Discovering Exodus: Finding prayer points, testimonies, reflection and journaling questions that will engage your heart with the Father.

Chapter 7:

**□ The Invitation**: Invite the Holy Spirit to show you something new as you read through the chapter. The Father desires to meet with you and share something with you today. You may find it in the reading or you may hear His Voice speaking to Your Spirit in the quiet of this moment.

**□ The Reading:** Read Exodus Chapter 7. Record any thoughts from the chapter, questions you have or verses that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you while reading.

**□ The Focus**: Today’s focus is a prayer point.

God gives us the broad strokes of what will happen in the land of the Egyptians in verses 3-5 of chapter 7. *“I will harden Pharaoh’s heart and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, he will not listen to you. Then I will lay My hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out My divisions, My people the Israelites. And the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I stretch out My hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it*”.

God’s deliverance for His people, Israel, begins. From the moment Moses and Aaron walk into Pharaoh’s court, God and His people became a stench to Pharaoh. The first miracle we see in chapter 7 is Aaron’s staff becoming a snake. The text tells us that Pharaoh’s magicians did the same thing by their “secret arts”. However, Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs. Adam Clark gives some insight for the reason God began with works that could be reproduced by demonic power: “Egypt was addicted to magic, sorcery, etc. It was necessary that God should permit Pharaoh’s wise men to act to the utmost of their skill in order to imitate the work of God, that His superiority might be clearly seen and His powerful working incontestably be ascertained.” [[1]](#footnote-1)

Chapter 7 displays the first judgment on Egypt, the Nile River is turned to blood (the 1st plague). Why the Nile? The Nile River was a chief object of Egyptian idolatry. Ancient texts tell us that nothing is held in greater honor among the Egyptians than the Nile River. Some ancient Jewish sources supposed that Pharaoh himself was a sorcerer or magician and that he walked by the Nile River early each morning for the purpose of preparing for magical rites, etc. God’s directive to Moses is to *“...go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the river. Confront him on the bank of the Nile*...” (Verse 15). God knows where to find Pharaoh early in the morning. Nothing escapes God’s attention. There are no secrets that are kept from Him. He knows the hearts of everyone, their intentions and motives. Pharaoh believed that he was out of God’s reach and because of that he refused to listen to God. He did not take God at His word.

At the Nile River, “*Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and ALL the water was changed into blood....blood was everywhere,*” verses 20-21. For one week the blood remained. God had turned the Nile, and the streams, canals, ponds and all the reservoirs into blood (verse 19). The Egyptian magicians were able to do the same thing by their “secret arts”. Most of the commentaries I have read agree that the magicians had to dig along the Nile to find drinking water to change to blood. (We are told in Scripture that “*all the Egyptians dug along the Nile to get drinking water*,” verse 24.) The chief magicians in Egypt are spoken about by Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:8. Their names Jannes and Jambres who opposed Moses are written about in the ancient texts. They were well known in the ancient world.

Why blood? This was a judgment against the Egyptians for the murderous decree in which the boy babies of the Hebrews were thrown (drowned) in the Nile River” {Exodus 1:22, “*Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: ‘Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live’.*”} And God has witnessed the sacrifices made to the god of the Nile throughout the years. Every year the Egyptians would sacrifice a boy and girl to this river, in gratitude for the benefits the people received from the river. The life-blood of little ones had been spilled in this river. By changing the water to blood, God was revealing His power and authority over any other god. And He is showing the Egyptians that the gods in whom they trusted were utterly incapable of saving them. Where was the god of the Nile that day? Why did he remain silent? How could this sacred river be affected? Our God is the True God. He alone has the authority and the power!

God’s judgments are merciful, bringing revelation of who He is so that people can:

1. Leave the “gods” they depend on and turn to God, trusting Him completely.
2. Be saved from their sin and declared holy by God because they trust in Him.
3. Move from darkness into God’s glorious light and life!
4. Go from foolishness to wisdom
5. Be changed from unrighteous to righteousness

....and so much more! But God gives each one of us a choice. He will not force us to love Him or trust Him.

Prayer Point:

1. Repent of anything that has hardened your heart. And invite the Holy Spirit to open your heart and soften your heart again to the Father’s care and love. Return to God with a wholehearted commitment.
2. Pray for someone in your sphere of influence who is far from God, that God’s mercy and kindness would bring revelation of who He is so your friend/family member/co-worker/etc could leave the “gods” they depend on and turn to God, trusting Him completely.

Reflection: Take time to reflect on the “I wills” of the Lord for your personal journey with Him.

1. Adam Clarke Commentary (online) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)