

"The Danger of Rejecting the Truth"

Exodus 7

**Introduction:** For yet another week we are going to step away from Ephesians and look at a message which we have looked at on Sunday night a while back. It was a cold icy night and there were not many here and so God has placed it on my heart to look at the message again today. It is not identical for I have went through and changed some verses and points. This is a message every unbeliever needs to hear.

The message will come from Exodus 7:1-13 today.

**Background:** The prelude to the 10 plagues.

I. The Meeting

**Notice Exodus 7:9-10**

God knew that Pharaoh would ask for a sign and so Moses and Aaron were prepared. The sign of their authority was the rod turned into a snake.

There was a message and a warning in this for Pharaoh. The rod in the Bible speaks of government. The snake is a reference to Satan and sin. The picture here is that God is the One who has established government and He had set up the government of Egypt and He also placed Pharaoh in the position he was in.

**Daniel 2:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

<sup>21</sup> And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

**Daniel 4:17**

<sup>17</sup> This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

So, the government was established by God and He had placed Pharaoh in the position of authority. By the rod turning into a serpent this was stating that the government that was intended for good had become a serpentine government meaning it was now under the influence of Satan. The government had become Satanic and proof was the persecution of

the Israelites. Satan was using the Egyptians in an attempt to stop the promise of the coming Redeemer.

**Notice Exodus 7:11**

This supports what I just said for here we see that the magicians did the very same thing with their rods. This was a counterfeit miracle by Satan. I remind you that Satan is a counterfeit and he will counterfeit Jesus Christ with the Anti-Christ in the Tribulation. He produced counterfeit apostles in the early church.

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15a**

*<sup>13</sup> For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*

*<sup>14</sup> And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

*<sup>15</sup> Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness;*

**II. The Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart**

This had been foretold to Moses before he ever stood before Pharaoh.

**Exodus 4:21**

*<sup>21</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: **but I will harden his heart**, that he shall not let the people go.*

The hardening of Pharaoh's heart is something that many do not understand but as we looked at earlier this hardening was the result of sin in the life of Pharaoh. Many will say that Pharaoh hardened his heart before God hardened his heart but that is not what the Bible teaches. The Bible is very clear that it was God who hardened his heart first. Pharaoh would later harden his own heart. The hardening of Pharaoh's heart was the result of sin in Pharaoh's life. God made the sovereign choice to use Pharaoh for 2 purposes:

1. To show forth His power.
2. To warn others of the danger of rejecting God's grace.

**Romans 9:17-18**

*<sup>17</sup> For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.*

*<sup>18</sup> Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.*

Pharaoh would die and go into hell, but it would not be because God hardened his heart, but it would be because he was a sinner. The hardening was the result of years of rejecting the Truth of the One True God.

This was God's judgment upon Pharaoh for rejecting the Truth which he had been permitted to see. Pharaoh was exposed to the Truth many times in his life. He had Israel in his midst and there were those who worshipped the True God, so he was exposed to the worship of the God of Israel.

But Pharaoh wanted nothing to do with God.

**Exodus 5:1-2**

*And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.*

*<sup>2</sup> And Pharaoh said, 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.*

Let us remember that Egypt was polytheistic, meaning they worshipped MANY false gods. Pharaoh knew of the One True God for many of Israel would have spoken of Him and worshipped Him. There is yet another way in which Pharaoh would have known of God but in all the revelation given to him, he refused to acknowledge Him. We can clearly see what happened to Pharaoh in Romans 1.

**Romans 1:18-22**

*<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

*<sup>19</sup> Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.*

*<sup>20</sup> For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

*<sup>21</sup> Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

*<sup>22</sup> Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

This describes exactly what happened to Pharaoh and so God chose to harden his heart and make him an example to warn others of the consequences of rejecting God.

Now, I show you all of this because of something else which I want you to see in Exodus 7. I want you to see what Pharaoh was like.

**Notice Exodus 7:10-12**

As we read these verses again, I want to raise a question for us to consider that will help us to better see into the heart of Pharaoh. The question is,

**“Why did Pharaoh call the wise men and the sorcerers?”**

Here is the answer, “He did NOT want to believe in the God of Moses and Aaron.” God made His existence very clear with the miracle but Pharaoh did not want to believe in Him so he called the wisemen and the sorcerers to perform a miracle so that he would (in his deception) justify rejecting the God of Moses and Aaron.

Let me show you some verses that will shine some extra light on what is happening here.

**John 3:17-20**

*<sup>17</sup> For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

*<sup>18</sup> He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

*<sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

*<sup>20</sup> For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.*

Pharaoh was deep into idolatry and he hated the Light. He then suppressed the Truth presented to him and he looked for a reason to reject the God of Moses and Aaron. Now let me raise another question here, “Why did God permit the magicians to perform this miracle?” God allowed this for two reasons:

1. To test Pharaoh.
2. To prove Pharaoh wanted nothing to do with Him.

Now let me show you the grace of God extended to Pharaoh.

**Notice Exodus 7:12**

God allowed the rod of Aaron to swallow the rods of the magicians, so Pharaoh was made aware of the power of the God of Moses and Aaron. But he still refused to acknowledge the True God. He had a heart of unbelief.

**Application:**

We see the same practice of unbelief in the hearts of many today. Let me give you an example.

**1. Salvation**

The Bible is very clear that salvation is by grace through faith plus NOTHING.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

*<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*<sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

These verses are very clear. But there are many that will say faith is not enough and they ignore these verses and then they will maybe go to the book of James.

**James 2:14-20**

*<sup>14</sup> What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*

*<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,*

*<sup>16</sup> And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*

*<sup>17</sup> Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

*<sup>18</sup> Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

*<sup>19</sup> Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

*<sup>20</sup> But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

They will point to a passage such as this and say that works are a part of salvation. They may also point to another text.

**Philippians 2:12**

<sup>12</sup> Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling.

Others will tell you salvation is not complete unless a person is baptized. Let me show you the verse they will use.

**Acts 2:38**

<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

So, what they do is ignore the obvious to go to a text which they have pulled out of context to support their unbelief.

Let me share with you the words of John Butler on this practice:

*"This practice of rejecting the obvious and clinging to that which is not obvious reveals a rebellious heart. Those with this kind of heart do not want to believe the obvious texts though they may say they believe the Bible. Therefore, when they do not like something in Scripture, they look diligently for some text that can be twisted to justify their rejection of the plain text. And those texts can be found, for opportunity for unbelief is provided by God. That is, God tests mankind by providing them with some difficult and vague passages in Scripture which can be twisted to teach something opposite to the many clear passages of Scriptures (that is just one purpose of those passages, another purpose is to provide special blessings for those who will earnestly dig into these passages to find wonderful lessons in them). What men do with these texts really reveals their faith. Those anxious to junk the many plain texts for a twisted interpretation of a difficult passage reveal their rebellion against God. Their eagerness to turn away from the obvious to embrace the doubtful manifests their disobedient heart. God permitted the magicians to work a miracle, but He also showed His superiority in having Aaron's rod swallow up the magician's rods. The evidence was very plain as to who was superior. But Pharaoh had found his "text", and he clung to it while ignoring the plain text (the swallowing miracle) that showed God's superiority."*

**Conclusion:**

This helps us to see what caused God to harden Pharaoh's heart. He had continually rejected the God of Israel. If you are rejecting Jesus Christ, you are placing yourself in a situation where this could happen to you also.