

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

EXODUS 4-7

Once, I was sitting in a mountain lodge with my feet propped up, enjoying the roaring fire in the fireplace. *When I noticed an alarming sight...* There was a bush outside that seemed to be on fire. I ran over to the window to check it out...

I was relieved to discover nothing was ablaze... What I actually saw was a reflection of the fireplace in the window pane – and since the bush was just outside the window it served as a backdrop for the fiery reflection.

But what the optical illusion did for me was let me experience firsthand how Moses must've felt when he saw a bush on fire, yet not consumed.

When Moses left his flock, and went to inspect the burning bush, God spoke to him from in the midst of the bush, **“Moses, Moses!... Do not draw near this place, take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”**

God had a job for Moses. His people, Israel, had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years, and God wanted to use Moses to deliver them. *And you would think Moses would jump at the assignment...* Forty years earlier Moses had tried to deliver the Hebrews. One day, he saw an Egyptian mistreating a Hebrew, and killed the Egyptian with his bare hands... *yet the Hebrews squealed on Moses.*

He ends up a fugitive. Moses gets added to Pharaoh's most wanted list. At the time God wasn't ready to use Moses – and Moses wasn't ready to be used...

But now the day has come, and God issues the call. God is ready to unleash His miraculous power – yet now Moses doubts if he’s up to the challenge...

And Moses comes up with five excuses why he’s not the man for the job...

In 3:11, Moses asks, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?”

In verse 13, he asks God, “when the Hebrews asked who sent me what will I tell them?” God replied, “say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.”

Moses questions *his fitness for the job - and his reception from the people.*

And chapter 4 begins with another excuse... “Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'" Moses doubts if the Hebrews will even trust him.

Notice, his first excuse was, Who am I? Then he asks God, Who are You? Now he asks, “Who are these people? I don’t know them and they don’t know Me...”

God bolsters Moses’ sagging confidence with three signs to take with him.

Verse 2, “So the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he said, "A rod." It was his shepherd’s staff. About six feet long, with a hook on the end.

And over the 40 years Moses had tended sheep in Midian, he had become extremely attached to this rod. He used it to

scale steep slopes, and reach into hard to get places to free lost sheep. He leaned on it in the hot summer sun. He used it to fight off wild animals – and beat back low brush. He even used his rod to correct his sheep dogs... Everywhere he went, Moses' rod was by his side.

In fact, was not uncommon for shepherds to have the same rod their whole life. Moses' rod was more than a stick, or staff – it was his best friend – a proven ally.

“And (God) said, "Cast it on the ground.”

Understand a shepherd would never throw down his rod. This would be like a policeman giving up his revolver... God is saying to Moses, **“Turn loose of what you've been relying on. Moses, throw down the source of your confidence.”**

“So (Moses) cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.” Since Moses was a shepherd and spent so much time outdoors, I'm sure he was use to snakes. He fled from this snake probably because it was poisonous.

Some Bible scholars believe the snake was a cobra.

It's interesting that the crown worn by the Egyptian Pharaoh was shaped like a coiled cobra ready to strike. The cobra was the Pharaoh's official insignia.

“Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail”

You never pick up a snake by the tail. It'll twist around and bite you. You pick up a snake behind its head... yet God tells Moses to grab its tail. God is teaching Moses to trust Him... **(and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a**

rod in his hand),” It immediately stiffens and turns back into a stick of wood.

Verse 5 reveals the effect this sign will have on the skeptical Hebrews in Egypt, “that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”

But God gives Moses a second sign. He’s told to do a Napoleon Bonaparte impersonation and stick his hand inside his coat. Verse 6 tells us, “Furthermore the LORD said to him, “Now put your hand in your bosom.” And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow.”

It’s interesting that Moses’ hand becomes leprous when he sticks it close to his heart. That’s our problem – before we come to Jesus our heart is wicked.

“And He said, “Put your hand in your bosom again.” So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh.” God is powerful over both snakes and leprosy. The snake was a symbol for Satan, and the leprosy a type of sin. God is able to overcome both.

Verse 8, “Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign. And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river (the Nile River) and pour it on the dry land. And the water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land.”

Egypt's most important asset was the river that ran through the center of the country. The Nile's annual flooding irrigated the fields that fed the nation.

For Moses to turn the river water to blood would've been an ominous warning to the Egyptians and a very convincing show of authority to the Hebrews...

Moses has nothing to worry about in Egypt. He'll arrive armed with three signs that will serve notice to the Egyptians, and rally the support of his own people.

But in verse 10, Moses musters another excuse... "Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

It's possible that Moses stuttered, or he had some other speech impediment - but in Acts 7:22 Stephen testifies that Moses was "mighty in words and deeds."

Stephen had sources that described Moses as an effective communicator.

