

One Week without Water

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Date: 31 March 2024

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[0 : 00] So they're healthy. We're happy for that. Thank you, Lord. So, so far, so good, as we'll put it. You're in Exodus. We were in chapter 7 the last time we were together.

We looked through this portion of Scripture where we saw Pharaoh and his hardened heart. And we learned a few things from Pharaoh about a hard heart. And one of the things we learned from that passage is that a hard heart will disobey the Word of God.

And God said, let my people go. And Pharaoh refused to let them go. And we learned that a hard heart disobeys the Word of God. And it holds on to things that the Word of God commands you to let go of.

And Pharaoh's quite the example in that and how true that is. We also learned that a hard heart disregards the work of God. And as Pharaoh witnessed the miracles of God right in front of his face, it just didn't do anything for him.

And he disregarded the work of God because, well, the magicians, the wise men, and the sorcerers, they could do some pretty cool things too. And he was enchanted with the works of man.

[1 : 07] And it caused him to disregard the works of God. And finally, we looked at God's going to stretch out his hand upon Egypt with great judgments. In verse 4, and a hard heart demands the wrath of God.

And we coupled that with Romans chapter 1, I think it was. And saw that the Lord's got wrath in store for those who have rejected his Word.

And the work that Jesus Christ did on Calvary. Now, I'm going to look, instead of moving on into chapter 8, I want to look back into chapter 7. But this time, focus on the plague.

This time, focus on the judgment. We kind of just read past all of that to notice Pharaoh's heart and heart. And this is something that we just can't dismiss and move on from.

This is too much. And so what I want to do is reread not the entire passage, but I'll start in verse 14, where this kind of picks up into this miracle or the judgment portion of it.

[2 : 09] So if you're in Exodus 7, please follow along from verse 14 to the end. And the Lord said unto Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hardened. He refuseth to let the people go. Get thee unto Pharaoh in the morning.

Lo, he goeth out unto the water, and shall stand by the river's brink against he come. And the rod which was turned to a serpent, shalt thou take in thine hand. Now shalt say unto him, The Lord God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness.

And behold, hitherto thou wouldest not hear. Thus saith the Lord, In this thou shalt know that I am the Lord, because I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.

And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink, and the Egyptians shall loathe to drink of the water of the river. And the Lord spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, upon their ponds, and upon all the pools of water, that they may become blood, and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone.

And Moses and Aaron did so as the Lord commanded, and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants, and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.

[3 : 38] And the fish that was in the river died, and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river, and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments. And Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them as the Lord had said. And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also.

And all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink, for they could not drink of the water of the river. And seven days were fulfilled, after that the Lord had smitten the river.

Seven days were fulfilled. This is one week without water. One week without water.

And then we'll consider what we can learn from this passage. Now God, I ask now that you'll help me to preach, and help your people to hear and to receive, and may these holy words and the truth in this story find application.

[4 : 42] May we be warned. May we be cautious. May we be ever aware of how wicked this world is, how real and true the devil is, and how man can do nothing for our souls.

But Lord, show us your grace. Show us Jesus Christ. Show us his power. Show us his glory. And help us to fall in love, and help us to be obedient, and help us to desire him and only him.

We ask this in his wonderful name, and pray it. Amen. Amen. It's one week without water. Now some people that have problems with the Bible, and there's many of them, they say, Oh, that's not true.

That's a problem. That Bible story can't be true, because we know scientifically, that man can only live three days without water. And that's taught in science books, and that's declared to be like, as if it's absolute fact.

Three days without water. Well, I'm reminded of this little statement. I'm so sick of seeing it on TV. Science did that. Science did that.

[5 : 47] No, it didn't. Science didn't do anything. God did that. And science just, men just figured it out. That's all that is. Science didn't do anything. But that's a supposed problem.

If you've heard that it's a general rule, that you can only live for three days without water, kind of. I mean, ballpark. It's not a doctrine across the board.

It depends on the person, on the size, on the age, on a multitude of factors, but on more than that. That's just supposing that you're like cut off in a jail cell with nothing coming in the door.

And you're just completely starved and deprived of a drop of water in any form. There was a record of a man that was left in a jail cell and forgotten about for 18 days, and he survived.

No food, no water, 18 days, severely dehydrated, very, very bad shape, but he survived. And so the three-day thing is not an absolute rule or fact by any means.

