

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Exodus 7:8-13--October 6th, 2024

Sermon Recap:

Saints, Snakes, and Sorcerers

I. Submissive Servants (v.8-10a)

- V.6 & V.10--At 80 and 83 years of age, having lived a full life, they come to this moment that they were created for and they submitted to the Lord and obeyed him; going once more to confront Pharaoh.
- Moses could previously have been characterized as a whiner, arguing with God every step of the way. From here on, in Exodus, Moses is a model for Godly leadership. What changed?
- God is sovereign over his people and the ministry he calls them to.

II. Signs of Sovereignty (v.10b-12)

- This encounter between Pharaoh/sorcerers and Moses/Aaron is a snapshot of the plagues and exodus event.
- Here is presented the greater theme of Exodus" God vs Pharaoh; God vs Satan.
- Aaron turns his rod into a snake, challenging the power and authority of Pharaoh who wore a crown with a cobra on the front as a symbol of his divine and magical power.
- Pharaoh responds by having his magicians/sorcerers replicate the sign.
 - This is not slight of hand or a snake charmer, but it an act of the secret arts (empowered by Satan).
 - Implications:
 - Just because something looks good, Christian, or from God doesn't mean it is.
 - The Bible does not deny that secret/dark arts exist and we must acknowledge that.
 - Aaron's rod snake/rod swallowing the other snakes/rods implies that God is victorious. The sovereignty of God swallows/consumes all things (Exodus 15:12).
 - God reigns supreme over all things, all men, all powers, all authorities, all lesser false gods, even Satan, all excuses and infirmities, all arguments, all of the empty hopes of this world. They all fail and fall at the feet of a sovereign God.

III. Hardened Hearts (v.13)

- Even in the face of that miracle, even in the face of that message, Pharaoh does not change his heart.
 - Maybe this is why the dark arts were permitted by God: to hardened Pharaoh's heart.
 - Many today are hardened and deceived things/people/religions that look "good," like they are from God and like Pharaoh they reject the truth that requires repentance in exchange for the untruth that allows them to remain on their throne.
 - Pharaoh functions at another level in this story as well. Pharaoh is the symbol and representative of the Satanic forces which are arrayed against God's people.
 - We are quick to forget that "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."
 - Exodus 7 shows us God is sovereign. He swallows them up and they will not prevail. How? By Christ crushing the head of the serpent, setting the captive free.

Discussion Questions:

- How does Moses' response in this passage differ from his response to God in the first six chapters?
- What causes this change?
- What is the significance of Aaron turning the rod into a snake before Pharaoh?
- How does Pharaoh respond?
- How were the sorcerers able to replicate the sign?
- What are two of the implications of the sorcerers' actions?
- What statement is being made in Aaron's snake/rod swallowing the other snakes/rods?
- How does this foreshadow the things to come in Exodus?
- What battle is being presented here?
- How does Pharaoh respond to this whole encounter (v.13)? Why?

Application:

- When God speaks, what is the appropriate response of the Christian?
- What is your typical response?
- What do you believe about the occult/dark arts? How does this passage challenge your position?
- Why is it important to understand this? Read Ephesians 6:12,
- How do you discern between truth and almost truth? How do you measure things that seem to be from God?
- How has the idea of God's sovereignty swallowing up all things present itself in your life?