I believe Moses is just groping for an excuse here... Hey, he might've stumbled over a word every now and then – and admittedly he was a bit rusty - but he was an adequate speaker... He just doesn't want to go to Egypt. That's the real issue.

"So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD?" Here's one of the strongest statements in Scripture on the sovereignty of God. Nothing

happens a part from God's will. The *purposes of God* are even behind the *laws of heredity*.

The Bible teaches us that though congenital diseases and birth defects are a result of man's original sin... nevertheless God has the power to prevent them. God is all-powerful and in total control. What He allows comes with his purpose.

The point to Moses is that if God makes the mouth - He can cure a stutter.

And in light of Exodus 4:11 I think it's wrong for parents to abort a baby just because it'll be born with deaf, or blind, or with a cleft palate, or down syndrome. So-called "*birth defects*" are allowed by God. *Who are we to say that one genetic package is more deserving of life than another? Do we know better than God?*

In fact, we all have handicaps. Hey, you were born with a major birth defect. It's called a sin nature – and unless Jesus fixes you - it'll send you to hell.

Apparently Moses had once been a fluent and articulate speaker, but for the last 40 years he's been preaching to sheep. Every sermon was baaaaaaad.

Now he's a little skittish about starting over... His skills are rusty and musty.

But how can you resist God's answer? Verse 12, "**Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.**" The God who made man's mouth will guide Moses' mouth. *God promises to run sound for Moses' ministry.*

Up until now God has been very patient with Moses... He's been faithful to deal lovingly and gently with what Moses considers to be legitimate excuses... *but the one thing God doesn't tolerate is unwillingness...*

And that's what angers God in verse 13. Moses says to God, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send." In other words, "Please, send anybody but me." Moses just doesn't want this job.

Guys, God is patient to a point. As long as our excuses are legit, God will shore up our inadequacies with assurances and signs - but if we're unwilling - God gets angry. There's a big difference between, "Lord, I can't." and "Lord, I won't." Repentance is a willing heart - and Moses just doesn't want to go.

Verse 14, "So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do.

So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs." *Moses will hold the rod. Moses will hear from God.* Aaron will be the anchorman – so to speak. He'll be the talking head. Moses will seek the Lord and supply the substance. Aaron will bump his gums.

And understand this is not a good solution. It's more a punishment for Moses' reluctance. Aaron will cause Moses and the Hebrews all kinds of problems.

Verse 18, "So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, "Please let me go and return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace."

I think this is a bit comical. Moses doesn't tell Jethro everything God told him.

Moses probably figured there's no way this guy is going to believe me if I tell him God is going to use a shepherd to do supernatural signs and deliver three million Israelis from the most powerful nation and army on the earth.

It' reminds me of the mom who asked her son what he'd learned in Sunday School... The little guy said, "Moses and the army were on the shore firing guns at the Egyptians - while the navy came with boats and the marines flew in helicopters to shuttle the Hebrews across the Red Sea." The mom said, "*Johnny, are you sure that's what you're teacher told you?*" He replied, "Naw mom, but if I told you what she really said, you'd never believe me." That was Moses attitude toward Jethro.

"And the LORD said to Moses in Midian, "Go, return to Egypt; for all the men are dead who sought your life." Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand." Don't miss the subtlety here... Before the shepherd's staff was the *rod of Moses* - now it's called the

“rod of God”. Moses threw it down - and in doing so admitted his inadequacies - *but what he did have, he dedicated to God.*

And when he picked it up again... *the same rod was now a tool in God's hands.*

Verse 21, “And the LORD said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.” In other words, God won't let Pharaoh off the hook until he's learned the lesson God wants to teach him.

“Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn." If Pharaoh holds on to God's firstborn he'll lose his own firstborn. Pharaoh's stubbornness will cost him plenty.

Verse 24 describes a strange incident, “And it came to pass on the way, at the encampment, that the LORD met him and sought to kill him. Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast it at Moses' feet, and said, "Surely you are a husband of blood to me!" So He (God) let him go. Then she said, "You are a husband of blood!" - *because of the circumcision.*” *What in the world is this?...* Moses and his family stop on the road to Egypt for emergency surgery.

Remember circumcision was the sign God gave to the Hebrews that identified them as His people. If a Hebrew refused to be circumcised it was in essence a denial of his

relationship with God. And evidently, Moses' wife, Zipporah - who was a Midianite, not a Hebrew - had been resistant to having her son clipped...

It was not until her husband was near death that she gave in and obeyed.

This is a bizarre incident, but it holds a lesson for both husbands and wives...

Ladies, realize your disobedience to God - your resistance to your husband's leadership - may be causing God to punish him and your family. Perhaps your husband is dying inside because you're holding him back from obeying God.

And men, God holds you responsible for the spiritual direction of your family.

