

Exodus Lesson 8 - Serpents and Rapture

Exodus 4:1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.

Exodus 4:2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.

Exodus 4:3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.

Exodus 4:4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

Exodus 4:5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.

I. Excuses for not answering God's Call - Are you making excuses like Moses?

- A. Moses comes up with an excuse when God Calls him
 - 1. Moses tells God that the Israelites will not listen to him.
 - 2. Moses is thinking that the people will say God did not appear to Moses
 - 3. Moses does not know this, it is just an excuse to not do God's will
- B. God says to Moses, "What is that in thine hand?" - What's Moses thinking?
 - 1. Moses is thinking, "Lord we are talking about this impossible task you want me to do."
 - 2. Why are you asking me what is in my hand?
 - 3. Moses replied, however, "a rod"
- C. God tells Moses to cast it on the ground."
 - 1. When Moses cast it down, it became a serpent - Moses fled
 - 2. It's just a rod? - No, it's a serpent, or a tool to turn water into blood, or whatever God wants
 - 3. We need to have our resources open for God to use. Make it available to the glory of God.
 - 4. God told Moses to take the serpent by the tail.
- D. Moses caught the serpent, and it became a rod in his hand
- E. God told Moses, To show the Israelites that the God of Abraham had appeared unto Moses
- F. Moses "rod" is picture of the Lord Jesus Christ - Psalm 110

Psalms 110:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Psalms 110:2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.

Psalms 110:3 Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.

Psalms 110:4 The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

- 1. Rod of Moses - Depicts Jesus as a Prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-18)
- 2. Rod of Aaron (Numbers 17) Jesus as a Priest
- 3. Rod of Iron, David's rod, Jesus as the King Psalm 110, Psalm 2, Revelation 19)

G. Jesus was also "cast down" - You can't get any lower than Jesus did on the cross

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Philippians 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

H. When Moses Cast the rod down, it became a serpent

I. Jesus is also looked on as a serpent:

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

J. Moses had to take the serpent by the tail

1. The "Rod" is the Word of God
2. Notice in Matthew 4:4 that Satan also used the Word, the wrong way, but he used it
3. After Jesus got through using the Word, Satan fled
4. Moses reaches down to pick up the serpent by the tail, the snake going away from Moses

II. Serpent and the King Snake (Exodus 7:8-13)

Exodus 7:8 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

Exodus 7:9 When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent.

Exodus 7:10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

Exodus 7:11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

Exodus 7:12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

Exodus 7:13 And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

A. Introductory Applications

B. The first time the word "miracle" appears in the Bible

C. The last is:

Acts 4:22 For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

D. It is an evil generation who seek a sign after rejecting the Truth

Matthew 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

Matthew 12:39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Matthew 12:41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

Matthew 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and,

behold, a greater than Solomon is here. This is the case with Pharaoh.

III. Christ Cast Down (v. 10)

A. The rod as a type of Christ:

1. Moses rod in Exodus 4 picture Christ as a Prophet,
2. Aaron's budding rod in Numbers 17 represents Christ's Priestly office
3. David's rod in Psalm 2 represents Christ as a King.

B. Cast down in humiliation:

1. Just as this rod is cast down, so Christ was cast down in his incarnation and death.
2. He left his exalted place at the right hand of the Father
3. He made himself of no reputation,
4. He took upon him the form of a servant,
5. He was made in the likeness of men,
6. He humbled himself even as a man,
7. He became obedient unto death, plumbing, and sorrow, and humiliation.

C. Even obedient to the death of the cross:

1. The pinnacle of Christ's humiliation is the death of the cross.
2. The serpent our minds often think of the creature in the garden
3. The serpent ever since - a figure of the curse of sin (Genesis 3:14, Galatians 3:13).

