

# **Why God Chose to Destroy Egypt**

**Exodus 6:13-7:7**

# Introduction

- In our last passage, Exodus 5:22-6:12, God revealed the true meaning of His Name Yahweh (the LORD).
- In our passage for today, Exodus 6:13-7:7, God reveals Moses credentials to be the spiritual leader of Israel, and explains why God chose to destroy Egypt.

# Moses & Aaron's Credentials (Exod. 6:13-28)

**Exodus 6:13** But the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt. <sup>14</sup> These are the heads of their fathers' houses: the sons of **Reuben**,

the firstborn of Israel: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi; these are the clans of Reuben. <sup>15</sup> The sons of **Simeon**: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman; these are the clans of Simeon. <sup>16</sup> These are the names of the sons of **Levi** according to their generations: **Gershon, Kohath, and Merari**, the

years of the life of Levi being 137 years. <sup>17</sup> The sons of **Gershon**: Libni and Shimei, by their clans. <sup>18</sup> The sons of **Kohath**: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel, the years of the life of Kohath being 133 years. <sup>19</sup> The sons of **Merari**: Mahli and Mushi. These are the clans of the Levites according to their generations. <sup>20</sup> Amram took as his wife Jochebed his father's sister, and she

bore him **Aaron and Moses**, the years of the life of Amram being 137 years. <sup>21</sup> The sons of Izhar: Korah, Nepheg, and Zichri. <sup>22</sup> The sons of Uzziel: Mishael, Elzaphan, and Sithri. <sup>23</sup> **Aaron** took as his wife **Elisheba**, the daughter of Amminadab and the sister of Nahshon, and she bore him **Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.** <sup>24</sup> The sons of

Korah: Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph;  
these are the clans of the Korahites. <sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> **Eleazar**, Aaron's son, took as his  
wife one of the daughters of Putiel, and  
she bore him **Phinehas**. These are the  
heads of the fathers' houses of the  
Levites by their clans. <sup>26</sup> These are the  
Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD

said: "Bring out the people of Israel from the land of Egypt by their hosts."

<sup>27</sup> It was they who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt about bringing out the people of Israel from Egypt, this Moses and this Aaron. <sup>28</sup> On the day when the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt.



# Explanation of Exod. 6:13-27

- Up until this point in Exodus, Moses and Aaron have not been properly introduced and credentialled as belonging to the line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- This genealogy shows the connection.

- It traces Jacob's lineage to only his first three sons: Reuben, Simeon, and Levi. (Exo 6:14-16).
- It enlarges on the tribe of Levi showing there are three sons of Levi: **Gershon, Kohath, and Merari**. (Exo. 6:16-19).
- Moses and Aaron are the sons of Amram, who was the son of Kohath. (Exo 6:18, 20-25).

- It continues up through Aaron's grandson, Phinehas (v. 25).
- It concludes with the spot light again on Moses and Aaron (Exo. 6:26-27).
- **Remember:** Moses & Aaron are Levites from the family of Kohath.

# Review of Moses' Call, Commission, and Challenge

- **Exodus 6:29-7:7** is largely a summary of what has gone before.  
<sup>29</sup> the LORD said to Moses, "**I am the LORD**; tell Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you." <sup>30</sup> But Moses said to the LORD, "Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips. How will Pharaoh

listen to me?" **7:1** And the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet.<sup>2</sup> You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land.<sup>3</sup> But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my **signs** and

**wonders** in the land of Egypt, <sup>4</sup>  
Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I  
will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my  
hosts, my people the children of Israel,  
out of the land of Egypt by **great acts  
of judgment.** <sup>5</sup> The Egyptians shall  
know that I am the LORD, **when I  
stretch out my hand against Egypt**  
and bring out the people of Israel from

among them." <sup>6</sup> Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the LORD commanded them. <sup>7</sup> Now **Moses** was eighty years old, and **Aaron** eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.

# Explanation

- Up to this point in their confrontation with Pharaoh, Moses and Aaron had simply delivered God's ultimatum.
- Now the time had come for them to reveal God's power and perform the miraculous signs that proved they were truly sent by God.



