

Exodus 7

Verses 1- 5

Then the Lord said to Moses, “See, I make you as God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. ² You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall speak to Pharaoh that he let the sons of Israel go out of his land. ³ But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart that I may multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt. ⁴ When Pharaoh does not listen to you, then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring out my hosts, my people the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt by great judgments. ⁵ The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out my hand on Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst.”

³ But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart that I may multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.

God’s reason for hardening the king’s heart is clear, so that God can do all of the signs that He has planned to do. In the beginning God didn’t need to harden the king’s heart because the king was already dead set against Moses and letting the slaves go into the wilderness to worship the Lord.

However, when the plagues get more and more severe the king will begin to waver and give in to God’s command to let His people go. Then God will harden the king’s heart so he will once again resist God’s command to let them go. God will do this so that the king and all of Egypt will have to suffer thru all of the plagues that God has planned for them. We must remember that this is God’s judgment on Egypt for their slavery of the Hebrew people and their false gods.

During each of the plagues there will be a statement about the hardness of the king’s heart. We will see 3 different scenarios.

1. The king will harden his own heart.
2. The Lord will harden the king’s heart.
3. It is not clear if it was the king or the Lord who hardened the king’s heart.

After all of the plagues are over, we can take another look and see if the ones that fit into number 3 above really belong in scenario number 1 or 2.

Verses 6 -12

⁶ So Moses and Aaron did *it*; as the Lord commanded them, thus they did. ⁷ Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three, when they spoke to Pharaoh. ⁸ Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, ⁹ “When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, ‘Work a miracle,’ then you shall say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw *it* down before Pharaoh, *that* it may become a serpent.’” ¹⁰ So Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and thus they did just as the Lord had commanded; and Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. ¹¹ Then Pharaoh also called for *the* wise men and *the* sorcerers, and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same with their secret arts. ¹² For each one threw down his staff and they turned into serpents. But Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs.

⁷ Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three, when they spoke to Pharaoh.

Moses and Aaron will die just months apart from each other in 1406 BC. Moses will be 120 and Aaron 123 years old. So we know Aaron was born in 1529 BC and Moses in 1526 BC

¹⁰ So Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and thus they did just as the Lord had commanded; and Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent.

When Aaron did this it was a miracle from God because Aaron had no knowledge of the secret arts of the Egyptian magicians.

¹¹ Then Pharaoh also called for *the* wise men and *the* sorcerers, and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same with their secret arts.

You have to give these magicians some credit. We don’t know how they did this, but it’s impressive that they could. They were skilled in their trade of deception.

¹² For each one threw down his staff and they turned into serpents. But Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs.

This had to make an impression on the king and his false prophets, but we are not told if they showed amazement or if they were unmoved by what happened. One thing we know for sure though is that these magicians had to buy or make some new staffs.

Verses 13 - 16

¹³ Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said. ¹⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is stubborn; he refuses to let the people go. ¹⁵ Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he is going out to the water, and station yourself to meet him on the bank of the Nile; and you shall take in your hand the staff that was turned into a serpent. ¹⁶ You shall say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness. But behold, you have not listened until now."

¹³ Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Considering the fact that Aaron's serpent had swallowed all of the magician's serpents one would assume this would have alarmed the king but it had no effect on him because his heart was hardened. It's all too human for the heart, hardened by feelings of pride, to overrule logic and common sense.

¹⁵ Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he is going out to the water, and station yourself to meet him on the bank of the Nile; and you shall take in your hand the staff that was turned into a serpent.

This is reminiscent of the king's daughter going to the Nile River to bathe. However this event is 80 years later and a different king of Egypt.