[6 : 51] Maybe kind of a principle or a gauge. You don't want to go three days without water. But nevertheless, that's not a problem in the Bible. Furthermore, they say that one-third of the water that you consume comes through the foods that you eat.

And there's no mention of them not having food to eat or fruit to eat. And so certainly they were getting some form of hydration and some form of substance for their bodies.

The whole nation did not die after three days. But no, they carried on for seven days that were fulfilled, and there was no water. Now, turning the fresh water of Egypt into blood was a disgusting and an absolute awful, awful judgment on the land.

You know ten plagues are coming, so it's easy to read past plague one and just get to the frogs and the lice and the flies, and on you go. But let's just back it up and just take a look at how disgusting this actually is.

This is on a massive scale. In verse 19, he said it's going to be throughout all the land of Egypt. All the pools of water, all the ponds, all the streams, the rivers, any water in a basin or in some vessel of wood or earth or stone, blood.

[8 : 11] It's all turned to blood. This is drinking water turned to blood. Bathing water turned to blood. The water for irrigating their crops, which they were very proficient at, turned to blood.

Water for their cattle to drink turned to blood. Any vessel, everywhere, every occupation for the most part needed and used water in some sort, and it's all turned to blood.

The impact was extremely extensive, not to mention disgusting, the death and the rot and the stink. And although one week without water is survivable, it did not come without some severe consequences. And before we can get to that, let's understand a picture here.

So as we read about the God's people, we've already kind of covered six chapters getting up into chapter seven. Remember and understand, get your bearings here, that there's a picture inside of this for us to be discerning some truth from.

[9 : 13] The nation of Egypt pictures something for us. I've already taught you this. It pictures the world. It's a place that keeps you in bondage. It's a place of affliction.

It's a place of oppression. It's a place that God says, I want you to come out of that oppression. I want to give you liberty. I want to deliver you.

And Egypt is a picture of the world, this present evil world. Also in this picture, Egypt has a king, has a ruler over it. Who would that be?

The Bible describes Satan as the god of this world. He pictures Pharaoh in type. And Pharaoh does not want to let the people go.

Pharaoh is cruel. Pharaoh is a wicked ruler. Pharaoh, early on, one of the first things we learned about him, that he's trying to kill all the men babies. He's trying to destroy them and subdue this people.

[10 : 12] He's causing them to work. He was very cruel to them earlier in chapter five when they wanted to be delivered. And he made them work harder and work harder. Pharaoh doesn't let up.

Pharaoh desires to keep man bound by sin and bound by corruption. And as Paul says in Romans 6, a servant to sin. But now I want to consider from this passage what it's like to live in that world without water.

But what would the water represent? Well, for that, let's let the Bible tell us. So keep your place held there in Exodus 7 and flip over to John, Gospel of John chapter 7.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John in the New Testament, John chapter 7. And let's find out from the scriptures what water might be representative of. They say the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible.

And so let's go to the Bible and let it speak. In John 7, we'll begin in verse 37 where Jesus Christ is speaking. And there's a great audience.

[11 : 21] And it's a feast going on. And in verse 37, At the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink.

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive, for the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

This he spake of the Spirit. This he spake of believing on him. Out of his belly, out of this inward man, would flow rivers of living water.

Turn back to John chapter 4. A few chapters earlier, John chapter 4, Jesus Christ meets with a woman of Samaria as he sat down by a well.

And he asked the woman to give him to drink. And in verse number 9, Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria?

[12 : 31] For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, give me to drink, thou wouldst have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. From whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well? Yes.

And drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Absolutely he is. Verse 13, Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again. But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst.

But the water that I shall give him shall be in him, a well of water, springing up into everlasting life. All right, back in Exodus. This water that we're looking at here in this picture, we're looking at the world, and we're looking at Satan as ruler over the world, and yet there's an offer of water, of living water.

And this water's gonna represent the Lord, his spirit, his presence alive within you, his influence in your life, his very word.

[13 : 48] And without this water, there's no access to God. And without this water, there's no understanding of truth. And without this water, you're dead in your trespasses and in your sins, and there's no source of life.

And so we're looking in Exodus at one week without water. What does that look like? What happens when you take the water away and turn it into blood?

The first thing that there is that we see, look at verse 21. When the waters turn to blood, in verse 20, the first thing we see is that the fish that was in the river died, and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river.

When there's one week without water, there's three things. There's death, there's stink, and there's nothing to drink. It's not pretty.

There's death, and there's stink, and there's nothing to drink. Apart from the Lord Jesus Christ, apart from God giving light and life into this world, apart from His Spirit moving on man, apart from the words of God, there is no life in this world.

