

Torah Studies

God's Power Unleashed Exodus 7

Exodus: *Shemot* or Names



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Torah Studies

The Light of God's Word

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The Light of God's Word

- Psalm 119:105-108 (NKJV)

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.

106 I have sworn and confirmed
That I will keep Your righteous judgments.

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The Light of God's Word

- Psalm 119:105-108 (NKJV)

107 I am afflicted very much;

Revive me, O Lord, according to Your word.

108 Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth,
O Lord,

And teach me Your judgments.

God's Power Unleashed

Exodus 7

Introduction

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Previously in Exodus:

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Previously in Exodus:

- Exodus 5 – 6 gave us the first confrontation with Pharaoh.
- The tension escalated as the king was in no mood to listen to Moses and Aaron.

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Exodus 7

Introduction

Previously in **Exodus**:

- The people also complained since their work became much harder – making bricks without straw.
- Even Moses himself began to doubt (again).
- Yet God still insisted that He was carrying out His plan.

God's Power Unleashed

Exodus 7

Introduction

What to expect in Exodus 7:

God's Power Unleashed

Exodus 7

Introduction

What to expect in **Exodus 7**:

- In this chapter, God will repeat the assignment He is giving to Moses and Aaron.
- They will confront Pharaoh again, first with a sign, but then with the first of ten plagues.
- (The plagues will take us through **Exodus 12**.)

God's Power Unleashed

Exodus 7

Outline

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Exodus 7

Outline

- I. God's Instructions 7:1-7
- II. The First Sign 7:8-13
- III. The First Plague 7:14-25

I. God's Instructions

7:1-7

I. God's Instructions

7:1-7

- 7:1 God is empowering Moses and Aaron.
- When they confront Pharaoh, they are doing so on God's authority, not their own.

I. God's Instructions

7:1-7

- 7:3 I will harden Pharaoh's heart.
- Pharaoh's heart gets a lot of attention in this chapter.
- We see it here and in vv.13, 14 and 22.
- Let's save this topic for a bigger lesson at the end.

I. God's Instructions

7:1-7

- 7:5 God has a purpose in all of this.
- He intends to demonstrate power and declare His Name to Egypt – a polytheistic superpower.

II. Moses' Second Protest

4:10-17

These miracles would also be an invitation for the Egyptians to personally believe in the Lord. Thus the invitation was pressed repeatedly ...

*– Walter Kaiser,
Old Testament Scholar*



II. Moses' Second Protest

4:10-17

... and some apparently did believe, for there was a 'mixed multitude' (Exodus 12:38) that left Egypt with Israel.

*— Walter Kaiser,
Old Testament Scholar*



I. God's Instructions

7:1-7

- Remember what Pharaoh said in **Exodus 5:2**?

But Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go.”

- Who is the Lord? Pharaoh is about to find out.

II. The First Sign

7:8-13

II. The First Sign

7:8-13

- 7:11-12 The Egyptian wise men, sorcerers, and/or magicians could also turn staffs into serpents.
- God shows His power by having Aaron's staff swallow theirs up.

II. The First Sign

7:8-13

- 7:13 Pharaoh's heart was hardened
- The form of the sentence here is a little different from what we saw back in v.3.
- The text does not clearly say if Pharaoh or God is responsible for the hardening of Pharaoh's heart.
- So also vv.14 and 22.

III. The First Plague

7:14-25

III. The First Plague

7:14-25

- 7:14-20 Moses and Aaron meet Pharaoh at the Nile, perhaps as he is going out for a morning swim.
- 7:19 This first plague is completely disruptive.

III. The First Plague

7:14-25

- The gods **Khnum**, **Anuket**, and **Satet** were the guardians of the source of the Nile.
- **Hapi** controlled the water itself.
- He was also associated with the Delta and given the epithet “**Lord of the Fishes and Birds of the Marshes**”.

See AncientEgyptOnline.co.uk

III. The First Plague

7:14-25

Hapi, from Wikipedia



III. The First Plague

7:14-25

- 7:22 The magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts.
- The magicians can't restore the Nile or ease the suffering of the Egyptians.
- They only imitate what Moses and Aaron have done.

III. The First Plague

7:14-25

- 7:22 The magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts.
- Human or demonic powers can imitate God's works to an extent.
- They cannot undo or match His authority.

God's Power Unleashed

Exodus 7

On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

- In 7:3, God says, "I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, he will not listen to you."
- This sets the stage for the plagues, with similar statements repeated (e.g., Exodus 4:21, 9:12, 14:4).

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

- The Hebrew word for “harden” (*chazaq*) can mean “to strengthen, make firm, or make stubborn.”
- It suggests God is *reinforcing Pharaoh's resolve*, not necessarily creating stubbornness from scratch.

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

- The word *chazaq* can also be used in a positive way.
- Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

God's Power Unleashed

Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

- The text also describes Pharaoh **hardening his own heart** (e.g., **8:15, 8:32**).
- And as we saw in **7:13, 14** and **22**, sometimes **his heart is hardened** without any explicit cause.
- All of this suggests a complex interplay between Pharaoh's choices and God's action.

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Little Theology

- Divine Sovereignty:

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Little Theology

- Divine Sovereignty:
- God, as the supreme ruler, uses Pharaoh's existing disposition to accomplish His purpose.
- He ultimately delivers Israel and demonstrates His power to Egypt and the world (**Exodus 7:5, 9:16**).

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Little Theology

- Divine Sovereignty:
- God's hardening Pharaoh's heart ensures Pharaoh's defiance aligns with this plan.
- God has a goal, and Pharaoh is unknowingly already inclined to help Him achieve it.

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Little Theology

- Human Responsibility:

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Little Theology

- Human Responsibility:
- We also see Pharaoh's agency.
- Pharaoh repeatedly defies God's commands and shows pride (Exodus 5:2, "Who is the Lord?").

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Little Theology

- Human Responsibility:
- God's hardening can then be seen as judicial.
- God confirms Pharaoh's self-chosen rebellion – without truly forcing him to sin.
- Sometimes God gives people over to their desires as a form of judgment (**Romans 1:24-28**).

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Little Theology

- Free Will Concerns:

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Little Theology

- Free Will Concerns:
- We may question whether Pharaoh was unfairly manipulated.
- The text presents both Pharaoh's choices and God's action without resolving the tension fully.

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Little Theology

- Free Will Concerns
- The Bible conveys a balance or tension between human responsibility and divine control.
- **Proverbs 21:1**

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord;

he turns it wherever he will.

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Little Theology

- Justice and Fairness:

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Little Theology

- Justice and Fairness:
- Pharaoh's initial rejection of God (5:2) and oppression of Israel (since Exodus 1:11-14) establish his guilt.
- God's hardening doesn't override Pharaoh's character but works through it.
- God ensures justice for Israel's suffering.

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Lesson for Us

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Lesson for Us

- Advice from the Philistines
- 1 Samuel 6:6

Why should you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? After he had dealt severely with them, did they not send the people away, and they departed?

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Lesson for Us

- A Warning from Proverbs 28:14

Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always,
but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

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Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Lesson for Us

- And now from **Hebrews 3:7-8**

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,

“Today, if you hear his voice,

8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
on the day of testing in the wilderness”

God's Power Unleashed

Exodus 7 On the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

A Lesson for Us

- Resisting God's voice leads to spiritual blindness.
- Small rejections build a stubborn heart.
- A hardened heart eventually hurts others.
- God's patience has a limit.
- Stay softened by humility and repentance.

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More Plagues

Exodus 8



Two Men Studying – Boris Dubrov