

February 12th, 2023
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Delivered; Rescued from Bondage
Sermon #5 Title: *The Method of the Master*
Sermon #5 Text: (Exodus 7:1-5)

I can think of nothing we like better, or should like better, than the wonderful blessing of Forgiveness, Salvation, and Grace! We love those and rightly so.

- What we love less, is the reality of Judgment and Punishments to come. It is fearful and for some people they deem it offensive, but it is true nonetheless.

- While we love one, and recoil at the other, it is the Bad News of Judgment, that makes the Good News of Salvation so good!

- Not many people like “judgment.”

I heard a story of a man who worked in the service industry for a number of years, as a customer representative. People are people, and it finally took its toll on him, and so he became a police officer. Some time later, a former coworker asked him how he liked it, and he said, “I love it. – Here, my customers are almost always WRONG!”

Sometimes people wonder why God does things the way that He does, and He does not always tell us. But here is a moment in which God unveils before Moses a Divine Design of all that he is about to go through.

I. The Divine Design Unveiled – vs 1-6

*Note – On smaller scale, the Lord does for Moses about Pharaoh, what He does for Us and the Devil. – He shows him the general course of events, describes the end, and unveils the victory.

*Note – In other words, He gives Moses the whole outline of this epic that he is about to walk through.

*Note – All through history, the Lord has done that. Tell his people what is going to happen, walk them through it, and then see to it that it happens.

-Of course this is one of the undebatable fingerprints of the validity of the Bible.

We see this in Isaiah – Isaiah 42:9 – “Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

Isaiah 46:10 – “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:”

We see this in John – John 13:19 (When Jesus was speaking of His betrayal) – “Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.”

John 14:29 – “And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.”

*Note – All of that being said, the Lord did for Moses what the Lord does by proving His Word, over and over and over again!

- Here He unveils His design.

A. *The Lord's Method Detailed* – vs 1-3

1.) *To Change Their Standing* – “And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.”

*Note – The first thing the Lord does with Moses, is the same thing that He does with everyone who serves Him. – He changes the way the World, the Lost, and the Devil see you!

(Friend, when you get saved, the Lord doesn't just change how you see the world, the Lord changes how the world sees you.) – But here specifically with Moses, the Lord does something very specific in the eyes of Pharaoh.

a.) The Lord said, “See, I have made thee (as) a god to Pharaoh.

*Note – Here again is an assault on Pharaoh's pride. –
- In Chapter 5 - “thus saith the Lord God of Israel” – meaning “you are not him.”
Here - - “I have made thee (as) a god to Pharaoh” – meaning this Hebrew peasant Moses has been elevated to Pharaoh's level.

(Remember, the Pharaoh's of Egypt viewed themselves, and expected others as well to view them as a god.)

*Note – here is some more ground where God swings the sword both ways. - - Bringing Pharaoh down to Moses - - Bringing Moses up above Pharaoh

Just like Asaph wrote in the 75th Psalm vs 10 – “*All the horns of the wicked also will I cut off; but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.*”

Just like Jesus said in Matthew 23:12 – “*And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*”

*Note – Here's the point – Long before Asaph wrote it in the Psalms, or Jesus said in the gospels, the Lord God is Demonstrating it in His dealings with these two men.

*Note – I hope you get the message that God DESPISES pride in ALL pride in any man, and God despises ANY pride in all Men!

b.) “and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.”

*Note – As the Pharaoh's had their priests, and the Egyptian gods had their speakers; In the eyes of those around Moses would be brought up to be seen as Pharaoh's equal...

*Note – Now mind you, in chapter 5, they were viewed as mere slave leaders who needed to get back to work. The Lord said to Moses, before I even get started, that perception will be vanquished.

(Now I want you to think about this for a minute. Why didn't the mighty Pharaoh of Egypt, just have Moses and Aaron arrested, and put in prison, or even killed. – He originally thought they were rebellious... (NOW He will know they are more than Rebellious, but he finds out he can do nothing about it.)

- The world thinks that we are insane – but they cannot eliminate us.