[15 : 04] I'm not talking about trees growing and birds and flowers. I'm talking about spiritual life, a quickening of the man's mind and his will and understanding to God.

Without the Lord Jesus Christ, this world is just filled with dead men, dead women in their sins and corruption. I want to read just a short passage here.

You don't need to turn, but I'm going to read this from Romans chapter 1, a few verses. In verse 29 to 32, listen to what this describes. being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity, whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful, who knowing the judgment of God that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do them, but have pleasure in them that do them.

They enjoy watching them do that. They enjoy flipping on the TV and watching the things, the filth, that are worthy of death before God. And apart from Jesus Christ, that's what's in the world.

That's what God looks down and sees, that man has become altogether vanity. He's become full of sin and filthiness. There is none that do with good.

[16 : 45] There is none that seeketh after God. Their throat is an open sepulcher. What God sees, apart from any work that He's done, if you take away the water, you take away the Lord, you take away His word and His influence on this thing, it is utterly filthy.

It is death and it is stink. And there's nothing to drink. There's nothing to drink. There's sinful man that's vile and filthy and his world's filled with death and corruption.

Apart from Jesus Christ, there's nothing that can satisfy the deep need within man to connect to His Creator, to know why He's here, to understand what He's doing, where He came from, to feel accepted.

There's nothing that can quench this universal cry for hope. All we see is sin and filth and destruction and liars. All men are liars everywhere you look.

They promise one thing and they can never deliver. And they can offer you something and it runs out. And apart from God's influence and the Lord Jesus Christ, there's nothing to drink in this world.

[17 : 56] There's nothing that can satisfy you. There's no promise for a better day. There's no promise. There's no fulfillment of all that the world promises. You don't have to live long in this world to figure it out.

The world does not have answers for you. It has illusions. It has pledges. It tries.

It has distractions. But it can't fix problems. It can't offer anything lasting. But the Lord Jesus Christ can quench that soul's thirst for eternal life and for forgiveness of sin and for acceptance with God and for assurance that one day it's all going to be alright.

If you don't have Jesus Christ, you do not have that assurance inside of your spirit that one day it's going to be fine. I'll be with Him. It'll be glory. Without God, this is all you got.

And it's filthy. And it's full of death. It's nasty. It's a bunch of lies. It can't fulfill its promises. And there's nothing to drink.

[19 : 06] In Psalm 63, David wrote, something about feeling this way. He said, Oh God, thou art my God. Early will I seek thee.

My soul thirsteth for thee. My flesh longeth for thee in a dry and a thirsty land where no water is.

Apart from God, apart from thirsting after God, there's nothing in this world that can satisfy. There's nothing that can clean you up. There's nothing that can keep you clean.

It's only death and stink and nothing to drink. I've spent some years of my life swimming in this world of sin and I've ignored the Lord's voice and I've ignored His conviction and said, I don't want anything to do with it and found out the consequences are real and the stink is real and it's despicable and it's undesirable and it's repulsive to me now.

Do you remember what it's like to not know the Lord? To not understand His presence? To think this world had something for you? To think you were going to get somewhere out here?

[20 : 19] Do you remember what that was like? Can you look back and see the stink that was on you? And see the filth that was all over your soul? And you couldn't get it off?

That's a week without water. That's what comes out of that. Death and stink. There's something else that we can learn from this passage, learn from seeing this week without water.

Look back in chapter 7 and verse 22. We read 21 where there was death, stink, nothing to drink. Verse 22 says, the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments.

The magicians of Egypt did so. What? They turned water to blood. These are the magicians. Back in verse 11, Pharaoh called the wise men and the sorcerers.

Now the magicians, they did in like manner with their enchantments. These are the wise men, the sorcerers, the most powerful men, the wisest, smartest men of Egypt that Pharaoh could summons to himself and get counsel from or work miracles or powers even.

[21 : 30] Some filthiness going on with these magicians and sorcerers. Some evil things with them. And what did they do? When there's nothing to drink, what did they do?

What they did was took what little water there was and did so. They took it away from the people. Whatever promise there was in the land, the magicians said, oh, let's get rid of that too in efforts to show who they are, to show Pharaoh we can do this.

