### Exodus

## Chapter 7

1Then the Lord told Moses:  
  
 ‘Look! I’ve made you a god to PharaOh, and your brother Aaron is your Prophet.  
  
 2‘So, tell PharaOh everything that I’ve told you to say through your brother Aaron… Tell him that he must send the children of IsraEl out of his land!  
  
 3‘However, I will make PharaOh hardhearted, then I will bring many signs and wonders to the land of Egypt; 4but, PharaOh will still refuse to listen to you.  
  
 ‘Then I will lay My hand upon Egypt and bring My people the children of IsraEl out of their land by My power and with a great vengeance. 5And all the Egyptians will know that I am Jehovah, and that I stretched out My hand towards Egypt and brought the children of IsraEl out of their midst.’  
  
6So Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord had commanded them.  
  
7Now, Moses was 80 years old, and his brother Aaron was 83 years old when they spoke to PharaOh.  
  
8Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron:  
  
 9‘If PharaOh says that you must give him a sign or perform a miracle; tell your brother Aaron to throw his walking stick on the ground in front of PharaOh and his servants, and it will become a snake.’  
  
10So when Moses and Aaron went in [and stood] before PharaOh and his servants, they did just as the Lord had instructed them. Aaron threw his walking stick before PharaOh and his servants, and it became a snake.  
  
11However, PharaOh brought in all the Egyptian wise men, warlocks, and soothsayers, and they used their magic to do the same thing… 12They each threw down their walking sticks and they became snakes... But then, Aaron’s walking stick swallowed down their walking sticks!  
  
13Nevertheless, PharaOh’s heart became hard and he refused to listen to what Jehovah had instructed them to say.  
  
  
[Plague #1 – Water into blood]  
  
14So, the Lord told Moses:  
  
 ‘Now, PharaOh’s heart has become hard and he won’t let the people go. 15So, approach PharaOh when he goes down to the river tomorrow morning and meet with him there on its bank... Then take [Aaron’s] walking stick that turned into a snake, 16and tell [PharaOh] that Jehovah the God of the Hebrews has sent you to him, and that He says:  
  
 ‘Send My people away so they can serve Me in the desert! Look, you haven’t listened to Me so far, 17but this is how I’m going to let you know that I am the Lord!’  
  
 ‘[Then tell him]:  
  
 ‘Look; I’m going to slap the water with this walking stick in my hand, and the river water will change into blood. 18And at that, all the fish in the river will die and it’ll stink, so the Egyptians won’t be able to drink water from the river.’  
  
19And the Lord continued:  
  
 ‘Then tell your brother Aaron to take his walking stick and hold his arms out over all the water in Egypt (over its rivers, canals, ponds, and any standing water) and they’ll turn into blood... This blood will be throughout the entire land of Egypt… Even in their pottery and wooden jars!’  
  
20So Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded them.  
  
[Aaron] held out the walking stick and slapped the river right there in front of PharaOh and his servants, and all the river water changed into blood!  
  
21Then all the fish in the river died and the river had a foul odor, so the Egyptians couldn’t drink water from it... And there was blood throughout the entire land of Egypt.  
  
22However, the Egyptian soothsayers used their magic to do the same thing. So the heart of PharaOh became hard and he wouldn’t listen to them… Which is just what the Lord said [would happen].  
  
23Then PharaOh turned around and went back into his palace without looking at anything.  
  
24Well, the Egyptians had to dig [wells] around the river to find drinking water, because they couldn’t drink the water from the river. 25And Jehovah’s conquest of the river lasted for 7 days.