

Exod 03-04-06b

We're ready now to resume our study at Exodus chapter 7 and in this next section beginning in verse 8, the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron saying, when Pharaoh speaks to you saying, show a miracle for yourselves then you shall say to Aaron take your rod and cast it before Pharaoh and let it become a serpent. God knows that this question is going to be asked. Why? Because you don't just walk into the throne room of Pharaoh and say, well I've got this particular request.

You have to get his attention. He's going to say, get out of my face, go away. I've already given my policy on the Hebrews so he might not even grant an audience.

So to raise this request and this confrontation above the level of the ordinary, extraordinary things have to be associated with it. This is a biblical principle. People say, well how come there were so many miracles in the Bible and there aren't any miracles now? Well, huge sections of the Bible did not have miracles.

Miracles occur when an issue needs to be elevated for the attention of people to mark a change, to mark a new thing, to mark the inception. That's why we're going to have miracles here at the outset of what will be the formal life of the nation of Israel. But after the sojourn and after they get into the land and you get into the time of the judges, you don't see miracles happening.

God, there's not a pillar of fire, a pillar of cloud, you don't see manna raining down. But in exceptional cases where a miracle takes place and those are generally to authenticate a messenger, to authenticate a prophet, to draw attention to something new that God is communicating to his people or about his people. And then that dies out and for hundreds of years you have no miracles, few if any prophets until the time of the Lord Jesus.

And then there is a rash of miracles. By the way, here's a question for you. Can you name all of the miracles that John the Baptist performed? Of course you can, because there were none.

He did zero. He was the last great prophet in Israel and he did zero miracles. But when you get to the Lord Jesus and his disciples, you have uncountable miracles.

John says if he had tried to write everything down that Jesus did, all the books in the world could not contain it. Why? It is the biggest event in history and God signified it and marked it with signs and wonders to point attention to it. After Jesus left and after the first few years of the age of the church, miracles ceased.

You find the Apostles so imbued with power that the Apostle can walk down between sick people and when his shadow falls on them, they're healed. And yet later on, the Apostle Paul says, I had to leave a fellow sick back in Miletus. Why didn't Paul heal him? He had a thorn in the flesh.

Why didn't he just heal himself? Say, hey Peter, could you come over here and let your shadow fall on my thorn in the flesh here? I'm having a rough time. It was a temporary condition that God used to draw attention. That's what's going to happen here.

And we're going to begin this phase with these signs in the throne room of the Pharaoh and then we're going to proceed through what has commonly been called the plagues. How many plagues fell on Egypt? We traditionally say ten. I'm going to suggest to you, and this idea is not original to me, I'm going to suggest to you that there are nine plagues.

There are nine plagues and to allay the suspense, the slaying of the firstborn is so unique and so different than the first nine that I think it's in a category by itself and is not properly termed a plague in the formal sense. And the beauty of this is we're going to see that there are three triads of affliction. Three sets of three that are coming up here.

We're going to have number three, number six, number nine, and then finally we have the slaying of the firstborn. But God is going to begin by attesting the messengers, by authenticating the messengers who go to Pharaoh. He's already authenticated them to Israel, right? Israel got it first and then the pagans get their authentication.

And God's stated purpose in doing this is going to be so that the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord. We had this in verse five. Now the Israelites should already know that He is the Lord and they've been introduced to Him by name.

But the plagues are going to serve a purpose. They're going to bring about judgment. They are a penalty to Egypt for the treatment of God's people.

They should have known better. They did it anyway. It was with malice aforethought.

They are also responsible for the policies of their leader. And this is a principle that has application today. We have people dying every day overseas, largely as a result of our actions as a nation, who might be considered to be innocent or bystanders or civilians.

However, the people in a country, biblically speaking, are held to account for the leadership that they put in place or that they tolerate or that they refuse to throw out. And I personally do not place the people of Germany in a separate category from the Third Reich. They supported, they failed to move away or to repudiate or to otherwise get rid of Hitler and his cronies.

And they share in the guilt of all of the crimes that were committed by that regime. And you can apply that same principle in more modern times. Look at Cambodia and the Look at Somalia and the warlord system.

Look at Chechnya and Bosnia and a lot of the other recent places where there have been unfair and unjust government and people too afraid to resist or too convinced that they are incapable of resisting or of leaving. And they bear responsibility. All of the people of Egypt are going to suffer for the policies implemented by Pharaoh.