What's the point? The magicians of Egypt can only make matters worse. They cannot help you. When you're in a place where all around you is death and you're full of sin and a servant to sin and it stinks and you can't find anything to quench your soul and you go to the magicians of Egypt, to the wise men, to the powerful men, the great men of this world, you find that they've done some pretty cool things that nobody else has ever done and they can cause people to be amazed at them and to wonder at them and to think they're special and they have such grand performances and display such wonderful skill, the magicians of Egypt.

They cause all the world to hold them up in regard, to interview them, to have their face all plastered all over your phone, all over the screens, everywhere you look, you see their names, you see their faces, the world's got plenty of them.

And they can't make anything better. Well, if they could do something, they should have reversed the curse. They should have turned the blood back to water and things are better.

[23 : 16] But what did they do? No, they made it worse. Man will make it worse. If you go to man seeking to satisfy the thirst in your soul for God, he can only offer you the same thing that you've already got.

He can only make it worse. He can only put something on you that you'll never be able to fix yourself. You'll never be able to fulfill it. Imagine you're a week without water.

Imagine you're in pain and full of stink and dehydrated and desperately in need of water and up pops a prominent figure, a powerful person, someone you know and recognize that this world is lifted up and exalted.

They're attractive. They're influential. And they just have this look of respect. Surely they could help me. If any, I'm sure glad you showed up and yet you find out all they can do is make matters worse. All they could do is tell you to do this, do that, do this, do that. If you'll just keep working and do harder and do more, do more for God and then things will be better and you find out they're worse.

[24 : 26] I've never been able to satisfy my quench by working and working and working to get God to be pleased with me. It's as if they took the available water for you to drink away from you.

They make it worse. You can't name one government or one politician that can solve the problems of this world. You can't name one religious institution that can give a man or woman peace or that can give hope and that can forgive sins and that can actually promise you that you'll be in heaven when you die.

No religious institution can do that. Man cannot help you. That's evident. His religions, his governments, his promises, his greatest efforts cannot produce within you living water that can cleanse you and that can satisfy your eternal soul.

All they can offer is enchantments. Something that will fixate your mind. Something that will distract and impress you for the moment but never, ever, ever can they help you.

Man cannot help you. Pharaoh's magicians have been enchanting man with their beautiful buildings, their lovely choirs, their ornate fulfillment of the sacraments and all of their religious

programs and institutions and the whole time not one soul gets quenched.

[25 : 57] You go to the Mormon tabernacles and their temples and they're so incredible and immaculate and yet there's not a living soul in there. They're all dying on their way to hell thinking that they're doing good.

They're doing good. You can go to the Catholic Church anywhere around and walk in there and you go to Vatican City and see the billions of dollars that these people have brought in and see the cathedrals and see all of the ornate things but they can't offer you hope.

They can only tell you you need to work and you need to work harder and maybe you'll make it. They can't promise you eternal life. They have never given anyone assurance of salvation.

Yeah, that's the magicians of Pharaoh. They're just doing so with their enchantments and it didn't help the situation because everything's dying and everything stinks and they're still without water.

Thanks a lot, magicians. Thanks a lot, man. You haven't helped me a bit. You haven't gotten me to God. I need God.

[27 : 08] I need forgiven. I need to get the sins off of my soul. You didn't help me, magician. You didn't help me, pope. You didn't help me, preacher.

You didn't help me, Buddha. You didn't help me at all, Mohammed. Thanks a lot. You're no good to me. All you can do is enchant and enchant.

And there's something else we see when there's no water. In Pharaoh, in verse 22, in the middle of the verse, his heart was hardened. Neither did he hearken to them as the Lord had said.

And in verse 23, would you look at that? Pharaoh turned and went into his house. Neither did he set his heart to this also. This is only the first plague.

Things are going to get far worse, but he didn't know that. And he hasn't experienced any. This is a region-wide epidemic going on in his kingdom under his watch.

[28 : 10] If this was today, the news outlets would be screaming. They'd be shredding his name, calling for his resignation. This all happened under your watch.

It's your fault, Pharaoh. That's how they'd treat him today. And Pharaoh, what's he do? He just turns. He walks away. He went into his house and he didn't even set his heart on it.

Just whatever. It's strange to me that he doesn't care about his people. That he doesn't seek to fix or remedy the issue.

He just walks away from it. Well, I know why. Because he's powerless. He can't remedy the issue.

He can't fix it. He can't offer anything. Without the enchantments, there's nothing else to see here.

So he walks away. Doesn't he care that there are people going to be dying here? If this thing doesn't get resolved, we're all dead? He just turns and walks away.

