

Thy Brother Shall be Thy Prophet

Exodus 7:1 – 8:5

~ We defined what a prophet was in our last report from our Spiritual Safari. A prophet is a man who has a message from God for His people; so, we know we don't have to worry about any false prophets today - because all of the prophets in the Bible are one hundred percent credible - and they aren't writing anymore. If a man says he has a message from God for you today the first thing you better do is pray that the Holy Spirit will give you wisdom, judgment and spiritual discernment as to whether that message really is from Him; because it seldom is. Telling others that you have a message from God for them is cultish; and is almost always done under the ruse of hiding a self-serving agenda. Pray that God will give you spiritual judgment in this section of Scripture from our so-called safari, too, as we move on in this report.

Moses was commanded to go into Pharaoh and throw down the gauntlet – His rod of Authority. God sets the terms, conditions and stage for His Own battle. The Battle of the True and Living God and the Egyptian gods is engaged and controlled by God Himself. God is making war, my beloved - and Moses is now God's representative as he is thrown into the thick of the battle as we begin this report. Moses only weapon will be the rod that's in his hand; and He only uses it for God's glory. Remember, Moses had asked permission from God for Aaron to be the public relations manager and spokesperson. That was the first mistake Moses made in his ministry. Was Moses really tongue-tied; did he stutter - or have some impediment of speech? I doubt it; I think Moses only impediment was psychological; a fear he had in his heart left him doubting himself. Either way, God will remind Israel later that Moses did not deliver them – but that He Himself delivered the nation Israel from Egypt.

Individuals within the church today that insist on being recognized and receiving credit all the time are simply getting in the way of the hand of God revealing His mighty work through their lives. The human element must be displaced from the equation of competent leadership completely;

Exodus 7:1 – 8:5

the flesh must be cut off and put to the side. God does not use that which ministers to the flesh. Paul said, "... I know that within me dwelleth no good thing." Now, I recognize the difficulty of thinking there is nothing good in us; I mean, isn't there a little bit of good somewhere? We have been counting on this flesh for an emergency - but what will happen when the time comes, and the flesh fails us completely? - Because that day is coming, my beloved. God doesn't want the flesh – will not use the flesh and He sets it completely aside. With that, Aaron will speak for Moses....

VII

1 And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

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.

3 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart by twisting it as a rope, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.

~ Here we have the issue of the hardened heart of Pharaoh again; and our question remains: did God harden the heart of Pharaoh? Well, Pharaoh was not some tender-hearted loving man who desired to turn to God to begin with, friends. Pharaoh is not thrilled that Moses has come down here to deprive him of his slave labor force by "delivering" them in the Name of some mysterious and vague something or another that some people call "God." Pharaoh simply refused to believe what Moses and Aaron were telling him. I think most lost people tend to sympathize with Pharaoh, and they think it was unjust of God to harden this cruel and oppressive hard-core ruler's heart. Most people naturally interpret this passage exactly that way.

Well, I made an addition to the text that says God was going to twist Pharaoh's heart like a rope – why? – because God is going to twist out what is in it. Rebellion in disguise is what is in Pharaoh's heart. The politician today never answers a question directly; they must defer so they can find out what the people think. If they have a conviction in their heart, they

won't speak out on it. Their entire lives are nothing in the world but a huge compromise of lies and hypocrisy - and it's exactly the position Pharaoh wanted to take. Pharaoh simply did not want to let the children of Israel go. God reveals the contents of Pharaoh's heart by forcing Pharaoh to make a decision. Yes, God forces the hand in this matter; and if you don't like that, I suggest you take it up with the proper Person in prayer. Every individual will come into the presence of God someday and they will give an account of their decision concerning Christ in this life. You will be seen as you truly are. The make-up and the camouflage will all be stripped away when we get in front of the Lord. The phoniness will be abandoned because it will shame you. We shall know even as we are known. That is what it means to harden Pharaoh's heart; and it should be positively frightening for some of us....

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.

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.

6 And Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded them, so did they.

7 And Moses was fourscore years old, and Aaron fourscore and three years old, when they spake unto Pharaoh.

8 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

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.