Why? Because they didn't oppose it, they didn't resist it, they didn't get out away from it, they did not aid the Israelites. Those who did and those who are sympathetic to Israel, God is going to bless and God is going to treat them like he does the Israelites. There is a mixed multitude that's going to emerge from Egypt and there's a lot of Egyptians in it.

And God will preserve and God will hold them harmless and blameless because they did resist and they did oppose and they did what was morally right not what was politically convenient. But that is a powerful principle and it extends not only in national realms but right down into our areas of authority under which we function. We do not have to sit silent if we find ourselves in an organization or in a situation where evil is being done and we think well it would really be better to just be quiet and keep my eyes down and my nose in my business and just ignore the fact that my company is engaged in illegal or immoral practice or other situations of that ilk.

To the extent that we are complicit and guilty by association because we refuse to relinquish the association, to that extent we are going to come under judgment. So you have the plagues upcoming. God has set his purpose in making Pharaoh hardy, in making Pharaoh strong in his resolve to carry out his decision and his priority and his desire.

It is going to be to bring judgment on the land of Egypt as he delivers the people. So verse 8, the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron saying when Pharaoh speaks to you saying show a miracle for yourselves then you Moses shall say to Aaron take your rod and cast it before Pharaoh and let it become a serpent. How many rods are involved in this whole situation in the first part of Exodus? Just one.

There is one miraculous rod. It is the rod that was in Moses hand at the burning bush. It is the rod that is in Moses hand when he meets his brother Aaron.

It is the rod that Moses is going to hand to Aaron and say stretch forth your rod. You know how this is if you've ever been in a class and it's a hands-on type of thing. I went to camp one summer and we had to make some kind of little plaque they had carved up.

They sliced a branch of a tree into little round circlets with bark around the edge. You know you did something on it and then painted over it. They would burn the design.

I forget what it was but they give everybody this piece of wood. Well it doesn't belong to me. I didn't bring it with me.

They handed it to me when I came into the class and then the instructor gets up to the front and says now take your plaque and set it down and do this to it. Take your varnish which didn't belong to me. Take your paintbrush which didn't belong to me.

It's yours because you have it nearby. It is for your use. It doesn't mean that you've owned it and it always belonged to you and it was an heirloom from your father and so on.

So do not be thrown off when it says here say to Aaron take your rod and cast it before

Pharaoh. This is Moses rod and every time you see the rod in view here touching the Nile stretched over the waters of the Red Sea it is the same stick. There is one rod that's in view.

We know this if you have any doubt go forward a little bit in this chapter to verse 17. Thus says the Lord by this you shall know that I am the Lord. Behold I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand and they shall be turned to blood.

Now who's speaking here? This is Moses. The rod that is in my hand. The fish that are in the river shall die.

The river shall stink. The Egyptians will loath drink the water. So verse 19 the Lord spoke to Moses say to Aaron take your rod and stretch your hand over the waters of Egypt over their streams over their rivers.

You see the correspondence there? In verse 17 it's Moses rod. In verse 19 it's Aaron's rod. It's the same rod.

Well we ask ourselves so what? Why do I make this point? Because what is the relationship of Moses Aaron and Pharaoh who stands in for all of the Egyptians all of the onlookers all of the victims of judgment here? He says you are God to Pharaoh. Aaron is your prophet. The rod goes from Moses to Aaron.

Aaron wields the rod of Moses which has been given this significance and this sort of symbolic miraculous power by God Himself. So there is a transfer of authority if you will of active power from God Himself to Moses who is acting as God in the human realm here to the prophet or the communicator Aaron. He says Aaron will be your mouth.

Aaron will speak on your behalf and you have a picture here and the point is God delegates power. In the military they say you can delegate authority but you cannot delegate responsibility. So if I am a company commander or when I was a company commander I had platoon commanders under me and I could delegate to them the authority to march their platoons hither and yon and assign them tasks and fulfill their duties but and I can hold them accountable but I am still responsible for everybody in the company and I have to go answer to the battalion commander for anything that goes on good or bad in my company.

I can delegate authority I do not delegate responsibility and that holds true that is a biblical principle. God delegates authority. He says I'm going to give you power over in this case the river water.

