

Signs Of God's Power

Long Beach Alliance Church • October 5th, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

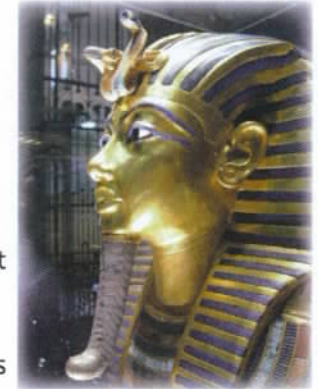
Then Moses said, “What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say? For they may say, ‘The LORD has not appeared to you.’ ”
~Exodus 4:1 (NASB)

1) Learning From Moses' Questioning Of God

- A) Despite God explaining the significance of His memorial name (“LORD,” the English rendering of Yahweh, yhw/h/יהוה, in our English Bibles) to Moses (Exodus 3:13-15), Moses still is not sure he is the right man for releasing the Israelites from their slavery and oppression in Egypt (4:1).
- B) Moses is less concerned with whether God is who He says He is, and more concerned with whether God will show up when it counts! Moses question is one we all have, “Can I trust God to come through when it counts?”
- C) As is true in so many of our own lives, Moses is not just struggling with what God will do, but also whether or not he has the confidence/faith to do what God has asked.
- D) Moses asks God so many questions about what God has commanded him to do, that at a later point, God will get angry with Moses (4:14). When God commands, we can ask questions, but OBEDIENCE IS NOT OPTIONAL!

2) Two Signs Of God's Presence

- A) Rather than answer Moses directly, God uses something common to do something miraculous (4:2-5).
- B) In Egypt, the snake represented the cobra-goddess of Lower Egypt (Nile Delta). The cobra symbol was worn over the forehead on the headdress of Pharaoh and was emblematic of divinely protected sovereignty, and it served as a menacing symbol of death dealt to the enemies of the crown (making Exodus 7:8-12 all that much more significant) (Sarna, Exodus, pg. 20).
- C) But God is not done, and takes Moses' hand and gives him an immediate skin disease which turns the skin flaky white* (4:6-8). God shows that He can take something which is diseased and repulsive, and make it clean and pure.
- D) Finally, God tells Moses of changing water from the Nile River to blood (4:9). The text is careful to not call this a “sign,” but prefigures the first plague (7:14-24). In Egypt, the Nile was the “life blood” of Egypt, and this plague, as we will discover, shows God's power over Egyptian gods.
- E) God's “signs” are really manifestations of His memorial name, “The LORD, I AM.” When God is LORD of your life, he does the miraculous with what we have for His glory!



* The word most often translated as “leprosy” in the Bible was almost certainly not the same as the modern bacterium that causes what we know as leprosy, or Hansen's Disease. Examinations of skeletal remains from both Egypt and Israel show little evidence of the bone deformities typical of leprosy. Rather, the Hebrew word should be understood more broadly than just leprosy, but also extends to any skin disease, fungus, or other condition which caused white/flaky skin (psoriasis, eczema, ringworm, etc.). Moses' hand was meant to startle and repulse any observer, and even Moses himself, though he cannot run from this as he had from the snake. Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary, ©2009, pg. 178, by E. V. Hulse & H. Avalos.