heart, The Lord hardened the king’s heart, and the text is not clear concerning who hardened his heart

Verses 6 -12

⁶ So Moses and Aaron did *it*; as the Lord commanded them, thus they did. ⁷ Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three, when they spoke to Pharaoh. ⁸ Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, ⁹ “When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, ‘Work a miracle,’ then you shall say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw *it* down before Pharaoh, *that* it may become a serpent.’” ¹⁰ So Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and thus they did just as the Lord had commanded; and Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. ¹¹ Then Pharaoh also called for *the* wise men and *the* sorcerers, and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same with their secret arts. ¹² For each one threw down his staff and they turned into serpents. But Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs.

Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three

Moses and Aaron will die just months apart from each other in 1406 BC

Moses will be 120 and Aaron 123 years old

So we know Aaron was born in 1529 BC and Moses in 1526 BC

Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent

When Aaron did this it was a miracle from God because he was not performing an illusion like the magicians of the king

Then Pharaoh also called for *the* wise men and *the* sorcerers, and they also did the same with their secret arts. ¹² For each one threw down his staff and they turned into serpents.

You have to give these magicians some credit

We don't know how they did this, but it's impressive that they could

They were skilled in their trade of deception

But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.

This had to make an impression on the king and his false prophets, but it seems they were careful not to show it and acted like they were unmoved by what happened

Verses 13 - 16

¹³ Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said. ¹⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is stubborn; he refuses to let the people go. ¹⁵ Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he is going out to the water, and station yourself to meet him on the bank of the Nile; and you shall take in your hand the staff that was turned into a serpent. ¹⁶ You shall say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness. But behold, you have not listened until now."

Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them

So let's look at the facts

Moses had a rod that turned into a serpent

But the king's servants were able to imitate that wonder

So it was logical or made sense for the king to ignore Moses....right

No, not at all

The king was ignoring one very important fact

Aaron's serpent had swallowed all of the magician's serpents

So why didn't the king reconsider his stance?

Because the heart, hardened by feelings of pride, often overrules the mind

Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he is going out to the water, and station yourself to meet him on the bank of the Nile

This is reminiscent of the king's daughter going to the Nile River to bath

However, this event is 80 years later and a different king of Egypt

Verses 17 - 18

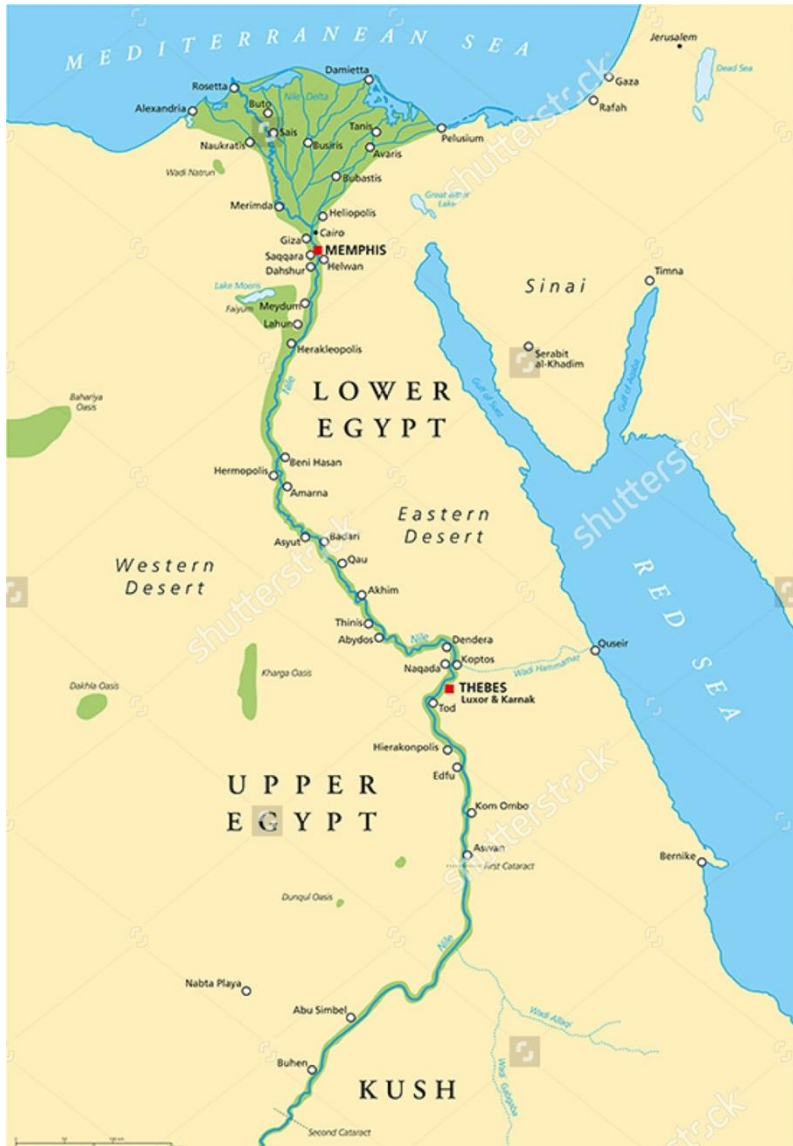
¹⁷ Thus says the Lord, "By this you shall know that I am the Lord: behold, I will strike the water that is in the Nile with the staff that is in my hand, and it will be turned to blood. ¹⁸ The fish that are in the Nile will die, and the Nile will become foul, and the Egyptians will find difficulty in drinking water from the Nile.

1st plague - Water of Nile turned to blood

I will strike the water that is in the Nile with the staff that is in my hand, and it will be turned to blood.

The Nile River was the life line of Egypt

See Map 705 below



As mentioned before, 95% of the population in Egypt lives near the Nile

The annual flood deposited rich silt (fertile soil) on the river's banks allowing the **Egyptians** to grow crops.

Hapi was the god of the Nile and was greatly celebrated among the Egyptians.

There is a statue of the Nile god Hapi, in the British Museum

See Pic 730 below



The fish that are in the Nile will die, and the Nile will become foul, and the Egyptians will find difficulty in drinking water from the Nile.

The water in the Nile turned to blood

All of the plagues described in Exodus involve natural phenomena.

Frogs, lice, locusts, hail, etc.

Nevertheless, all of these wonders were miraculous

So what made them miraculous?

1. The events were predicted
2. The place and time of each event was controlled by Moses and Aaron
3. Some of the plagues afflicted the Egyptians but not the Israelites

Verses 19-25

19 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, over their streams, and over their pools, and over all their reservoirs of water, that they may become blood; and there will be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in *vessels of wood* and in *vessels of stone.*’” **20** So Moses and Aaron did even as the Lord had commanded. And he lifted up the staff and struck the water that was in the Nile, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, and all the water that was in the Nile was turned to blood. **21** The fish that were in the Nile died, and the Nile became foul, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. And the blood was through all the land of Egypt. **22** But the magicians of Egypt did the same with their secret arts; and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said. **23** Then Pharaoh turned and went into his house with no concern even for this. **24** So all the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink, for they could not drink of the water of the Nile. **25** Seven days passed after the Lord had struck the Nile.

Over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, over their streams

Before the Nile enters the sea it splits up into numerous smaller rivers and streams

See pic 715



Over all their reservoirs of water, that they may become blood; and there will be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in *vessels of wood* and in *vessels of stone*.

All the water in Egypt was affected

But the magicians of Egypt did the same with their secret arts; and Pharaoh's heart was hardened

The magicians of our time can perform some amazing tricks and allusions

But they would be hard pressed to do what these men did 3,400 years ago