You can turn it to blood. It is at your behest when you choose to touch the water when you choose to stretch out this rod within the limits of the guidance I have given you it's going to turn to blood. So that rod what does it represent? It is the power of God.

It is the authority of God for good or for ill. It is going to deliver Israel when they're backed up against the Red Sea. It is going to judge the Egyptians when they run counter to God's plan.

It is the power of God but it is delegated into human hands and we have this situation in our lives. God says obey those that have the rule over you. Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's.

Paul says encourage men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer and pray for the king and pray for the government. It's not an option it's a command. Why? Well Paul says they have been entrusted with power for your good.

God has emplaced them for your good even though they're not always good and you can rail against Congress and rail against this and the other. Governmental authority has been put there for good. Now if government runs amok as you can see happening around the world it is time to expunge it and replace it with a government that will function in the biblical way to be a benefit to its people and not a parasite leeching all of its strength and abusing its people.

This is why we fought the American War for Independence. This is why the South tried to win independence from the North. This is why we have various wars and conflicts going on up to the present because unless government is functioning in a biblical way you have a responsibility to try to do something about it either get out from under it or replace it.

So this rod is a single rod it is a unified there is a unified principle in the Word of God with respect to authority with respect to power. In families God has delegated authority for spiritual headship to the husband to the father. It does not mean that he is intellectually superior, morally superior, spiritually superior, physically superior.

Any one of those things may or may not be true. One or more of them may or may not be true but that's not the principle of delegation. It is the power that is respected.

The rod is passed from Moses to Aaron but it didn't lose any of its authority from God in that transfer. The rod is to be respected because it comes from God. It's empowered by God and it isn't because Aaron is holding it or that Moses is holding it.

It's interchangeable. Sometimes Moses uses it sometimes Aaron uses it but the authority is from God and the power is from God and the respect that is due it is respect for God not the person to whom it has been delegated. This is why enlisted men salute officers.

They're not acknowledging intrinsic superiority. They're acknowledging a rank conferred by the government of the United States. We have a responsibility to obey those that have the rule over us and it is not a submission to quality.

We're not saying I'm inferior. I should be kicking my toe in the dirt and saying aw shucks you know here's a superior being. In many cases just the reverse but it is a principle from God.

That's what the rod represents. So this is going to bring about a confrontation with the magicians who Paul tells us over in 2nd Timothy chapter 3 I think their names are Janus and Jambres that the leaders of the magic squad for Pharaoh. So in verse 10 here Moses and Aaron

went into Pharaoh and they did so just as the Lord commanded and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants and it became a serpent.

The power of God functions in the realm of obedience. The power of God benefits us when we are obedient and we've had great emphasis one of the repetitions that we were talking about a little bit on the break here is Moses and Aaron doing exactly as the Lord commanded. When we do exactly as the Lord commands then God's plan is fulfilled.

God's power is fully implemented. We are blessed. The enemies are squashed.

God's plan moves forward. All is right with the world. When we are disobedient we wind up being under the rock of salvation instead of stabilized by it.

Did so just as the Lord commanded Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants and it became a serpent. But verse 11 Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers so the magicians of Egypt they also did in like manner with their enchantments for every man threw down his rod and they became serpents. Well snake charming has been a very ancient practice in the ancient in the ancient Near East the Middle East area they've been charming snakes over there for just centuries and centuries there are ancient Egyptian papyri that talk about snake charming and they generally would turn snakes into sticks that was what they talk about more not so much turning a stick into a snake but the other way around but if you've done the first half then it's no big deal to take him and and uncharm him and there's been speculation as to how this was done did they sort of hypnotize the snakes and then perhaps wrap them in kind of a stiff more or less clear paper substance so that they could appear to be a stick throw them to the ground this rather thin wrapping would burst and the snake of course shocked awake would wriggle free as though he had shed his skin there are plenty of ways that this could be done without any demon assistance and I think it was a parlor trick you know magicians have been confounding and amazing people for hundreds of years by the art of deception and sleight of hand and making one thing appear to be another substitution throw a smoke bomb grab the stick throw out a snake it doesn't say what the mechanism was but it appeared that the rods turned into snakes but this was a fairly standard trick and it was not one that God was unfamiliar with God knew that this was something they knew how to do and so he gives them a false confidence because the first miracle that he does which is a true miracle the rod actually turns into a serpent here's something else that's interesting though the word here for serpent is not the usual word for serpent if you remember probably not but the normal word for serpent or snake is Nahash.

