



Why are Pharaoh's sorcerers able to turn their rods into snakes as well? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. Exodus 7:8–13 prepares us for the first serial reading in Morning Public Worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these six verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that God is displaying His conquering grace not only by swallowing up Egypt and all of its counterfeit glory, but also by overcoming Moses's unbelief.

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 • Read Exodus 7:8–13

Questions from the Scripture text: Who is speaking in v8, to whom? What does He say Pharaoh will say (v9)? What is Moses to do? What should he tell Aaron to say? What do Moses and Aaron do (v10)? Just as what? What does Aaron do before whom? And what happens to the rod? But what does Pharaoh do (v11)? And what do the wise men and soothsayers do (v11b–12a)? But what does Aaron's rod do (v12b)? Still, what is the outcome (v13a–b)? Why (v13c)?

Let the swallowing begin! Yahweh is about to humiliate Egypt from the swallowing of the magicians' rod-serpents in v12 to the swallowing (same Hebrew word) of the Egyptian army in 15:12. The serpent has been an indicator of evil ever since Satan appeared as one, but since the encounter at the bush it has also been a reminder that God is in control over all evil. We see that reinforced here in the swallowing.

God has promised to crush the serpent's head by the seed of the woman, and that crushing is anticipated by the swallowing in v12 and throughout the judgments on Egypt. It's not just salvation. It's salvation that comes in the way that Yahweh has said (v13).

But this is not the only divine victory grace that we will see hammered over and over again. There's a victory of God's grace in v10: “they did so, just as Yahweh had commanded.” Doubt is really form of pride. Doubt trusts what we see and think instead of what God sees and has said.

But throughout this section of Exodus (and again, later, in the building of the tabernacle), we will repeatedly read that Moses and Aaron did “just as Yahweh had commanded.” God has humbled His servant, and He brings that humility out in beautiful and submissive obedience.

Have you been humbled by God? You will be, one way or the other. The best way is to be humbled by grace. Humbled into trust that He is your Savior. Humbled into trusting submission and obedience to the One Who is saving you.

What forces of evil do you see in the world, against the church, and against you as a believer? What will most certainly happen to them? How has God's grace humbled your doubt?

Sample prayer: O Lord, You have crushed the serpent's head, and You are about to crush him beneath our feet. Forgive us for the doubt that appears in our anxieties, and grant that Your victorious Word would produce in us faith and obedience. We thank You that everything will be exactly as You have said; grant that we would do exactly as You have said, through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP1 “How Blessed the Man” or TPH172 “Speak, O Lord”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Exodus chapter 7 versus 8 through 13. Let us take heed to our hearts. How we hear these words for there are the words of God, then you also spoke to Moses. And Aaron saying when Pharaoh speaks to you saying, so miracle for yourselves, then you shall set it to Aaron.

Take your rod and cast it before Pharaoh and let it become a serpent. So Moses and Aaron went into Pharaoh and they did. So just as Yahweh commanded and Aaron cast down his rod, before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent, but Pharaoh also called the wise man in the sorcerers.

So the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments for every man through down his rod and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods and Pharaoh's heart. Grew hard and he did not heed them as y'all have. That's set.

So father reading of God's word.

Up until this point we have had a chapter and a half of explanation of who it was, just who it was. Who

had stood before the Lord himself. And said, household, I speak to Pharaoh for I have uncircumcised lips. It and the Lord has given us, the genealogy, and the Lord has given Aaron and Moses another explanation of how things were going to go.

Although they had already received multiple explanations. If you see the patients of the Lord in the explanation because of the faithfulness of the Lord, in keeping his commitments, to these people, this family of whom he has given us the genealogy, and it wasn't a complete genealogy does ribbon seem to some extent, to just enough, to get to leave ice, so he can get to error.

And in Moses and tell us that Aaron was 83 in Moses was 80 and get us up. Call it up to write the very day when he said, but I am of uncircumcised lips and then he repeats that again. And so we have had underlined to us for a chapter and a half that what is going to be displayed?