[29 : 15] And Pharaoh couldn't help. This river that carries life into his realm is blood. And he can't fix it.

And so Pharaoh walks away. Leaves you on your own. And look at verse 24. It's evident that when Pharaoh can't help and the magicians can't help, it says in verse 24, all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink.

It's evident that you're just on your own. If the Lord's not there, if his spirit's not there, if the gospel's not there, if the word of God's not present, all you have is Pharaoh and his magicians and they can't do a thing to satisfy your soul, you're on your own.

And you can go and dig in the earth and you can search the world high and low and try to find a solution, find something that'll fix the problem. And yet there's nothing.

There's nothing. One week without water, it shows us a picture of what this world is like without the word of God. What this world looks like without the gospel of Jesus Christ.

[30 : 30] Without the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit of God. It's what your life would be if you were never saved. It's what your life is if you're not saved.

And it's only going to get worse. You can dig and you can search and you're going to die.

And there's no one that's going to help you and there's no salvation available to you. Without water, Egypt, this world is an empty place.

It's a dead place. It's dead, it's dry, and it's hopeless. Oh, it's got lights and it's attractive and it's hopeless.

And still underneath it all is death and stink. The magicians, they can only make it worse. Man and his religions and all the figures you can lift up and exalt, they can only make it worse.

[31 : 36] And Pharaoh, he can't fix it. The devil can't fix it. He brought things on. He'll play the part, get you to be that servant to sin and then he'll just turn. He'll be gone.

He's the hireling that Christ talked about in John 10. He doesn't care for the sheep. He cares about himself. All the monuments in Egypt, all of their world-renowned architecture, all the vast and impressive systems they've established of irrigation and all of their beauty, and all of the things that Egypt could boast in this day, this world empire, it doesn't mean one thing if there's no water. Because when it comes down to it, when it comes down to your soul in heaven and hell and the grave, all the money and all the pleasure and all the power, none of it can satisfy the need of your soul.

None of it. But Jesus Christ can. And when the water flows, the river of living water begins to flow. When the well springs up, it springs up from inside a man to eternal life. And the Lord Jesus Christ, while he's different than Pharaoh, instead of retreating to his own comfort, like Pharaoh went to his own house, the Lord Jesus Christ stood and cried, if any man thirst, let him come unto me.

[33 : 11] I'll take care of you. I'll fix it for you. Instead of turning away, like Pharaoh did in verse 23, when he turned and went, Jesus Christ faced Calvary and he faced the cross and he faced the wrath of God knowing he was innocent and you and I were guilty and he took it.

He didn't turn from it, like Pharaoh. No, Jesus Christ faced it and he took it and he suffered on the cross of Calvary for our sins so that he could offer us something better.

He could offer us living water. If this picture's your life today, this week in Egypt without water, if that picture's you, there's a solution.

The solution is Jesus Christ, the only one that can offer you the living water your soul needs. And Christian, if you've tasted of that water, then stop being fooled by Egypt and stop listening to the magicians and their enchantments.

They're not helping you either. But get your eyes fixed on the only thing that brought life into your soul. Get your eyes fixed on what is the true life, the Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life.

[34 : 32] Get your heart fixed on what he brings to your life when the river flows. Things will be birthed. New things will be born again inside of you.

Things that were never there. Things that could not grow. Don't get distracted by Egypt and by the magicians and by the promises in this world.

But remember and get focused that what you need in your life is the same thing you've always needed. And it's the Lord. It's the Lord. One week without water, it's ugly.

I told you it was ugly. But boy, what a difference that water can make when it flows and when it cleans you up and when it gives you eternal life and when you know what it feels like to be saved and to be forgiven.

When you know that and have assurance of salvation, oh God, thank you. What a blessing it is to know you're saved. I don't want to go back to Egypt. I don't want to be under Pharaoh.

[35 : 38] I don't want to get enchanted by these magicians anymore. I don't want anything to do with that. I want what God gives. It may not be the same.

It may not be cash flow. It may be a better flow. It'll be something that I can take with me to heaven. It'll be something where my affections are set up there where he'll reward me for my faithfulness, for my suffering, for my obedience.

Not because I was lusting after what Pharaoh was trying to put in front of me. Get your eyes on what flows in the river that God sends your way.

One week without water is not a place you want to be. Let's bow our heads together. With everybody, would you bow your head and just be in an attitude of prayer for a minute? I want to ask a question to this audience, to everybody here.

Nobody's looking around. No■■■■ise. Questis