- The governments of men have taken in hand many efforts in history to bury the Bible, erase the gospel,

and remove or cancel the Lord's people. – but they cannot.

Pharaoh first saw Aaron as a Common Slave – Moses as a fleeing rebel; and the Israelites an expendable people to be used for the common good.

- The Lord said to Moses that is not how they will see you any longer.

2.) To Make Their Statement – (vs 2) – “Thou shalt speak all that I command thee; and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh that He send the children of Israel out of His land.”

*Note – This has been the primary method of confrontation from the beginning of this work of God. – Deliver the message – Make the statement – Communicate My Will, My Word, and My Way – directly to Pharaoh... - that method is today's method.

- Proclamation to the people and Saturation of Society of the Word of God. – That has not changed.

*Note – This is the fourth time we have encountered this phrase, and these instructions...

3:18 – We hear the first message that God gave Moses to take to Pharaoh – “ye shall say unto him, The Lord God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days journey into the wilderness...”

5:1 – “Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go...”

6:11 – “Go in, speak unto Pharaoh king of Egypt that he let the children of Israel go out of his land...”

7:2 – “Thou shalt speak all that I command thee... that he send the children of Israel out of his land.”

- “let us go” – “let my people go” – “let the children go” - “that he send the children out of his land”

*Note – Now each time he uses the same word, or root word – “let – and - send” are the same root word – but in three of these four instructions there is a repeated way the Hebrew is written.

- The way the language is written (that is seen in the English) is this – “Pharaoh, YOU be sending them out. – This is not just about “separating Israel from Egypt” – this is about YOU issuing the orders I tell you to issue – about YOU saying what I tell you to say, and Israel being on their way out of the land because YOU have worked to make it happen!

*note – Now while the Lord's working here was to Bring Israel out, and to bring Egypt down, He was direct message to Pharaoh was as much to him personally, as it was for Israel nationally.

3.) To Increase His Stubbornness – (vs 3) “I will harden Pharaoh's heart...”

*Note – For many reasons people always seem to stumble over this verse, and so I want to spend a minute on it.

(Remember we are still looking at the Lord's METHOD of working this situation)

*Note -Now pay attention . . . The Lord did not CAUSE Pharaoh to rebel against Him. The Lord solidified the rebellion that Pharaoh already had!

a.) “He hardened” what was already there!

(God will never break your leg,
and then punish you for
limping.)

*Note – When you bring in the entirety of the Bible, the Lord God does not CAUSE any man to sin! – But when you bring in the entirety of the Bible, when a man has openly made up his mind to rebel, the Lord may solidify the decision that man made.

- (When Pharaoh – “knew not Joseph”, and openly disregarded all that He knew of Egypt’s past, the Lord’s grace, the Lord’s work, in historic Egypt; and then openly and knowingly defied the Lord in chapter 5 – his direction was set, his mind was and heart was pointed, his options had been given, and now God Solidified Pharaoh’s Rebellion, that He might Demonstrate the MIGHTY Power that God promised He would pour out on Egypt.)

This is the same principle explained by Paul in Romans 1:21-23 – *“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. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 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.”*

*Note – Now someone may say – Exactly what was so bad in Egypt and so bad with Pharaoh, that God would plague them like He did.

- Paul spoke of men who turned the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like:

1. – **Corruptible man** – Egyptian god Pharaoh
 - Taweret – “half woman, half hippo” – god for pregnant women.
2. – **to birds** – Egyptian god “Horus” – the Falcon headed god.
 - Thoth – “head of an ibis – crane like bird.
3. – **Four footed beasts** – Egyptian gods –
 - Bastet – “goddess of cats -and all that is pleasure”
 - Hathor – “god with cow horns”
 - Anubis – “jackal headed god”
4. – **Creeping things** –
 - Khepri – “beetle or scarab headed god”
 - Sobek – “crocodile headed god” – (over the Nile)
 - Apep – “a giant snake” or “serpent”

Egypt lived out Romans 1, long before Paul wrote it. – But note what Paul writes in Romans 1 about what God did.

