

Lessons from Pharaoh

Shalom Everyone,

What can we learn from studying the account of Pharaoh's responses to the Word of God spoken by Moses and Aaron? Normally, I would say that nothing about Pharaoh could ever have anything to do with me, nor would it have anything to do with any true believer in Yeshua, the one-and-only God of the universe, but I believe the Holy Spirit is directing me to see how the foolishness of this Egyptian king and the results it brought about would be the same for any person who walks in their own human wisdom, clinging stubbornly to their own perception of truth.

In **Exodus 6:2 - 9:35**, which is titled *Va'eira* in Hebrew and translated, "**And He appeared,**" we read of the first seven judgments of Egypt and can see that the stubborn heart of Pharaoh brings about plagues upon his land and his people. If we look carefully at the account, the Scriptures will make it clear that it is more than stubbornness that is being judged, but rather the domain of darkness which incites people to trust in teachings and traditions based on lies. Pharaoh had been raised to consider himself as a supreme being, even a deity. He believed lies about himself and pagan gods, because that was the nature of the culture of his idolatrous nation.

*Exodus 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and **against all the gods of Egypt** I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.*

Notice that the Lord states that His judgments are against the gods of Egypt and those who worship them and **makes it clear that He alone is the LORD, or, "I AM YHWH."** We may tend to think that the Egyptians were just ignorant and served pagan gods because they knew no better, but the Word of God makes it clear that **idolatry is a choice** that, once embraced, takes over the imaginations and hearts of the decision makers.

*Romans 1:21 **Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.***

*Romans 1:22 **Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,***

*Romans 1:23 **And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.***

*Romans 1:24 **Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:***

*Romans 1:25 **Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, Who is blessed for ever. Amen.***

The decision to worship creation more than the Creator opens the door to all manner of sin against God and cruelty and injustice against other men. Therefore, we can see that, in delivering the Children of Israel from the bondage of Egypt, YHWH executed judgment against demon spirits infecting the vain imaginations of men that allowed them to be taken captive to lies

resulting in believing in false gods from Hapi, the Nile god to the very self-deification of man shown in the honor placed upon the firstborn and the worship of Pharaoh. Isn't it also true that making decisions and choices in our lives that leave God and His Word out of those decisions and choices also show a greater reliance on created things than on God, the Creator?

This brings us back to the question posed in the first line of this message about what we can learn from Pharaoh's mistakes. Many powerful and irrefutable proofs were shown to Pharaoh, but he was unrelenting, and held adamantly to his own way of doing things. It has been said that the definition of insanity is doing the same things over and over—expecting different results. It seems to me that, rather than insanity, this should be described as hard-heartedness, and it may afflict anyone who puts their will ahead of the will of God. When we who have been born again insist on clinging to our own way of doing things, not realizing that much of what we insist on has no basis in the Word of God, we find that the results that we desire, and are promised by the Word, just don't happen to us. People ask, "Why don't God's promises work in my life," as if God were withholding His blessings from them. Notice the words spoken to Pharaoh were that God wanted him to see His power. Without a doubt the will of God, who is Love, was that Pharaoh would see and repent. His hard heart kept him from God's great love.

Exodus 9:14-16 (TLV) ¹⁴For this time I will send all My plagues to your heart, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth. ¹⁵Surely by now I could have stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. ¹⁶However, I have let you stand for this reason: to show you My power, and that My Name might be proclaimed throughout all the earth.

God's will for each of His people is that they would come to the knowledge of the truth. His Hand is always outstretched to those whose heart is prepared and ready to receive. Insisting on always being right, placing our perception of truth ahead of the Word of God, or simply giving our focus to the things of this world instead of the things of Spirit, is idolatrous. We stand against the enemy's deceptive ways of dulling our sensitivity and hardening our hearts against the working of God in our lives. Praise God, we are given power against every weapon (device) of the enemy, and we have the mind of the Messiah so that we never become hard-hearted. Let's choose to quickly turn from anything, any activity, or any thought that would try to separate us from the Love of God in Yeshua the Messiah

Tender hearted,
Terry