Moses had caved in to Zipporah. She didn't want to circumcise her child - *and rather than Moses exercising his authority and doing the right thing - he failed to obey God for fear of upsetting his wife... I wonder if that's ever happened in your marriage? How can Moses lead a nation if he can't lead his own family?*

And notice who God seeks to punish... it's *not Zipporah, but Moses.*

The husband is the head of the family. He carries the responsibility. **“When it comes to spiritual authority in the home and church *the buck stops with the buck.*”**

Verse 27, **“And the LORD said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and kissed him.**

So Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which He had commanded him. Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. And Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people. So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.” After 400 years of bondage Israel is about to be free.

Chapter 5, “Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness. And Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.”

This particular Pharaoh was probably Amenhotep II who reigned in Egypt for 26 years. His mummy was found in 1898. You can go to Egypt today, and see what he looked like... *but for me he'll always resemble Yul Bryner...*

Yul Bryner was the perfect pharaoh. And remember his famous line - “So let it be written, so let it be done.” Here’s my philosophy for raising teenagers. I don’t argue... I give an order, followed by, “So let it be written, so let it be done.” *And getting around without a car is the same as making bricks without straw...*

Now when Yul Bryner refuses to budge, Moses and Aaron tell him, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let

us go three days' journey into the desert and sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword." Here's an important principle... *God's deliverance is not an end in itself.*

He doesn't just deliver us *out* – He brings us *in*... Moses wanted the people to make sacrifice to God. *God brings us out of bondage to turn us into worshippers.*

And notice Moses' insistence on three days. There had to be three days separation between their bondage and their worship... *And that's also true for us... How many days were there between Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection?*

Verse 4, "Then the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people from their work? Get back to your labor." And Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are many now, and you make them rest from their labor!"

So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their officers, saying, "You shall no longer give the people straw to make brick as before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. And you shall lay on them the quota of bricks which they made before. You shall not reduce it. For they are idle; therefore they cry out, saying, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.'

"Let more work be laid on the men, that they may labor in it, and let them not regard false words." Obviously, the Pharaoh doesn't just roll over for a slave. He retaliates. He punishes the Hebrews on account of Moses' bold demands.

"And the taskmasters of the people and their officers went out and spoke to the people, saying, "Thus says Pharaoh: 'I

will not give you straw. Go, get yourselves straw where you can find it; yet none of your work will be reduced. So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw. And the taskmasters forced them to hurry, saying, "Fulfill your work, your daily quota, as when there was straw." This was a near impossible requirement...

"Also the officers of the children of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten..." The Egyptians would use rods to beat the soles of their prisoners' feet, so every step would remind them of their defiance against Egypt.

And while the Hebrew leaders were beaten they were taunted, "Why have you not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and today, as before?"

Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, "Why are you dealing thus with your servants?" Enough is enough!

"There is no straw given to your servants, and they say to us, 'Make brick!' And indeed your servants are beaten, but the fault is in your own people." They wanted an explanation. Why the cruel treatment and these impossible demands?

"But (the Pharaoh) said, "You are idle! Idle! Therefore you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.' "Therefore go now and work; for no straw shall be given you, yet you shall deliver the quota of bricks." And the officers of the children of Israel saw that they were in trouble after it was said, "You

shall not reduce any bricks from your daily quota." They might as well get ready for a daily beating.

Verse 20, "Then, as they came out from Pharaoh, they met Moses and Aaron who stood there to meet them. And they said to them, "Let the LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us." In essence they tell Moses, "This is *the final straw!* You're doing us more harm than good!"

Verse 22, "So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You have sent me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all." Moses is discouraged. Apparently he thought he would just walk in and Pharaoh would cooperate. But that was not God's plan...

This is an important part of the story we often gloss over. Forty years in the desert had convinced Moses of his inadequacy. I'm sure he was praying, "God, I didn't want to come in the first place. I knew this would happen. I'm such a failure."

Moses didn't need this to happen to know who was in control, but the Hebrews did. God will use Moses in miraculous ways, but it's important the people see that Moses was also capable of failure. If Moses had just strolled in, worked his miracle signs, called down plagues, parted the Red Sea... it wouldn't been more difficult than it was for the Hebrews to differentiate between God and His messenger.

The people needed this initial failure to get their eyes off Moses and on God.

Chapter 6, “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land.” And God spoke to Moses and said to him: “I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, LORD, I was not known to them. I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.

Therefore say to the children of Israel: ‘I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD.”

Verse 9, “So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage.” *Moses had nobody but God.* Oswald Sanders, in his book *Spiritual Leadership* makes this observation...

“The leader must be one who, while welcoming the friendship and support of all who can offer it, has sufficient resources to stand alone, even in the face of fierce opposition... He or she must be prepared to have ‘no one but God’.”

