

MOSES – LIFE OF DESTINY #10 “Supernatural Contests”

Exodus 7:8-13

Our text shows us that to minister effectively will involve supernatural contests: We must overcome the powers of the enemy.

Exodus 7:8-13 ⁸Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, ⁹“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.’” ¹⁰So Moses and Aaron went in to 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. ¹¹But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. ¹²For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods. ¹³And Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

I. A SUPERNATURAL FOUNDATION

A. It’s possible to view ministry incorrectly: Only on a natural level

1. Cause & effect: Human effort *What I plan/arrange/say/do – that is all that is involved in ministry*
2. This viewpoint fails to consider the supernatural dimensions of life
 - a. There is a spiritual world – that affects the natural/physical world
 1. Job had physical problems: *Health/finances/disasters* – but God lets us see Satan was behind it!
3. Those who fail to factor in the spiritual dimension of life/ministry will be frustrated
 - a. There’s something wrong with this city/these people/me – or God!

B. God gives Moses a visible lesson: Ministry is supernatural!

1. A stick becomes a snake: **V9** *‘Take your rod and cast it before Pharaoh, and let it become a serpent.’*
 - a. *That’s not normal! It is supernatural!*
2. The deliverance of God’s people from slavery involved supernatural miracles
 - a. **V12** *But Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods.* b. *10 plagues/10 gods – had to be defeated by God’s power!*
3. All of ministry must involve a supernatural dimension
 - a. **Luke 9:1** *authority/drive out all demons* b. **Matt 10:1** *authority/drive out evil spirits* c. **Mark 16:17** *drive out all demons*

II. SUPERNATURAL SHOWDOWNS

A. A major lesson from Exodus: **The enemy resists our attempts to bring deliverance**

1. **V12** *For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents.*
 - a. The point of this was to fight God’s will in setting people free!
2. Our enemy is called the Adversary: *One who opposes*
 - a. **Zech 3:1** *he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, & Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.*
3. The enemy resists/fights our labors for God
 - a. **Judges 6:** *Midianites came each year to eat up the crops/fruit – supernatural!*
4. The enemy brings resistance in the church
 - a. **2 Tim 3:8** *as Jannes & Jambres withstood Moses, so these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith*
 1. *2 main magicians of Egypt: Resist = antihistamine; Medicine that works against the effects of histamines in the body*
 - b. *Altar calls/preaching/fruitfulness/finances*

III. DEFEATING SERPENTS

A. In order to defeat serpents – you have to recognize signs of resistance

1. Interrupted sleep/calamities/resistance in the services/lack of fruitfulness
 - a. The Devil works in darkness: *He tries to hide his resistance; Make you think it’s normal/you/people*
 1. *Word at conference: Pastor – trouble started when animals were left in front of the church.*
 - a. *1: Goat head/feathers – sickness; b. 1: Dead bird on seat of car; Lost jobs/disasters*

B. Then we see the process of victory

1. **We need to understand the enemy’s power is no match for God!**

a. **V12** *But Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods.* b. **Numbers 23:20** *Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he has blessed; and I cannot reverse it.* c.

2. **We have to resist the powers of hell**

a. I have faith that God is more powerful: *I don’t have to live this way! UNACCEPTABLE!*

b. I take actions that activate the power of God to defeat enemy powers

1. *God gave Moses a staff: A rod of authority. Use this against the enemy!* 2. *Num 17: lift the staff/prayer*

3. *Targeted prayer – personally* 4. *In church* 5. *Against words spoken*

a. **Acts 16:18** *She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.*

b. **Isaiah 54:17** *No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me,” Says the Lord.*