N-A-C-H-A-S-H. Nahash. Nahash is the usual word for serpent this is not that word although it will come back and appear in this account but this is a different word this is Nattin.

N-A- actually Tannin. T-A-N-N-I-N. It's actually I-Y-N but I'm not sure how to do that in English.

Tannin. Actually T-A-N-N-I-N because there's a doggyish in the noon. T-A-N-N-I-N.

Tannin. Tannin is a broader word that means any snake-like animal. It is sometimes translated dragon and occurs elsewhere in the Bible translated in that way.

In our Job stories that were recorded back in the late 50s or early 60s Satan and his angels have a conference and he's there's this big imaginary dialogue that takes place and he comes in and he says you're getting careless all of you this I will not tolerate when you join my rebellion in heaven you swore allegiance to me what's happened to you your loyalty we must stick together fight together all our cause is lost and one of the angels says it is anyway he says all right who said that come up here you did you make that slurring remark he says yes sir Lucifer Lucifer he says you can call me anything call me Satan or the dragon or the man of evil but never Lucifer and the angel says well when God created you he named you Lucifer and he says how many times must I tell you that I don't like to be reminded about God I forbid you to mention his name or anything that reminds me of it the angel says he says you understand it just yes Lucifer it goes on from there it's quite humorous but the point here is that the dragon and the man of evil and Lucifer and Beelzebub and a lot of other terms are used of Satan and it is significant that we have Tannin used here alternating with Nahash because Nahash is the serpent that was in the garden but here we have Tannin and it's the snake in a slightly different form why would God have the rod turn into a serpent into a Tannin well what does the rod represent authority right authority and power what does Satan represent what's he called in the New Testament the God of this world principalities and powers rulers in high places the devil roams the earth seeking whom he may devour he is the prince of the power of the air he is all about power and this confrontation between Moses and Aaron and the Egyptian sorcerers and magicians is a power play who's got the most power well the magicians one of their signs of power is that they've got the snakes under control the snake the serpent was one of the big gods in Egypt very well represented in the Egyptian pantheon if you look in their tomb paintings and things you see the snakes and serpents all over the place it's a one of the symbols in their hieroglyphs so to be a magician and have a snake at your beck and call to turn them into your rod why you're it's a combination symbol that you you have the power of the snake as your staff as your support but you are in control of and you can turn it back and forth from a snake into a rod at your at your whim is the impression that they would leave so at first when Moses and Aaron walk in and turn God turns the rod into a serpent they think well this is going to be a match among equals we're equally matched you have this power we have this power but there's more of us we outnumber you we've got more rods than you do so you know it's like poker you know full house beats two pair or whatever we've got more rods and snakes and you do so we win but notice the end of verse 12 Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods this is not something they had encountered before and this kind of symbolically you know it's a it's a snake battle at first right and so you have one snake over here you've got like ten snakes over here and then this snake just slithers along and if you have ever seen this portrayed in in movies or that sort of thing it's it's quite remarkable that this thing could consume I mean even one snake consuming another would be pretty miraculous because there's a pretty good amount of bulk there to a snake and he ate them all and so this was a a dragon like little creature here that that just consumed all of these others in very short order so Pharaoh's heart