Every spiritual leader needs to realize there comes a point when you’re not really trusting God until you’re willing to turn loose of everybody else’s hand.

Verse 10, “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the children of Israel go out of his land.” This time there’s no mention of a 3 day pass. Moses should cut to the chase and tell Pharaoh *we’re outta here*.

And Moses spoke before the LORD, saying, “The children of Israel have not heeded me. How then shall Pharaoh heed me...” Moses is thinking, “God, You’re asking me to be bolder than before. I can’t even convince my own people You’re about to deliver them - how in the world can I to talk the Pharaoh into the idea?

And Moses falls back on an old excuse... “for I am of uncircumcised lips.”

Verse 13, “Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, and gave them a command for the children of Israel and for Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.” *The LORD spoke...* Only one thing could silence Moses’ doubts, and erase his excuses... *the word of God*.

Verses 14-25 give us the family trees of Jacob's first three sons – Reuben, Simeon, and Levi. And Moses and Aaron were among the Levites.

Verse 20 identifies Moses father and mother as Amram and Jochebed.

Verse 26 sums it up, "These are the same Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said, "Bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their armies." These are the ones who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring out the children of Israel from Egypt. These are the same Moses and Aaron."

"And it came to pass, on the day the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, that the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "I am the LORD. Speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you." But Moses said before the LORD, "Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh heed me?" We find out in chapter 7...

"So the LORD said to Moses: "See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you.

And Aaron your brother shall speak to Pharaoh, to send the children of Israel out of his land. And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of

Israel from among them." God's purpose in Egypt was not just to deliver the Hebrews.

There were lessons God wanted to teach the Egyptians. At times He hardens Pharaoh's heart to do so. He refuses to let him off the hook until he gets the point.

God will use the exodus to prove to Egypt and her neighboring nations that He is the one, true God. In fact, the ten plagues we'll read about were not chosen at random. Each plague targeted a different Egyptian deity. In Exodus 12:12 God says, **"against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment."** With each plague God called out a different Egyptian idol and proved His superiority over him.

In fact, what goes on in Egypt at the exodus is a microcosm of the spiritual warfare that rages in the world at large - God versus the cobra, or Satan.

Verse 6, **"Then Moses and Aaron did so; just as the LORD commanded them, so they did. And Moses was 80 years old and Aaron 83 years old when they spoke to Pharaoh."** Moses and Aaron were in their eighties when they began their ministry – which goes to show, **it's never too late to serve the Lord.**

Verse 8, **"Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 'When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Show a miracle for yourselves,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and cast it before Pharaoh, and let it become a serpent.' "**

So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the LORD commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod

before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent.” But Satan also has power...

“But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents.” In 2 Timothy 3:8 Paul names these magicians as Jannes and Jambres. And this was no slight of hand. The occult is real. Satan has power and can perform miracles of his own to confuse people.

A future pharaoh – the Antichrist – will deceive many with “lying wonders”.

“But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.” It reminds me of 1 John 4:4, “He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” Round One in this heavyweight slugfest goes to God. He’s greater than the powers of Egypt.

But notice Pharaoh’s reaction to God’s victory, verse 13, “And Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.” Pharaoh will prove stubborn. This is a fight that’ll go the distance. It’ll end up a 10 round knock-out.

Verse 14, “So the LORD said to Moses: "Pharaoh's heart is hard; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him; and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand. And you shall say to him, 'The LORD God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness"; but indeed, until now you would not hear!

Thus says the LORD: "By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood. And the fish that are in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river."

Understand the Nile River was sacred to the Egyptians. Each year its banks flooded, irrigated the land, and supplied silt that made fertile topsoil. Egyptians believed the Nile was literally *the bloodstream of Osiris - god of the underworld*.

And in turning the Nile to blood God will mock their false gods and their pagan beliefs. God is about to make their silly god, Osiris, bleed!

"Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in buckets of wood and pitchers of stone.'" And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded.

So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt." The Egyptians also worshipped the crocodile - and a bloody river was also an assault on their habitat. When neither Osiris, or the crocodiles

are able to protect their environment it showed what a *croc* they really were.

“Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their **enchantments;**” Again they’re able to duplicate God’s miracle. Hey, witchcraft and sorcery are real. This is why Harry Potter and similar stories are a danger to kids. They glamorize the occult, and can suck kids into a dark and evil world that lusts for satanic influence.

It’s not until we get to the third plague – the proliferation of lice – that pharaoh’s wizards can no longer match miracles with God... Three strikes and they’re out.

After the water was turned to blood we’re told, “**Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.**” *I guess the Pharaoh was in **de-Nile**.*

And Pharaoh turned and went into his house. Neither was his heart moved by this. So all the Egyptians dug all around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the river.” This was a nightmare for the EPA. *Blood pollution in the river...* “And 7 days passed after the LORD had struck the river.”