- Notice some of the reasons why the Lord took this approach in dealing with Pharaoh and sent these sign judgments to the land of Egypt.
  1. To reveal Himself to the Egyptians and to prove that He alone is God (7:5).
  2. To destroy faith in the gods of Egypt. “Against all the gods of

Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord” (12:12; and see 18:11 and Num. 33:4). More than eighty different deities were worshiped in Egypt, but they could do nothing to deliver the land and the people from the terrible judgments the LORD sent.

3. to bring Pharaoh and the Egyptians to their knees so they'd be willing for the Jews to leave the land.

4. To reveal Himself to the Israelites and to prove that He alone is God.
- The Israelites had adopted and worshipped the gods of Egypt.
  - Listen to **Ezekiel 20:1-24**, written about 900 years after the Exodus event in 1446 BC. Here is God's view of the people of Israel!

**ESV Ezekiel 20:1-24:** In the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month [ca 591 BC], certain of the elders of Israel came to inquire of the LORD, and sat before me. <sup>2</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>3</sup> "Son of man, speak to the elders of Israel, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD, Is it to inquire of me that you come? As I live, declares the Lord

GOD, I will not be inquired of by you. <sup>4</sup>  
Will you judge them, son of man, will  
you judge them? Let them know the  
abominations of their fathers, <sup>5</sup> and say  
to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: On  
the day when I chose Israel, I swore to  
the offspring of the house of Jacob,  
making myself known to them in the  
land of Egypt; I swore to them, saying, I  
am the LORD your God. <sup>6</sup> On that day I

swore to them that I would bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most glorious of all lands. <sup>7</sup> And I said to them, 'Cast away the detestable things your eyes feast on, every one of you, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.' <sup>8</sup> But they rebelled against me

and were not willing to listen to me.  
None of them cast away the detestable  
things their eyes feasted on, nor did  
they forsake the idols of Egypt. "Then I  
said I would pour out my wrath upon  
them and spend my anger against  
them in the midst of the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>  
But I acted for the sake of my name,  
that it should not be profaned in the  
sight of the nations among whom they

lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt. <sup>10</sup> So I led them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness. <sup>11</sup> I gave them my statutes and made known to them my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live. <sup>12</sup> Moreover, I gave them my Sabbaths, as a sign between me



and them, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them. <sup>13</sup>

But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness. They did not walk in my statutes but rejected my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live; and my Sabbaths they greatly profaned. "Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them in the wilderness, to make a full end of them. <sup>14</sup> But I

acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out. <sup>15</sup> Moreover, I swore to them in the wilderness that I would not bring them into the land that I had given them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most glorious of all lands, <sup>16</sup> because they rejected my

rules and did not walk in my statutes,  
and profaned my Sabbaths; for their  
heart went after their idols. <sup>17</sup>

Nevertheless, my eye spared them,  
and I did not destroy them or make a  
full end of them in the wilderness. <sup>18</sup>

"And I said to their children in the  
wilderness, 'Do not walk in the statutes  
of your fathers, nor keep their rules, nor

defile yourselves with their idols. <sup>19</sup> I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and be careful to obey my rules, <sup>20</sup> and keep my Sabbaths holy that they may be a sign between me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.' <sup>21</sup> But the children rebelled against me. They did not walk in my statutes and were not careful to obey my rules, by which, if a person

does them, he shall live; they profaned my Sabbaths. "Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them and spend my anger against them in the wilderness.<sup>22</sup> But I withheld my hand and acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out.<sup>23</sup> Moreover, I swore to them in the wilderness that I would scatter them

among the nations and disperse them through the countries, <sup>24</sup> because they had not obeyed my rules, but had rejected my statutes and profaned my Sabbaths, and their eyes were set on their fathers' idols.

# Ezekiel says

- Israel's national history was one of persistent rebellion against her God.
- Israel was idolatrous while living in Egypt. (vs 6-7)
- Israel was not willing to put away the false gods while in Egypt. (v. 8)

- God had mercy on them and did not destroy them. (v. 9-10)
- Israel was rebellious and idolatrous in the wilderness (vs 10-26).
- God had mercy on them and did not destroy them.

**Summary:** Now we can understand why God did what He did to Egypt and to Pharaoh.



# **Why God Chose to Destroy Egypt**

**Exodus 6:13-7:7**