

Intro:

Main Point of Text: To begin the plagues, God further hardens Pharaoh's heart through a sign of His absolute victory.

Sermon Point: *The battle belongs to the LORD.*

Move 1: You are in a spiritual battle against the Devil.

Vss. 11-12a. Pharaoh acts like he is equal with God by having magicians mimic the wonder. They will again in first two plagues: (7:22; 8:7). This is the Devil's deceiving work: Rev. 12:9; 13:13, 14. If not slight of hand, it is pretending it is their power. Only God creates and governs nature. Difference: magicians manipulate; Aaron looks to the LORD. Magicians soon acknowledge plagues are from God (8:19).

Move 2: But the Devil has already lost the war.

Vss. 12b-13. God foreshadows the end to Pharaoh. Shows He alone is sovereign. He has absolute rule. Pharaoh despises the symbol of what God would do to him. God uses sign to harden Pharaoh's heart (vs. 13). He won't obey, just "as the LORD had said" (Ex. 4:21; 7:3). Proverbs 21:1.

Move 3: The LORD exhibits His absolute victory through all your moral battles.

Vss. 8-10. God is setting Pharaoh up to make an example out of him. Serpent will change back into a rod: 7:15. It is "the rod of God": Ex. 4:2-4, 17, 20. Rod will turn water to blood (7:15, 19, 20); cause frogs to overtake land (8:5); turn dust to lice (8:16, 17); call down hail (9:23); bring swarms of locusts (10:13).

First nine plagues are grouped in threes before the final one:

- Pharaoh will be shown to be no god; so too all the Egyptian gods (Ex. 12:12; Num 33:46).
- Pattern: Moses gives warning before first and second of each group (public then private).
- Last of each group of plagues receives no advance warning.

"death is swallowed up in victory". 1 Cor. 15:54.

Move 4: Through all your battles, Christ has given you His present victory.

Bigger than Egypt/Pharaoh. He is showing *Satan* Who is boss. Why the rod into a snake (Heb. "dragon": Rev. 12/13)? Manifestation of Gen. 3:15; 49:10; Psalm 2:6-9; Psalm 24:7-8; Rev. 2:26-27; 12:5; 19:15.

Conclusion:

1 Sam. 17:47: *The battle belongs to the LORD.*