

**People of the Promise:  
Moses, Part 2: Battle of Wills  
Exodus 5-12**

**Introduction**

Not Just for Kids—different kinds of hammers, including a sledge hammer; God has the biggest hammer. Don't try to fight Him.

Moses' life story is more about God's work than his own work. Last week we looked at the first part of his life: Rescued to Lead.

1. Drawn Out (Exodus 2:1-10)
2. Called Out (Exodus 2:11-25; Exodus 3)
3. Empowered (Exodus 4)

At the end of nearly 40 years as a fugitive in the wilderness, God sent Moses back to Egypt to free the Israelites from slavery. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, stood in the way. What followed was a battle of wills. Pharaoh believed himself to be a god and declared he did not know Yahweh (or care to know Him). But God got out His giant-sized hammer and began to teach Pharaoh and the Egyptians what it's like to fight against the true and living God.

Three themes:

1. Pharaoh: Hardened Heart
2. Moses: Courageous Obedience
3. Yahweh: Infinite Power

## 1. Pharaoh: Hardened Heart

Exodus 4:21-23

<sup>21</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. <sup>22</sup> Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, <sup>23</sup> and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.'"

Exodus 5:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'" <sup>2</sup> But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go." <sup>3</sup> Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest he fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword." <sup>4</sup> But the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens." <sup>5</sup> And Pharaoh said, "Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their

burdens!" <sup>6</sup> The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen, <sup>7</sup> "You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves. <sup>8</sup> But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, 'Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.' <sup>9</sup> Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words."

Exodus 5:20-23

<sup>20</sup> They met Moses and Aaron, who were waiting for them, as they came out from Pharaoh; <sup>21</sup> and they said to them, "The LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

<sup>22</sup> Then Moses turned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? <sup>23</sup> For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all."

Exodus 7:14, 22-23

<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go.

**22** But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said. **23** Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not take even this to heart.

Exodus 8:8, 15

**8** Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "Plead with the LORD to take away the frogs from me and from my people, and I will let the people go to sacrifice to the LORD."

**15** But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, he hardened his heart and would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

Exodus 8:18-19

**18** The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. **19** Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

Tries to negotiate: worship but stay in land;  
in wilderness but not far away; men only;  
little ones too, but not flocks and herds

Exodus 8:31-32

**31** And the LORD did as Moses asked, and removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people; not

one remained. <sup>32</sup> But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and did not let the people go.

Exodus 9:6-7

<sup>6</sup> And the next day the LORD did this thing. All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one of the livestock of the people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup> And Pharaoh sent, and behold, not one of the livestock of Israel was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

Exodus 9:12

<sup>12</sup> But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had spoken to Moses.

Exodus 9:34-35

<sup>34</sup> But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet again and hardened his heart, he and his servants. <sup>35</sup> So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people of Israel go, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses.

Exodus 11:10

Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land.

## **2. Moses: Courageous Obedience**

Exodus 7:6-7

<sup>6</sup> Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the LORD commanded them. <sup>7</sup> Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.

Exodus 7:20

<sup>20</sup> Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood.

Exodus 12:35-36

<sup>35</sup> The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. <sup>36</sup> And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Exodus 12:50-51

<sup>50</sup> All the people of Israel did just as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron. <sup>51</sup> And on that very day the LORD brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.

## **3. Yahweh: Infinite Power To destroy or to save**

Exodus 6:1

But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

Exodus 7:5

The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them.

Exodus 7:17

Thus says the LORD, "By this you shall know that I am the LORD: behold, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood."

Water to blood

Frogs

Gnats

Flies

Livestock Plague

Boils

Hail

Locusts

Darkness

Death of Firstborn

Exodus 9:15-17

<sup>15</sup> For by now I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with

pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth. <sup>16</sup> But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth. <sup>17</sup> You are still exalting yourself against my people and will not let them go.

Exodus 10:1-2, 7

<sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them, <sup>2</sup> and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup> Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not yet understand that Egypt is ruined?"

Exodus 12:12-13

<sup>12</sup> For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.



## Conclusion

1. Pharaoh: Hardened Heart
2. Moses: Courageous Obedience
3. Yahweh: Infinite Power

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-10

<sup>1</sup> He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

<sup>2</sup> I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—<sup>10</sup> no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.