

Lessons From the 10 Plagues (*Part 2: Water to Blood*)

Purpose: to show (a) that we are in a real war, (b) the key to victory is to do whatever God tells us, and (3) some suffering is to be expected.

What have we seen so far?

1. That God prepared Moses by helping him to humble himself and teaching him to listen.
 - a. Remember his Egyptian education
 - b. Remember his 40 years in the wilderness
 - c. Remember the burning bush
2. God has already sent Moses to Pharaoh and things seemed to get worse
 - a. First he asked and was refused, making things worse
 - b. He asked again and showed the sign with his rod, but Pharaoh hardened his heart

Now the battle intensifies!

Plague #1 – Water turned to blood (*Exodus 7:14 – 25*)

Here we see three things:

- Pharaoh hardens his heart
- God tells Moses exactly what to do
- The results

Pharaoh hardens his heart -

Exo 7:14 - *So the LORD said to Moses: "Pharaoh's heart is hard; he refuses to let the people go.*

God tells Moses exactly what to do –

- He tells him where Pharaoh is

Exo 7:15 - *Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water,*

- He tells him where to stand -

...and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him;

- He tells him to use the rod that was turned into a serpent...

...and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand.

- He tells him what to say -

Exo 7:16 - *And you shall say to him, 'The LORD God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness"; but indeed, until now you would not hear!*

- He tells him what will happen -

Exo 7:17 - *Thus says the LORD: "By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters, which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood.*

Exo 7:18 - *And the fish that are in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river." ' ' "*

- He gives them specific instructions -

Exo 7:19 - *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, "Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in buckets of wood and pitchers of stone.' "*

- Moses does exactly what God tells him to do -

Exo 7:20 - *And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck 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.*

Exo 7:21 - *The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.*

The results of the 1st plague:

- The enemy tries to deceive -

Exo 7:22 - *Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments;*

- Pharaoh hardens his heart even more -

...and Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

Exo 7:23 - *And Pharaoh turned and went into his house. Neither was his heart moved by this.*

- The people suffer -

Exo 7:24 - *So all the Egyptians dug all around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the river.*

Exo 7:25 - *And seven days passed after the LORD had struck the river.*

What can we learn from this?

1. We are in a real war for the souls of men

2. The key to victory is to do everything that God tells us to do, which means:
 - a. That God will speak to us if we humble ourselves enough to listen
 - b. That if we do what God tells us to do, we can expect Him to act
3. We have a real enemy who will fight against us and attempt to deceive people
4. Like in any war, some do suffer; expect some blood to be shed