Here is the Lord's faithfulness? Is the Lord's patience with his people and the Lord's power over again just Egypt. That's why rejecting God's instruction? Because we are pessimistic or doubting the effectiveness of what he says to do. That's why it's such a wicked thing to do. There are many people who in their families or in the churches or perhaps in their individual lives.

They have instruction from God but according to their own ultra limited observation and even more limited. So called wisdom, you have to put wisdom in your quotes. At that point, they don't think what God has commanded would be effective. And so they, so they are doubting their doubting is again the display of God's faithfulness, the display of God's patience with us the display of God's power.

This is one of the reasons why the so-called doctrine of the righteous law is so wicked. It says that God will not keep his promise unless I break his command unless I act so inconsistently with his character that I do with, the scripture says, God cannot do. There's no comparison between killing and lion.

God does kill because killing is sometimes, right? God cannot lie, says the scripture and and to the rationalize, it is to commit. The same sin that has that the scripture here has been spending a chapter and a half correcting, Moses, and form Well. Now we have the faithfulness of God and the power of God set up to display itself.

God is going to glorify himself and he's going to glorify himself, especially in, conquering. Egypt, but there's a second way that he glorifies himself that we'll refer to after we have seen him, conquering Egypt. So you always sense, Moses and Aaron. And he predicts for them and you can see how that would change the moment.

That Pharaoh says, show a miracle for yourselves, if the Lord hadn't told you the Pharaoh, is going to say that you go in and you say, you know, the Lord says, let my people go. And then suddenly Pharaoh, says, show a miracle for yourselves, you might be nervous or stunned or unprepared and it would make you afraid or anxious.

But if the Lord has told you, that this is exactly what Pharaoh is going to do. He's going to say so America for yourselves, then you're waiting for him to say it because you know what you're going to do. And when he as soon as he says it, you think, oh, it's just like the Lord said.

So the Lord tells us in advance. It's a great mercy from him. Just like the Lord has told us in advance about the troubles that we would have in this world. And that none of his true children are without chastening in our own individual lives, that God is producing in us holiness, so that we will see him and so forth.

Very closely related to what we saw on Psalm 73 yesterday. So Lord, prepares him and he says, when Pharaoh does this you say to Aaron, take your rod and cast it down before Pharaoh. Now what's the Lord sets up between Moses and Aaron in front of Pharaoh is similar to the Lord telling Moses and Aaron beforehand.

So Aaron doesn't just throw his stick down, or throw the rod that or the staff that Moses brought from Midian and Aaron, doesn't just throw it down. Moses tells Aaron before he throws it, throw it down, that it may become a servant And so that communicates to Pharaoh, doesn't it?

Not just that there is miraculous power involved. But that there are miraculous power is under the control of Moses and under the control of the one who is sending Moses. So, there is a glorifying of the Lord and it glorifying of His word. And even and exalting of Moses above Pharaoh, that takes place in this speaking to Aaron before the throwing of the the rod down, okay?

So throws the rod down, it becomes a serpent, Pharaoh calls his wise men and sorcerers or suit sayers in a magicians of Egypt. They do in like manner with their secret arts, were looking James translates. It enchantments and this becomes a mechanism by which the fact that they through their rods down and the rods became serpents have that becomes a mechanism by which Pharaoh's heart grew hard, but Pharaoh's heart, didn't grow hard, because ultimately, because there was evidence against the fact that the Lord is in control.

In fact, when the, when the Egyptian magicians rods became serpents, what happened to them, the serpent, from errands, rods, swallowed them up, and then Aaron picks up his rod. Now, he has a rod and the Egyptian servants at sorts. I have not the reason ultimately that this happened, or that Pharaoh's heart was hardened as at the end of verse 13, parents, heart groward, and he did not eat them as y'all way had said.

And so, we don't know what these secrets arts are we don't know if it was some kind of science trick, we don't know if it was something demonic. All we know is that the Lord superintendent it by his word, because that's the important part. Lots of people who are like, who I wonder how that happened.