D. So shall the Son of man be lifted up:

1. Christ on the cross is likened to a serpent (John 3:14)
2. Pointing back the wilderness bitten by fiery serpents because murmuring.
3. The solution that God provided was a brazen serpent
4. Whoever looked would live, an Old Testament representation of Christ's death on the cross

Numbers 21:7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

Numbers 21:8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

Numbers 21:9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

IV. Counterfeit

Exodus 7:11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

Exodus 7:12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

Exodus 7:13 And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

A. The devil seeks to counterfeit everything God does

1. Christ is the King of kings, Satan is the king over all the children of pride; (Job 41)
2. Christ is the Prince of Peace, (Isaiah 9:6)
3. Satan is the prince of the power of the air; (Ephesians 2:2)
4. Christ is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah,
5. Satan is a roaring lion. The son of perdition not only antichrist *in contrast* to Jesus Christ,
6. he presents himself *in the place of* Jesus Christ. (II Corinthians 11)
 - a. This is why Satan's ministers are transformed in to the apostles of Christ

b. Satan himself is transformed in to an angel of light

II Corinthians 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

II Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

II Corinthians 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

B. He even has his own lying signs and wonders

II Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

II Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

II Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

II Thessalonians 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

C. The Bible gives us the names of two of Pharaoh's magicians

II Timothy 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

II Timothy 3:9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

(The passage is a warning concerning those with a form of godliness (like false apostles and ministers of Christ), that deny the power thereof (like taking the credit for themselves) (v. 5). It's of this sort that creep in to houses (like through religious television) and lead captive silly women (just touch your television for a point of contact and then sow a seed and we'll send you this piece of cloth or this miracle manna, etc.) (v. 6)

III. Crooked-Serpent

Exodus 7:12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

Exodus 7:13 And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

A. That old serpent, called the Devil:

1. Aaron's rod here represents Christ
2. The magician's rods represent Satan and his magicians
3. Satan is called "that old serpent"
4. First Mention Principle all through Scripture mentions Satan and his demise

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

B. Consumed with spirit of his mouth:

1. There is a snake in the reptile family that eats other snakes. It's called a King snake!
2. Christ comes back to planet earth as the King of kings to crush that old Serpent's head

Romans 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Psalms 68:21 But God shall wound the head of his enemies, and the hairy scalp of such an one as goeth on still in his trespasses.

Psalms 110:6 He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries.

Isaiah 19:18 In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the LORD of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction.

Isaiah 19:19 In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD.

Isaiah 19:20 And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.

Isaiah 19:21 And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform it.

Isaiah 19:22 And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the LORD, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them.

Isaiah 19:23 In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.

Isaiah 19:24 In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land:

Isaiah 19:25 Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.

Habakkuk 3:13 Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah.

C. Christ is going to consume "that Wicked" with the spirit of his mouth

II Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

II Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

Isaiah 27:1 In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.

IV. Yes 'That Day' is a time of Israel's redemption, but look at chapter 26:

Isaiah 26:20 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

Isaiah 26:21 For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

V. How should we now live? - Israel was an ensample for us:

Hebrews 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

Hebrews 3:2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses *was faithful* in all his house.

Hebrews 3:3 For this *man* was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.

Hebrews 3:4 For every house is builded by some *man*; but he that built all things *is* God.

Hebrews 3:5 And Moses verily *was* faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

Hebrews 3:6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we **hold fast** the **confidence** and the rejoicing of the hope **firm** **unto the end**.

A Rest for the People of God

Hebrews 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

Hebrews **3:8** Harden not your hearts, as **in the provocation**, in the day of **temptation** in the wilderness:

Hebrews 3:9 When your fathers **tempted me**, **proved me**, and saw my works forty years.

Hebrews 3:10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in *their* heart; and they have not known my ways.

Hebrews 3:11 So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

Hebrews 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our **confidence** **stedfast** **unto the end**;

Hebrews 3:15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

Hebrews 3:16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

Hebrews 3:17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? *was it* not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

Hebrews 3:18 And to whom sware he that they should **not enter into his rest**, but to them that **believed not?**

Hebrews 3:19 So we see that they **could not enter in** because of **unbelief**.

Hebrews 4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Hebrews 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Hebrews 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Hebrews 4:4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

Hebrews 4:5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

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Hebrews 4:6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

Hebrews 4:7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Hebrews 4:8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

Hebrews 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

Hebrews 4:10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Hebrews 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.