grew hard in verse 13 and he did not heed them as the Lord had said as the Lord had predicted this symbolic battle is lost but he is unconvinced he will not let them go so now in beginning of verse 14 we're going to have the plague cycle begin and watch because as I said they're going to be three sets of three some of the unique features of this first set of three is that they occur universally everyone is subject to the first three plagues no one is accepted the Lord said to Moses Pharaoh's heart is hard he refuses to let the people go go to Pharaoh in the morning when he goes out to the water you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand this is the same rod you shall say to him the Lord God of the Hebrews has sent me to you saying let my people go that they may serve me in the wilderness but indeed until now you would not hear thus says the Lord by this you shall know that I am the Lord behold I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand and they shall be turned to blood and the fish that are in the river shall die the river shall stink and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river this reminds me one other point I don't think I brought out yet why is it that it is a requirement if the Israelites are going to serve their God that they have to leave the land never thought about that why why doesn't Pharaoh say we'll just serve him here why do you have to leave why do you have to go a three days journey or any other distance to serve the Lord what is at the heart of Israelite worship even before the law of Moses what do they do a sacrifice what do they sacrifice animals sacrifice oxen sacrifice lambs well these animals were sacred in Egypt and it was an abomination to take one and wantonly slay it this is one of the reasons you have the fat kind and the lean kind or the fat cows and the lean cows in the vision of Pharaoh and Joseph's day because these were holy animals and for the Pharaoh to have a dream about these sacred cows if you will consuming one another was you know a portent of ill so to avoid being an abomination in the eyes of the Egyptians they've got to go do this somewhere else and that's why they have to leave the land let my people go that they may serve me in the wilderness but you will not hear so the water's going to turn to blood so verse 19 the Lord spoke to Moses say to Aaron take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt over their streams over their rivers over their ponds over all their pools of water that they may become blood and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt both in buckets of wood and in pitchers of stone now this pretty well puts the kibosh if I can use a technical term on the theory that there was a volcano explosion over in the Mediterranean Sea and this made the pillar of fire and the smoke and the algae got stirred up in the seawater turned red and the thing that people seem to fail to comprehend is you have the Nile River it flows south to north up into the end of the Mediterranean Sea right have all the volcanoes and all the mud and all the algae and plankton that you want in the Mediterranean Sea the water does not flow uphill out of the Mediterranean Sea and maybe they just have a map on the wall they think well look the water's up high it's going to flow down it's going to go down the Nile and it's going to all turn red well the Nile flows up it flows north and the water comes from the the southern heights and goes through the land and empties into the Delta region and into the Mediterranean Sea do whatever you want to do the waters of the Mediterranean with a volcano it is not going to turn the Nile to blood it is not going to turn ponds and streams and buckets and pitchers of water to blood there is no natural explanation for this any more than there's a natural explanation for a

tree branch turning into a snake capable of eating other snakes so you know I'm all in favor of understanding things with a natural cause when when it's called for but you can't get that to work here there should be blood throughout all the land of Egypt both buckets of wood pitchers of stone Moses and Aaron did so just as the Lord commanded so he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants I love the way it happens in Cecil B. DeMille you remember that he stands there and he's at the little steps taps the water and that red just starts spreading and it spreads and spreads and spreads and I think that's probably exactly how it happened and the waters that were in the river were turned to blood the fish that were in the river died the river stank and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt if you have ever been around blood for any length of time what do you know about blood in the open air if it exists in any quantity for any length of time it well think about what happens if you if you take hamburger out or take a steak out and you go cook the steak and you leave the little styrofoam package and the blood is there and if you let that sit for any length of time it goes bad really quickly it is one of the quickest things to corrupt in open air that there is because it is a it's a nutritional fluid it is designed to support life and all kinds of bacterial life will immediately thrive and flourish in it and with their byproducts and all it will rot and it will stink in very short order this is one of the things you don't find in the entertainment industry they like to squirt everything with blood and you know crime scenes and this that and the other but one thing they don't often remark on is that within a very short time you just can't breathe in an environment like that well imagine the entire nation imagine the Mississippi River has nothing but vile stinking blood where are you going to get your drinking water they couldn't drink the water there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt so verse 22 then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments well how hard is that going to be God's already said I'm going to turn every container of water to blood so a magician comes out and says watch this and he shows the container and it's blood well surprise whose whose enchantment produced that effect where did they find any water that wasn't already blood that they could even try to pull this off so Pharaoh's heart grew hard and he did not heed them as the Lord had said you notice that here in these in the first sign with the serpents and in this first plague with the water turning to blood Pharaoh's heart is hard right after his magicians match the magic if you will and what does that tell us a lot of people resist the will of God whether it is for salvation or in life as a believer when they find that there is a human alternative or a human simulation people will not go to God for spiritual healing or for spiritual restoration when they can find a substitute in a support group or in a human supplied area and this if you have kind of a negative bent you're confirmed and you say well I don't need to do this God's way because here's a very acceptable substitute over here here's something I can get from the realm of man and I don't have to turn to God I don't have to conform to God I don't have to obey God or follow his instructions because I can get the same thing over here and it is a substitute beware some some substitutes are good and there are other substitutes of which we should be where I think Splenda is a splendid substitute for sugar it is a modified sugar molecule it has all the taste and none of the calories has no aftertaste like aspartame I would happily be a poster child for Splenda the aspartame industry has tried to squash it and quell it and keep it out of the