Well, as the Lord wanted us to know how specifically Anthony would hold us. How happened, but what the Lord told us was that? It was according to what he said that he is the one who is granting for Pharaoh's hearts to be heartened. Why? Because what is happened? To the rods of the magicians, is going to happen to all of Egypt.

In fact, in chapter 15 and verse 12, when they are singing the Lord's praise, after the Red Sea incident, they use the same word for swallow, as in chapter 7, and verse 12, for what happens to the hosts, the army of Egypt and God is in the process. Now, of swallowing up Pharaoh and all his power that's going to happen.

Very slowly through all of these hardenings, all of these plagues. The killing of the firstborn. The destruction of all the means of production in Egypt, the taking away from Egypt. After all, the means of their production are destroyed. The plundering of Egypt by the the wives and daughters and children of the of the Hebrews, who ask each one for their neighbor, for whatever they want and they take it with them.

And so there's the swallowing of this, the rods at the beginning and there's the swallowing of the army at the end. But what's happening now through the hardening of Pharaoh's heart is like a great big slow motion. Like if if we had video of this incident and and and the frame rate, Well, I guess the video frame rate would speed up, but the display frame rates slows down or whatever.

As soon as the magicians, rods become serpents and you see errands rods start to swallow What Egyptian rod This the next eight chapters are. So are the Lord in slow motion in great display of his sovereign power and control and of his faithfulness to do, is he has promised to his people of his justice, over against the wickedness of Egypt and with his patients with these wicked Israelites he didn't deserve to be saved but he's doing it anyway.

He is slow motion. Swallowing all of the glory of Egypt and display it all of his own glory. And so there's the conquering of God's grace over again to Egypt and their destruction. But there's also the conquering of God's grace over against Moses and Aaron's doubting and resistance to the Lord's word.

One of the things that will see several times throughout this narrative throughout the section of exodus is just like we see inverse 10. So Moses and Aaron went into Pharaoh and they did. So just as you always had, come hand it when sinners who are prone to unbelief and anxiety and doubt and disobedience, our granted to do justice, the Lord had said that too is a display of conquering grace, isn't it?

That's a display of God's faithfulness. And so when you are prone to doubt and find yourself, disobeying resisting, not believing that it's going to work and so forth, you can ask the Lord to conquer your unbelief. Just as he conquers your enemies and his enemies for your own belief, as your enemy.

But God and his love through Christ and has everlasting love. And which he chose you in Christ and gave Christ for you. He has made you his friend and he declares war on your unbelief just as he declares war on the devil and all who belong to him. God's grace conquers.

My dear children, therefore he has told you in advance and as it happens, you can rejoice that it is as he told you, and even when you find the enmity in yourself and your resistance, your sluggishness, your unbelief, your disobedience. God's grace conquers that too and you can look to him to do.

So, let's spray.

Father, we thank you that you have giving us distortion of your word. Today, we praise you for the way you, displayed your power over a goods, the world and wickedness, not only in this particular incident with the rods and the serpents, but in the more extended with the exodus and the judgment of Egypt and the hardening, there is art what we praise you most of all that you have done.

So in Christ that you have crushed the serpent's head and that you who had committed yourself to these Israelites and covenant have now placed upon us and this household the sign of your covenant baptism. And you have given to us frequently, the covenant meal that affirms your covenant and the Lord supper.

So that we may know that you have set us apart to yourself as those in whom your glory will be displayed

in the earth. Lord we are humbled and sobered by the fact that many of the Israelites who came out of Egypt. Did not ultimately enter your rest as your word says not only not having entered the promised land but not having entered your rest when they ceased from their works.

And so we pray that you are covenant God who are displaying your power and displaying your faithfulness by what you do in the life of your church and in the life of this household that you would overcome our unbelief, just as you did for Moses. And for Aaron, give us faith in you to be sure of your steadfast love to be sure of your almighty power to be sure of your justice which will have vengeance upon your enemies which you satisfied for us in Christ in his cross grant to us by your conquering grace, that our sin and unbelief would be conquered as well.

We ask in Jesus' name, amen.