- “God gave them up to uncleanness” – 1:24
- “God gave them over to vile affections” – 1:26
- “God gave them over to a reprobate mind” - 1:28

God solidified the direction and decisions that they made –

God did to Pharaoh, what He said He would do in Romans 1!

JH Bomberger told the story of the Pirate Gibbs -

The pirate Gibbs, whose name was for many years a terror to commerce with the West Indies and South America, was at last taken captive, condemned and executed in the city of New York.

He acknowledged before his death that when he committed the first murder and plundered the first ship, compunctions were severe; conscience was on the rack and made a hell within his bosom. But after he had sailed for years under the black flag, his conscience became so hardened and blunted that he could rob a vessel and murder all its crew, and then lie down and sleep as sweetly at night as an infant in its cradle. His remorse diminished as his crimes increased.

- I am going to “Change Your Standing” – “Make your Statement” – “Increase his Stubbornness”, and then

4.) To Display My Strength – (vs 3) – “and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.”

a.) “signs” – literally signals that mean something.

(sometimes like a “beacon” – or flag)

(sometimes like “evidence” or Proof)

*Note – These are not the things that the Lord says through Words, it is the things that the Lord says through Works!

- It is not the idea that they one sees a Miracle and is Impressed – it is the idea that one sees a Miracle and is INFORMED, or Instructed!

b.) “Wonders” – it is the same idea as a sign, but emphasis the fact that it is NOT Inconspicuous – but that there is nothing SUBTLE about it.

*Note – It is a sign that cannot be missed!

(Have you ever known someone that just could not get the hint – that could not see the subtle signs being sent their way?

- These ideas of wonders are given to MAKE SURE that doesn’t happen!

*Note – But the Lord states specifically – “in the land of Egypt”

*Note – He makes sure that Moses knows not only what He is going to do these things – but WHERE He is going to do them!

- These will be unmistakable, unavoidable, and undeniable! – The Egypt that “forgot the God of Joseph” and His grace and His blessing and His goodness . . . would be reintroduced to Him in His Judgment and His Wrath and His Destruction.

(We would be remised if we didn’t point this out. – 400 years prior to this -the Lord God gave Egypt grace, blessing, provision, protection, and wisdom, in Joseph. – They forgot Him, denied Him, blasphemed Him and rejected Him. – Here He comes back!

- Christ came – in mercy, in Grace, in goodness, in provision, protection, wisdom, and sacrifice for all.... The world has forgotten, rejected, denied, and blasphemed..... – He too will come back!

B. The Lord’s Motive Disclosed – vs 4-5

*note – Not only does God give Moses his Method in detail, but He gives him the motive and mission for all He is doing.

1.) To bring Egypt Down – (vs 4) “But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, (why) – that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies..... by great judgments”

*Note – God was finished with Egypt – but He was ready to punish Egypt!

- They have never be the Dominant World Power again! – Throughout all of History, when God brought them down, He

did not put them out of existence, but He put them out of World business.

- (Everything changed in Egyptian history when the Lord finished with them.)

2.) To bring Israel Out – “and my people the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt...”

*Note – The Lord’s motives were not only to separate the Israelites from the Egyptian oppression – but to put them where He wanted them on this earth! – Canaan land.

(Note – May I piggy back a simple truth here on that historical work – You cannot be where you want to be, and where the Lord wants you to be; unless you want to be where the Lord wants you to be!)

3.) To Lift the Lord Up – (vs 5) - “That the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord.”

*note – And many of them would! – Chapter 12:37-38 – “And the children of Israel journeyed from Ramses to Succoth about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children. And a mixed multitude went up also with them...”

- And then the Lord gave Moses instructions about the “foreigner or stranger that sojourned with them.”

*Note – Yes God was Delivering Israel – and anyone else who wanted to come along!

The Lord’s Motive has always been clear for all men! –

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” – John 3:16

“For God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” – 2 Peter 3:9

“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” – 1st John 2:2

Turn from the Sin of Unbelief, and turn to Jesus. – By Faith Israel left Egypt...