

Miracles or Magic?

Exodus 7 thru 8:19

Character Study of the Life of Moses

*Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country. **Exodus 7:1-2***

*But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt, he will not listen to you. **Exodus 7:3-4a***

*Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites. And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it." **Exodus 7:4-5***

Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD commanded them. Moses was eighty

*years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh. **Exodus 7:6-7***

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a miracle,' then say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,' and it will become a snake."

Exodus 7:8-9

*So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. **Exodus 7:10***

*Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. **Ex. 7:11-12***

*Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said. **Exodus 7:13***

Then say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you:

Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the desert. But until now you have not listened.

Exodus 7:16

This is what the Lord says: By this you will know that I am the Lord: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.’ ”

Exodus 7:17-18

*But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh’s heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said. **Exodus 7:22***

*The Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs. The frogs will go up on you and your people and all your officials.’ ” **Exodus 8:3-4***

But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt. Ex. 8:7

But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said. Exodus 8:15

Three Basic Questions about Pharaoh's Magicians

1. Who are these magicians?

2. Where did they get this power?

Saul summons the witch of Endor

Then the woman asked, "Whom shall I bring up for you?"

"Bring up Samuel," he said.

When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!" 1 Samuel 28:11-12

The king said to her, "Don't be afraid. What do you see?"

The woman said, "I see a spirit coming up out of the ground." **1 Samuel 28:13**

satan given power to perform miracles in the last days

And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth.

Revelation 13:13-14

satan craves the worship of man, and he rewards man's worship by limited powers.

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

Luke 4:5-7

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Luke 4:8

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:11-12

3. What should our reaction be (like these magicians) to satan's power on the earth?

Three Basic Questions about Pharoah's Magicians

Two lessons from Moses and the magicians

1. satan has limited power, avoid him

*Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. **Deuteronomy 18:10-12***

satan pretends to be an angel of light

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:13-14

*It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve. **2 Cor. 11:15***

**Guard against giving satan credit or
attention.**

Do not develop a fascination with darkness.

Rather, focus on the victory and the light that is in Christ Jesus.

satan tries to control and manipulate people through lies and fear.

satan is a murderer and a liar

*You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **John 8:44***

2. God has unlimited power, trust Him

Two lessons from Moses and the magicians

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. **James 4:7-8***

God's Spirit in you, is greater than satan

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4:4

Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power." Acts 8:9-10

"The finger of God"

The magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the Lord had said. Exodus 8:19

Christ frees us from the power of darkness

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human

*tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. **Col. 2:8***

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

Colossians 2:9-10

*When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, **Colossians 2:13***

*And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. **Colossians 2:15***

Christ's power triumphs over darkness

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6-7

King of kings and the Lord of lords, or darkness?

*"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **Matthew 6:24***