market and you can hardly find it anywhere but if you get diet RC or if you look carefully on your store shelves you can find it in powdered form and it is great you can make cookies out of it you can bake you can use it for all kinds of stuff and it's just like sugar but it doesn't have the bad effects of processed white granulated sugar that's a good substitute a bad substitute is the snake you get from the Egyptian the bloody water that you get from the Egyptian we have to know when substituting is happening in the spiritual realm there is substitution going on today in worship people substitute being wafted to emotional heights by an eloquent speaker or by a whole auditorium full of musicians sometimes you look at these churches you think there's more people in the orchestra pit and the choir than there is in the congregation they have the worship team with their drums and with their praise songs and their overhead projectors and their cheerleading it reminds me of cheerleaders at the front where they're trying to whip the crowd into an enthusiasm some people are lifted by solemnity and stained glass and quiet organ tones in the background and ritual and waving buckets of smoke and this kind of thing it is a substitute it is instead of and coming away with a sense of awe or coming away with a sense of enthusiasm I can do the same thing at a Rangers game or a Cowboys game in a good season I could do the same thing with almost anybody you know hand away something free and you get people enthusiastic it is a substitute do not fall for the counterfeit power do not fall and this is particularly the category of things that is in view is counterfeit power cursed is the man who trusts in man who makes flesh his strength and fellowship is a wonderful thing but there is a difference in fellowship and in some of the things that come from human you know you can be humored and you can be encouraged in a wrong way by people who have the same faulty viewpoint that you do and have the same area of weakness that you do it's called mutual admiration society we all love each other and admire each other because we're all deficient in the same areas and strong in the same areas and so we just lift one another up and confirm one another yeah yeah that's the way it is well sure of course you're right why I do the very same thing and it's a confederation of the weak and the lame and the blind leading the blind do not fall for the faulty substitute the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments Pharaoh's heart grew hard he did not heed them just as the Lord had said Pharaoh turned and went into his house neither was his heart moved by this so all the Egyptians dug all around the river for water to drink because they could not drink the water of the river notice the only way they can get water to drink it won't stand in a pitcher or a they have to dig a hole and let the sand filtered water seep it's like having a sand filter and they could dip it out of holes in the ground and drink it that way but as soon as they put it in a bucket or a pitcher it turned to blood this is a supernatural curse on the water so what did they have to do they pretty much had to get down like dogs and lap the water up from the ground it humbles them it reminds them of who's in charge it's a power thing and the power of God is made manifest to bring us into line with God to bring us into relationship with God read Romans chapter 1 if God's eternal deity and Godhead are manifest in creation it's a work of power and it should bring us in line but what is Pharaoh do he turned and went into his house and his heart was not moved verse 25 says seven days passed after the Lord had struck the river they have a week to meditate on the power of God on the Word of God and choose whom they will serve well we have the same opportunity but we have many

advantages we have the communication of God's Word we have the presence of God's Spirit we can choose what power sphere we're going to operate in do you want to be a Janice or a Jamboree do you want a paper-wrapped snake do you want superficial trickery to stand in for and to put up against the almighty power of God I don't know about you but it doesn't seem like a very hard decision to me to decide that I would rather have God for me and the whole world against me than the other way around what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul God has authority over our souls God sees them God knows them and he has such great things in store for us look at what is coming up for Israel they're going to go through a time of testing but in the end they're going to receive the fulfillment of great and mighty promises they have the God of the universe fighting for them in years ahead they will be faced by a hundred and eighty-five thousand Syrians and God's gonna slay them all in a single night because he's for them he's on their side well sometimes our choices and our decisions defy logic we talked about that on Sunday night we can be twisted and lose perspective lose the ability to choose intelligently God's Word can straighten us out and with that we're going to have to close this morning we'll pick up next time with the second plague the plague of frogs father we thank you for the privilege of studying your word together we pray that your spirit will minister these truths to our hearts strengthen us and enable us in a positive way so that we can fulfill your will and accomplish your purpose we thank you for the Lord Jesus Christ and we ask these things in his name Amen