

Chapter 7

- 7:1 And the LORD said unto Moses,
See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.
- 7:2 Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land.
- 7:3 And I will *harden Pharaoh's heart*, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.

question: *Why would God place Pharaoh in a position to defy Him?*

thought: *Just as Moses had to be pushed to the point where all his objections had been addressed, and it was crystal clear that it was God's will that he was doing; so, too, it is with Pharaoh. God raised Pharaoh's skepticism to its highest point. The LORD pushed Pharaoh to use all the logic at his disposal, for him to doubt the working of Moses; so that Pharaoh would know that it was not just some man-made gimmick. And God had to do this in such a way that all Egypt would see it; so that they would agree with Pharaoh, and not think that he was weak . . . and, so that the people and officials of Egypt would agree that this matter was bigger than Pharaoh ever could have been . . . and, so that they would not just, accept Pharaoh's decision to let Israel go, but, too, they would 'demand' it of Pharaoh--as far as the Egyptian citizens could demand anything of Pharaoh.*

Another way of thinking about this is as follows: that, God caused a natural phenomenon to activate in the leader, Pharaoh; that phenomenon which started when God raised Pharaoh's skepticism about the events he was seeing. This is, in my mind, a natural part of being a leader; and to understand it, we need to think about what Pharaoh was facing; for, he had magicians that could duplicate that work of God. So, as a ruler--and yes, as an arrogant being, too--Pharaoh could not easily retain power if he believed everyone who presented even a plausible argument, such as Moses directed to him. Wherefore God made sure that Pharaoh retained his leader's level of skepticism. This was especially necessary since, this was a major part of the worlds' lesson, thusly: what was to be done by Pharaoh had to be unmistakably caused by the demand of God, and not just by the actions of the man, Moses, who could do marvelous things.

Pharaoh's major problem was not his skepticism, nor his hardness of heart; rather, Pharaoh's major problem was his duplicity. Once he realized that it was God's voice on earth, and when his advisers, even, could clearly see the hand of God; still, he did not yield. This was when his skepticism turned to pure arrogance . . . and when, these, his own words, ~~as we will read them later~~, were burned into him: "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go."

But through these two--Pharaoh's attitude, and actions--all who were present in that day, and all posterity that would observe it afterwards; from these examples, they would know that God has his hand on the children of Israel. Moreover, the worlds of earth would have a permanent record, telling it that God is fully fulfilling the promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as that promise is formed in the congregation of the tribes of Israel.

- 7:4 But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments.
- 7:5 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.
- 7:6 And Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded them, so did they.
- 7:7 And Moses was fourscore years old,
and Aaron fourscore and three years old,
when they spake unto Pharaoh.

Request One:

- 7:8 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron,
saying,
7:9 When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron,
Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent.

Sign One:

- 7:10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded:
and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

Match One:

- 7:11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers:
now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.
7:12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents:
but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.
7:13 And he *hardened Pharaoh's heart*, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.
thought: *see, thought at 7:3, above.*

Request Two:

- 7:14 And the LORD said unto Moses,
Pharaoh's heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go.
7:15 Get thee unto Pharaoh in the morning; lo, he goeth out unto the water; and thou shalt stand by the river's
brink against he come; and the rod which was turned to a serpent shalt thou take in thine hand.
7:16 And thou shalt say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my
people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness: and, behold, hitherto thou wouldest not hear.
7:17 Thus 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.
7:18 And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall lothe to drink
of the water of the river.

Sign Two:

- 7:19 And 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.
7:20 And 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.
7:21 And 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.

Match Two:

- 7:22 And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments:
and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.
7:23 And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also.
7:24 And all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink; for they could not drink of the
water of the river.
7:25 And seven days were fulfilled, after that the LORD had smitten the river.