



The Finger of God

Exodus 7-10

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“Say what you want about the Bible, but its character development isn’t that great. The holy book’s central figures are less real people than abstractions; they’re defined by one or a few actions rather than their internal lives.”

- Lily Janiak, *#Shesus* (All-female cast version of *Jesus Christ Superstar*)

Leviticus 26:11-13

“I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high.”

Exodus 3:19-20

“But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.”

Pharaoh’s Hard Heart

“‘Hard heart’ connotes the willful suppression of the capacity for reflection, for self-examination, for unbiased judgments about good and evil. In short, the ‘hardening of the heart’ becomes synonymous with the numbing of the soul, a condition of moral atrophy.”

- Nahum M. Sarna, *Exploring Exodus: The Origins of Biblical Israel*

Exodus 6:12

Moses said to the Lord, “If the Israelites will not listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me, since I speak with faltering lips?”

Exodus 6:20

But Moses said to the Lord, “Since I speak with faltering lips, why would Pharaoh listen to me?”

Exodus 7:2, 6

“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... Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded them.”

Obedience: Doing what God says.

Exodus 7:8-10

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.” 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.

Snake = *tanniym* (sea monster)

Exodus 7:11-12

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.

Exodus 7:12-13

But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

10 Plagues

- Nile River turns to Blood
- Frogs
- Gnats
- Flies
- Death of Livestock
- Boils
- Hail
- Locusts
- Darkness
- Death of the Firstborn

The plagues are revelation.

Exodus 8:8

Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Pray to the Lord to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the Lord.”

Exodus 8:15

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 8:18-19

But when the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not. Since the gnats were on people and animals everywhere, 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.

“God loves the presence of justice in society not because it makes for a society whose excellence God admires, but because God loves the members of society—loves them... with the love of benevolent desire. God desires that each and every human being shall flourish, what the OT writers call shalom. That is why God loves justice. God desires the flourishing of each and every one of God’s human creatures; justice is indispensable to that. Love and justice are not pitted against each other but intertwined.”

- Nicholas Wolterstorff

God's love is more than comfort; it is also confrontation.

Luke 11:20

“But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”