

Exodus 7

Read Exodus 7:1-7: What does it mean that God made Moses *like a god* to Pharaoh? There is one God, and we are not him. The Mormons and others claim that we can become some sort of god. We cannot. God is rescuing men in various ways, both with and without the involvement of men. He leads us from slavery in this world and sin, towards redemption. It is a hard path to leave the life of the flesh and move towards a more spiritual lifestyle. We can be afraid leaving what we know for what we do not know. We need to look more closely at what is happening in the big picture here.

I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. (Isaiah 45:5)

Not only are we not gods; but we are in no way to accept any of the credit given to God.

I will not give My glory to another. (Isaiah 48:11)

Man does not do well with God-like authority. We can be put into a position of lordship (government authority or employment) over another person. That does not mean that we become deities. It means that we can essentially become their boss. Their fate is somewhat in our hands. We can have mercy on them or not. Accordingly, those who have authority over men's lives will be judged with a lot of scrutiny. Kings and presidents will have a stricter judgement for what they could have done or prevented.

God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods.

²How long will you judge unjustly, And show partiality to the wicked? Selah

³Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy. ⁴Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked. ⁵They do not know, nor do they understand; They walk about in darkness; All the foundations of the earth are unstable. ⁶I said, "You are gods, And all of you are children of the Most High. ⁷But you shall die like men, And fall like one of the princes." (Psalm 82)

Moses thinks that he is a nobody, but the most powerful man in the world already fears him. I suppose that is why the scriptures say that Moses was the humblest man in the world. If it was me, I might just chase off Pharaoh, instead of awaiting God's next instruction. God clarifies that Pharaoh's stubbornness will glorify God's ability to perform all of these coming plagues. God tells Moses in advance, that ultimately, Pharaoh will renege on any agreements. God will have to use more brute force to get Pharaoh to say 'uncle'. There are numerous issues that God is addressing simultaneously.

But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. ¹⁷ As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go. ¹⁸ Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now (Exodus 9)

It is important that the Egyptians know who God is.

Estimates of Egyptians Joining the Exodus

1. **Exodus 12:38:** The verse mentions that a "mixed multitude" went up with the Israelites. This indicates that there were Egyptians and possibly other foreigners who chose to leave with them. The exact number isn't specified.
2. **Scholarly Estimates:** Some scholars suggest that the mixed multitude could have been a small percentage of the total population of Israelites, estimating anywhere from 10,000 to 100,000 people might have joined the exodus. However, these figures are speculative.
3. **Cultural Context:** It's important to consider the cultural backdrop. Some Egyptians might have identified with the plight of the Israelites or been persuaded by the miraculous signs, leading them to join the movement.
4. **Theological Perspective:** From a theological standpoint, the inclusion of the mixed multitude symbolizes the broader inclusion of people into God's covenant community, underscoring themes of redemption and belonging.

In summary, while specific numeric estimates vary, the concept of a mixed multitude accompanying the Israelites is significant both historically and theologically, illustrating the transformative power of the Exodus narrative.

Why does God speak through us to others, instead of directly? Similarly to evangelism, it is good for us to become invested and participate in the process of saving lives. It is an inefficient contribution on our part (as evidenced by Moses' reluctance). In fact, we are really the antithesis of what we advocate. We are called hypocrites, because we call for a standard that we too fail in. All men aspire to be more than they are.

²⁶ For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence. ³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from

God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—³¹ that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.” (1 Corinthians 1)

We do see a pattern where Satan copies the things that God has done. In this chapter, we see a man treated like a god and his supporting brother in the role of a prophet. Satan tries to mimic the same thing in the coming tribulation with the antichrist claiming to be a god-man, and his prophet who performs signs and wonders to persuade men to give their allegiance to him.

³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (2 Thessalonians 2)

Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. (Revelation 19:20)

God uses people in ways that help prevent their success from going to their head. Moses is beyond what we would consider his prime. He was 40 years old when he killed the Egyptian task master and fled from Pharaoh. Moses is now 80 years old. He will be 120 when they finally reach the land of Canaan; after 40 years in the wilderness. It is amazing to see how long it takes God to prepare a man for leadership. Joseph was sold into slavery for 17 years, then he had 2 years in jail before he was ready to lead. David was 30 years old when he became king, despite being anointed at 15-17 years old.

Read Exodus 7:8-13: God told Moses and Aaron to show Pharaoh a miracle when he asks for one. Aaron threw down the rod and it became a serpent when it hit the ground. This was also symbolic. God threw Satan down from he abused his privilege in heaven. Like Pharaoh, Satan can be used as a tool of discipline.

“You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. ¹⁴ “You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. ¹⁵ You were perfect in your ways from the day you

were created, Till iniquity was found in you. ¹⁶ “By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. ¹⁷ “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, (Ezekiel 28)

Like Pharaoh, God also used other enemy kings unwittingly just like he uses Satan.

“Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger And the staff in whose hand is My indignation. ⁶I will send him against an ungodly nation, And against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, To seize the spoil, to take the prey, And to tread them down like the mire of the streets. ⁷Yet he does not mean so, Nor does his heart think so; But it is in his heart to destroy (Isaiah 10)

It is interesting to see how Pharaoh surrounded himself with magicians and sorcerers. Similarly, the Babylonian kings and Persian kings did the same thing. They did not know where to turn for answers. There was a linkage between the scholars of science and mathematics and magic and astrology. Like then, today we have some smart and convincing people surrounding our leaders who are peddling their truth instead of God’s truth. Somehow Pharaoh’s magicians were able to concoct a ceremony where they too could slip some snakes onto the ground; but then, Aaron’s snake ate theirs!

Read Exodus 7:14-25: The next miracle was to kill the main god of Egypt; the Nile River. The Nile was worshipped as their source of life and renewal. God turned it into blood; and all of its fish died. God is always looking to show us that anything else that we rely upon ultimately leads to death. What is our god, the stock market?

Interestingly, the US Stock Market went down 777 points on 10/19/98 after President Bill Clinton was caught having an affair with Monica Lewinsky in August; but was acquitted. The PR campaign after he was not impeached was “It’s the economy, stupid”. In other words, morality is not a factor in the USA. Stay focused on your wealth. Our largest liquid asset took a massive hit (red ink) when we took God out of the picture.