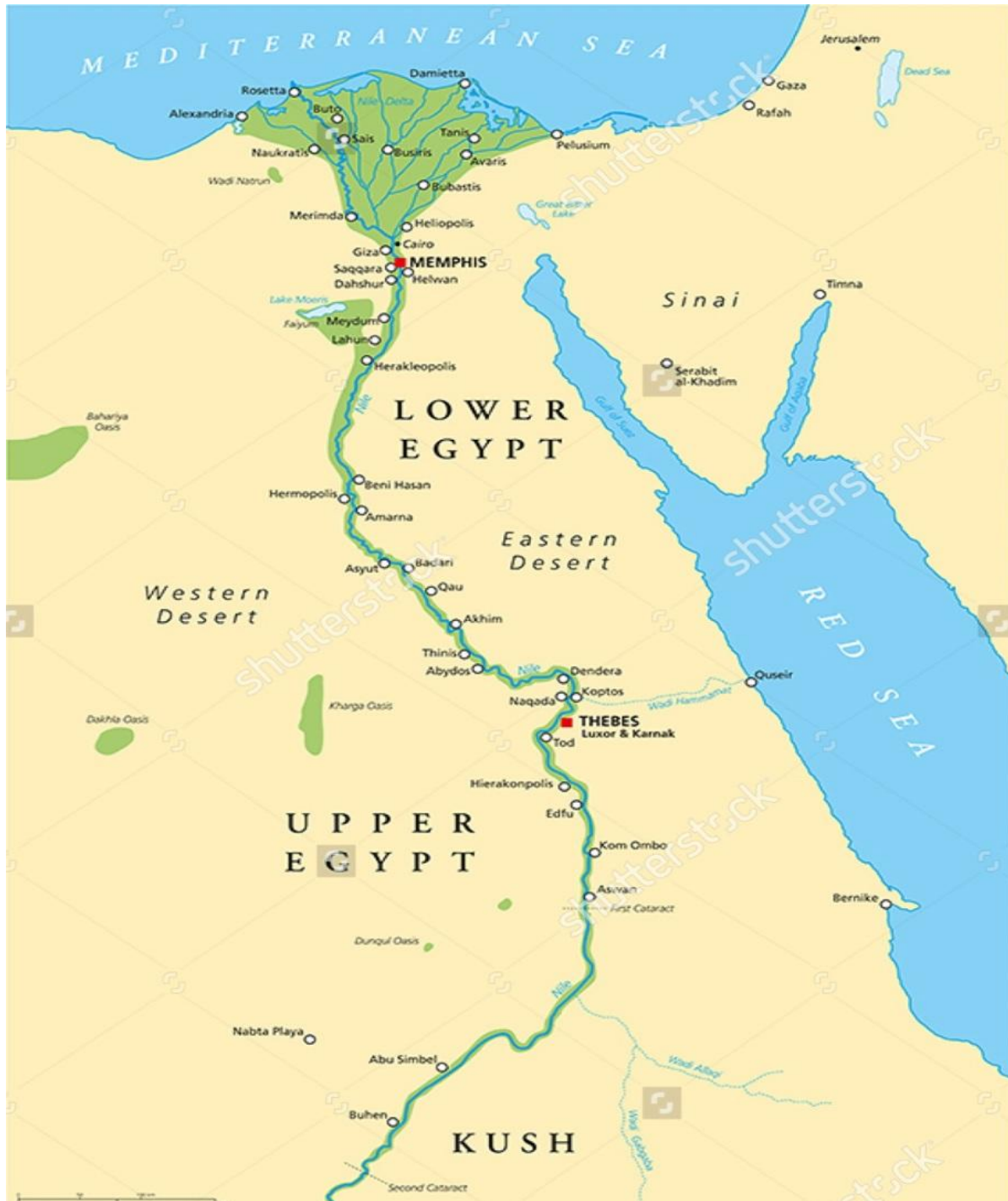
Verses 17 - 18

¹⁷ Thus says the Lord, "By this you shall know that I am the Lord: behold, I will strike the water that is in the Nile with the staff that is in my hand, and it will be turned to blood. ¹⁸ The fish that are in the Nile will die, and the Nile will become foul, and the Egyptians will find difficulty in drinking water from the Nile.

1st plague - Water of Nile turned to blood

As mentioned before, 95% of the population in Egypt lives near the Nile River so God could have limited the plague to just the river but this plague affected everyone in Egypt.

See pic 705 The Nile River



Hapi was the god of the Nile and was greatly celebrated among the Egyptians. There is a statue of the Nile god Hapi, in the British Museum.

See Pic 710



Verses 19 - 21

¹⁹ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, over their streams, and over their pools, and over all their reservoirs of water, that they may become blood; and there will be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in *vessels of wood* and in *vessels of stone*.’” ²⁰ So Moses and Aaron did even as the Lord had commanded. And he lifted up the staff and struck the water that was in the Nile, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, and all the water that was in the Nile was turned to blood. ²¹ The fish that were in the Nile died, and the Nile became foul, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. And the blood was through all the land of Egypt.

¹⁹ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, over their streams, and over their pools, and over all their reservoirs of water, that they may become blood;

Before the Nile enters the sea it splits up into numerous smaller rivers and streams.

See pic 715



And there will be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.”

This plague did not affect just the Nile River; there was blood in any vessel that contained water.

²¹ The fish that were in the Nile died, and the Nile became foul, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. And the blood was through all the land of Egypt.

The plague also affected their food supply and one can only imagine the stench that filled the air.

Verses 22 - 25

²² But the magicians of Egypt did the same with their secret arts; and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said. ²³ Then Pharaoh turned and went into his house with no concern even for this. ²⁴ So all the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink, for they could not drink of the water of the Nile. ²⁵ Seven days passed after the Lord had struck the Nile.

²² But the magicians of Egypt did the same with their secret arts; and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

The magicians of our time can perform some amazing tricks and allusions but they would be hard pressed to replicate what the magicians of Egypt did 3,400 years ago.

By showing Moses & Aaron that it could be done thru magic they were saying to them that their God was not a god at all. However, this delusion will soon disappear when the magicians can no longer replicate what God is doing.

Beginning here we will chart the times that the king's heart was hardened and keep track of which scenario (1, 2 or 3) it fits into. If the verse does not specifically say the king hardened his heart or the Lord hardened the king's heart then it will fit into the "not sure" column. This verse fits into the not sure column.

See chart 720

Plague	Verse	Who hardened the kings heart	The King	The Lord	Not sure
Blood	7:22	Pharaoh's heart was hardened			x
Frogs					
Gnats					
Flies					
Livestock					
Boils					
Hail					
Locust					
Darkness					

²⁵ Seven days passed after the Lord had struck the Nile.

It is not clear if this is the time between the 1st and 2nd plague or if this is when the magicians showed that they could also change the water into blood.

Before the magicians could replicate what the Lord had done they would have had to wait a number of days for the mess at hand to disappear. Given the length of the Nile River, over 4000 miles, it would have been a long process.