

I WILL LAY MY HAND ON EGYPT

Exodus 6:28 – 7:7

Having reached the “turning point,” God’s first act is to send Moses and Aaron once more to Pharaoh, but this time Moses “will be as God” to the king, meaning he (Moses) will exude such power and authority, that Pharaoh will be reluctant to offer any significant resistance, but will listen to Moses with a sense that there is a divine presence that accompanies a true Prophet. When Moses left Egypt, he & his brother were relatively young men. Now at 80 and 83 they would appear weak to the young Pharaoh. Moses certainly felt inadequate. But what is at play here is the Voice of the ageless God, who determines whatever comes to pass.

I. **Pharaoh and the Whole Counsel of God** God tells us all we need to know.

- A. Moses must present to the king everything God will reveal about the liberation of the Israelites.
- B. This message is actually a precious gift, though Pharaoh will not receive it as such.
- C. The whole counsel of God stresses His sovereignty, wisdom, power and determination.
- D. The one who takes it all in will tremble before the Lord and seek mercy.

II. **The Ears of Pharaoh and the Voice of God** God’s Word strikes a chord in everyone.

- A. A familiar New Testament admonition is, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”
- B. The Voice of God may break the cedars of Lebanon or be perceived as a gentle whisper.
- C. The Voice reached Pharaoh through both Aaron’s eloquence Moses’ stuttering.
- D. Apart from grace, people hear only noise because the Voice is not what they want to hear.
- E. Worth noting: God’s “ears” are open to the cries and prayers of those who repent and believe.

III. **Pharaoh and the Fearsome Twosome** Those who proclaim the Word have unexpected authority.

- A. By presenting themselves as a twosome, Moses and Aaron pictured the growing nation.
- B. To Pharaoh the nation appeared helpless, but Moses and Aaron possessed unity and power.
- C. God’s people have spiritual gifts that complement each other and together move mountains.
- D. Each of us with Christ at our side makes a fearsome twosome.

IV. **Pharaoh Object of a Surprise Attack** Not many great and wise men receive the Word gladly.

- A. The king believed that he, together with all Egyptians, could match Israel’s unity and strength.
- B. He believed his imagined and demonic gods could successfully defeat Yahweh.
- C. But Yahweh was about to unleash signs and wonders to embarrass idols and destroy Egyptians.
- D. Apply the phrase, “able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think” to judgment.

V. **Pharaoh and the Hand of the Lord** Only judgment remains for the opposition

- A. The Lord’s hand is usually portrayed as striking down His enemies. Psalm 98:1 right hand, holy arm
- B. But that hand can also protect, comfort and lift up the fallen.
- C. The promise given here is a promise to be a “hands on” deliverer.
- D. God is always “at hand” to work proactively, whether to pound down or to raise up.