~ When Moses and Aaron get in front of Pharaoh, he is going to demand their credentials. Interestingly, to establish them - the Lord instructs them that they are to throw Aaron's rod down this time - not Moses rod. There has been some question about the word serpent here because there is so

little in Egyptian artifacts about the snake. They have every other animal under the sun but not many snakes. The word we have here is literally crocodile. Egypt has a whole bunch of crocodiles in that land. If you look around in our safari you will see the zoology we have going here; and do you know what it does? It changes the glory of an incorruptible God into an image made by a corruptible man. Man symbolizes everything today. Man today will take an abstract idea and make it into an affirmative image. We have images that represent every phase and deity of life. We don't miss a thing today; and neither did the ancient Egyptians.

The Egyptians believed in one big centralized god – but – they believed that God had become too busy to concern Himself with the affairs of little mankind, so He allowed the forces of good and evil to fall into the hands of good and bad spirits. That's just not so, friends. The apostle Paul found a monument in Athens to the unknown God. Man today does not know the True and Living God – mankind today is worshipping all manner of different things; he just doesn't understand it. The word for serpent in verse nine and ten is, most accurately, translated "panic" – and it is only found in this place in the entire Word of God. It is used synonymously by Isaiah and Ezekiel - but they both call it a "dragon." Pan was the God of pandemonium. Naturally, this is all satanic in meaning. Well, we're not interested in the deep meaning of Hebrew words at this time, but we know the Egyptians worshipped crocodiles. This occupied a very dark place in the religions of Egypt, by the way. The god Sebek was thought to be reincarnated in crocodiles. The god Apep was the perpetual solar arch enemy of all other gods; and it appeared in the form of a crocodile. There was a magical ritual that these people went through in their temple of Ra where their seed attempted to destroy Apep. This god was viewed as a terrible monster that lived in the uttermost reaches of the heavens. His daily mission was to prevent the rising of the sun god Ra; and to create lightning and tempests and storms that kill; any weather phenomenon to darken the skies and fill it with fury was attributed to this god. Clouds, mist, fog and blackness were the goal of this very prominent worship....

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.

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.

12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

13 And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, which he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuseth to let the people go.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

~ This entire miraculous snake handling session with a plaguing ritual of river blood worship is completely unimpressive to Pharaoh. The river was sacred to the Egyptian - but nothing was sacred to Pharaoh. Pharaoh didn't care about his people. If a god benefited Pharaoh - great! If not - it was simply dismissed by him. The god of the Nile was Hapi who was depicted as a man with the breasts of a woman. This symbolized the power of nourishment for mankind that was in man's breast, if you will. There was a hymn to Hapi. The river Nile was the lifeblood of the entire nation; but it had to be water to be life blood - and here it is real blood which represents death and judgment to Egypt.

The Blood of Christ is the same way today: it represents life for the child of God - but it represents death for the lost man. Pharaoh is not even slightly moved by any of this. Frankly, I think he was a little bored with the show. His own magicians can match the mysticism in this satanic showdown so far; and this just made Pharaoh more determined than ever to abuse the children of Israel as slaves. I don't know how the magicians did it, but they did. Satan rides across every plain and through every valley with us on this safari, friends. Pharaoh wants his way and he will do whatever it takes to get it - at all cost. That persistence and insistence on evil is why Pharaoh rules the land....

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.

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.

23 And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also.

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.

25 And seven days were fulfilled, after that the LORD had smitten the river.

VIII

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

2 And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs:

3 And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into thine house, and into thy bedchamber, and upon thy bed, and into the house of thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thine ovens, and into thy kneadingtroughs:

4 And the frogs shall come up both on thee, and upon thy people, and upon all thy servants.

5 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch forth thine hand with thy rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up upon the land of Egypt.

~ So, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God on this Easter Sunday in the year 2020 with a whole bunch of squirming toads. There is so much more here than meets the eye, my beloved - and when I say that there is more than meets the eye - that is a woeful understatement. The Egyptians have a frog goddess, and she has some very definite demands. The oldest goddess the Egyptians worshipped is a frog, by the way. So, in order to consider this properly, correctly and completely, it looks like we're going to have to take a trip on Mrs. Toads Wild Ride in our next safari report from Egyptian slavery. I hope you can go with us ~

^^^