

Title: The Staff And The Snakes

Main Passage: Exodus 6:28-7:13

Secondary Passage: John 2:1-11

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

John 2:11

Overview: This section of Exodus sets the stage for the confrontation between Moses and Pharaoh. This confrontation is ultimately a battle between the true God, who Moses represents, and the false gods of Egypt, who Pharaoh represents. In other words, the confrontation that begins in this section of Exodus is another part in the invisible battle that continues to be fought between God and Satan in our world.

There is a clear supernatural and prophetic dimension in the conflict between Moses and Pharaoh. This is seen in the staff that swallows up the snakes.

When Moses and Aaron confront Pharaoh, Aaron throws down his staff and his staff miraculously becomes a snake. Pharaoh then calls his magicians to perform the same miracle, which they successfully do. This reveals that Satan does have power in our world, but his power is limited and under God's authority. The snake from Aaron's staff swallows up the snakes from Pharaoh's magicians.

At that time, the snake was the symbol of Pharaoh's authority, and so in this section of Exodus God is revealing that he is in authority over Pharaoh and just as the snakes were swallowed up by Aaron's staff, so Pharaoh's army will be swallowed up by God at the end of the Exodus.

It is interesting to notice Moses' and Aaron's ages at this point in the story. Moses is eighty years old and Aaron is eighty-three. This reveals that we are never too old to have a soft heart before God. We are never too old to do what the LORD commands. And we are never too old to be used by God in significant ways.

Opening Question

- Why do you think supernatural occurrences are so interesting to people?

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 6:28–7:13. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What does God reveal to Moses about the process by which he will set his people free?
- Look at Exodus 7:4–5. According to this passage, why does God confront Pharaoh in such a strong way? What explicit outcome is God pursuing?
- In ancient Egypt, the snake was a symbol of Pharaoh's power. What is God revealing to Pharaoh in this section of the story?

- Pharaoh's magicians were able to imitate the miracle of turning a staff into a snake. What does this reveal about Satan's power in the world today?
- Aaron's staff swallowed up the other snakes. What does this reveal about God's power in the world today?
- When they were in their eighties, Moses and Aaron did just what the LORD commanded them. How does this statement instruct you in your relationship with God?
- Look at John 2:1–11. How do miracles confirm the truth of God's Word?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?

Application Questions

- Why do you think God performs miracles?
- Do you think God continues to perform miracles today? Why or why not?
- What are some miracles that God has performed in your own life to help you see that he is a living God?
- How have you seen God's power in your life this past week?
- How has this lesson challenged the way you think, speak, or act?

Table Time With Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family read aloud Exodus 6:28–7:13. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from the passages you read this week?
- Does God work in powerful ways in our world? *Yes. God is a living and active God.*
- How have you seen God's power at work in your life this past week?
- ***Parents, this week look for opportunities to point out God's everyday miracles. Help them to see how he is active and involved, how he sustains his creation, how he gives good things. Share with your children some of the supernatural ways God has worked in your life. The miracle of conversion is, of course, the greatest miracle of God.***