

## **104.8. SLAVES PLAGUES & BONDAGE & PHAROAH'S CHOICES.**

The Israelite population grew rapidly, which intimidated the Egyptians, Exodus 1:9 & when Pharaoh died, the new Pharaoh was nervous over the great number of Israelites & what could happen if they ever rebelled & so he had them enslaved & used them to build cities & roads, while confined to the land of Goshen. This enslaving of the children of Israel had been prophesied & came about, due to their disobedience, as they had been given choices; To obey God & receive blessings above all or disobey God & be cursed above all. Leviticus 26 & Deut. 28 talks about how the curses would find & bind them, as the Bible says; They will be cursed in all they do & nations will rise above them & they will face diseases & pestilence, from their disobedience to God & their sinful choices; they were now reaping & suffering the repercussions of their choices.

While under slavery in Egypt, Pharaoh decreed that every Hebrew (Israelite) boy born, be killed, Exodus 1:22. One baby was hidden & found by Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him & to which Moses, a Hebrew boy, was raised as a prominent Egyptian member of Pharaoh's house, Exodus 2:10, at around 40 yrs. old, Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew & he killed the Egyptian & had to flee & hide, Exodus 2:15 & he settled down, married & had a son, Exodus 2:21. During this period, Pharaoh had died & Moses' crime was dismissed, Exodus 4:19. Then, one

day the Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses, in a burning bush, Exodus 3:2 & God called on him to save the Israelites & to lead them out of Egyptian slavery.

God told Moses His plan to humble Pharaoh & to rescue His people & Moses started making excuses why he shouldn't be part of the plan. Moses asks, suppose I tell the Israelites; The God of your fathers has sent me & they ask, What is his name? God replied, "I am who I am. This is what you say to them, "I am" has sent me, Exodus 3:10-14. Moses then says that his poor speaking skills may ruin God's plan, but the Lord said; Who gave people mouths? Who makes them deaf, or mute? Who gives them sight, or makes them blind? Is it not I?

Now go & I will help you speak & teach you what to say. But Moses said, Lord, please send someone else. Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses & he said, get your brother Aaron, he speaks well, you shall speak to him & put words in his mouth; I will teach you what to say & he will speak it, Exodus 4:11-16. So, God appointed Moses, a Prophet, to speak to Pharaoh on His behalf.

God sent Moses, to lead His people out of slavery & to the promised land, but Pharaoh was treated like a God in Egypt & before Moses could lead the Israelites out of Egypt, he had to convince Pharaoh to let them go. But God didn't just want His people let go He wanted to prove to Pharaoh, that He was the one true God.

So, God told Moses that Pharaoh's heart would be hardened, throughout the 10 Plagues that God planned, to bring His wrath onto the persecutors of His people. So as Pharaoh refused Moses' request to free God's people, the wrath & plagues in Exodus Chapters 7-11 began & were as follows; The Plague of Blood. Egypt depended on the Nile River, so God turned the water into blood. The Plague of Frogs. Frogs covered the land & only Moses was able to make them leave, by praying. The Plague of Gnats. The dust turned into gnats & the magicians said, this is the finger of God. The Plague of Flies. Flies ruined the land, but left the Israelites & their land untouched. The Plague on Livestock. All Egyptian livestock killed, but left the Israelites' untouched. The Plague of Boils, only on the Egyptians. The Plague of Hail. Hail devastated the land & killed all left outside, except in Goshen, where God's children were safe.

The Plague of Locusts filled the houses & finished off the crops not destroyed by hail. The Plague of Darkness. Total darkness for 3 days, the Israelites had light in Goshen. Plague on the Firstborn. This was a judgment of Pharaoh, who Egyptians believed to be a god. God's final plague killed the firstborn son of every Egyptian, including Pharaoh's & started the rite of Passover, as the Israelites put lamb's blood over their doors, showing they belonged to God, so the coming death would pass over them.

This was the breaking point & Pharaoh let the Israelites go, Exodus 13. As Moses led them out of Egypt, with the help of a pillar of cloud & of fire.

Meanwhile Pharaoh had changed his mind & sent out his chariots to slaughter them, but the angel of God was with Moses & the Israelites & when they came upon the Red Sea, the Lord parted the waters for the Israelites to travel through on dry ground. The Egyptians soon followed & the waters flowed over top of them & none survived, Exod.14. This miracle set Moses as the leader of God's people & showed them that they had nothing to fear, as long as God was with them. But, even after all God had done, there were many times that they failed to trust in Him. Every step of the way, on their exodus from Egypt, they whined that they had been better off as slaves. With every new obstacle, they cried & wanted to give up. Even after witnessing the miracle of God's provision in the desert & seeing his power displayed against Pharaoh, they still didn't trust Moses, or God, to deliver them.

With all this grumbling & all the disobedience, God wanted to wipe them out & start a new nation, but Moses persuaded God to forgive them, but as a result of all their rebellion they were forced to wander lost in the desert for 40 years, until all who had rebelled had grown old & died & the promised land was then given to their children, instead of them, Numbers 14:31. So, these people missed out on God's promise, due to disbelief, distrust &

dishonor i.e. moaning, groaning & hating, instead of trusting, believing & loving, as these are all choices & each has its own reward, or punishment.