

## How do we emerge from Egypt? What holds us in the bondage of sin and disease? Are we dominated or do we have dominion?

“The years of Moses’s life are remarkably divided into three forties; the first forty he spent as a prince in Pharaoh’s court, the second a shepherd in Midian, the third leading the children of Israel in the wilderness. He had now finished his second forty when he received this commission to bring Israel out of Egypt.

**This is the formal commissioning of Moses as God’s emissary to lead Israel out of Egypt.**

Exodus 3:11,12

11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, the I should go unto Pharaoh, and the I would bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee;

---

## Research: Exodus 4:1-5 Moses and the serpent

1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee.

“**They will say, The Lord hath not appeared.**—It is very probable that the people would have said this if Moses had not had any credentials to produce. It is even possible that they did say it. There had been no appearance of Jehovah to any one for above four hundred years, and they might well think that the age of miracles was past” (Ellicott’s Commentary).

“*They will not believe me* — He means, they would not take his bare word, unless he showed them some sign. He remembered how they had once rejected him, and feared it would be so again” (Benson Commentary).

2 And the Lord said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.

“A rod - The word seems to denote the long staff which on Egyptian monuments is borne by men in positions of authority. It was usually made of acacia wood” (Barnes’ Notes).

“**A rod.**—Most commentators regard the “rod” of Moses as his shepherd’s crook, and this is certainly possible; but the etymology of the word employed seems rather to point to an ordinary staff, or walking-stick. Egyptians of rank usually carried long *batons*; and one suggestion is, that the rod of Moses was “that which he had been accustomed to carry as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.” But even if this was still in his possession after forty years of exile, he is not likely to have taken it with him when he went a-shepherding. Probably the “rod” was a common staff, such as a shepherd of eighty years old might need for a support” (Ellicott’s Commentary).

3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.

“**Fled from before it]** A graphic trait, showing that the change was real, and that Moses was not prepared for it.” (Dummelow)

“**It became a serpent.** The word here used for “serpent,” **nakhsh**, is a generic word applicable to any species of snake. We cannot assume that the **cobra is the** serpent meant, though no doubt Moses, when he **fled from before it**, believed it to be a venomous serpent” (Pulpit Commentary).

**FIRST SIGN: Serpent: represents the SIN** of believing in another power other than God

“in your hand is a rod”

1. a rod is what one relies upon – in its exposed form
2. to a shepherd is represented authority, used in counting sheep, encouragement, protection to the sheep and shepherd (false rod)
3. “throw it on the ground” and it becomes a serpent
4. this false symbol for authority and protection falls into the dust, man’s theory becomes a serpent
5. Moses runs from before it
6. A rod: is what we lean on, rely on: do we rely on our health, beauty, body, husband or wife, economy, youth, etc. ?
7. If it fails us, in its place it becomes a serpent: of fear, danger, dread and worry
8. Our true rod is God alone!

4 And the Lord said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

“**By the tail.** A snake-charmer will usually take up his serpents by the neck, so that they may not be able to bite him. Moses was bidden to show his trust in God by taking up his serpent by the tail. His courage, as well as his faith, is shown in his ready obedience. **It became a rod.** A veritable rod once more, not a mere stiffened snake like the “rods” of the magicians” (Pulpit Commentary).

“A serpent - This miracle had a meaning which Moses could not mistake. The serpent was probably the basilisk or Uraeus, the **Cobra**. This was the symbol of royal and divine power on the diadem of every Pharaoh. The conversion of the rod was not merely a portent, it was a sign, at once a pledge and representation of victory over the king and gods of Egypt!” (Barnes’ Notes).

“pick it up by the tail”

1. God commanded Moses to pick it up by the most dangerous end, the tail
2. Handle it, face it, overcome the fear
3. You have to have mental dominion to pick it up by the tail
4. Let go of the rod of false reliance
5. The true rod was always there, and the illusion disappears
6. Now there is authority with a spiritual view, in God alone
7. Serpent: devil, sin, any opposition to God, disobedience, human will

Spiritual rod: represents the authority of God:

5 That they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.

“That they may believe. The sign was to convince the Israelites, in the first instance, and cause them to accept the mission of Moses. It was afterwards to be exhibited before Pharaoh, to try him and prove him, but not to convince him.” (Pulpit Commentary).

6 And the Lord said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow.

## **SECOND SIGN: DISEASE**

Leprous as snow: the worst form of leprosy: “the white disease”

- Whole skin appears glossy white
- Absolutely incurable
- Cured instantly
- Special proof of divine intervention

7And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh.

1. **EVIDENCE OF AN INCURABLE FORM OF A DREADED DISEASE: healed immediately!!**
2. This disease would ostracize men from the world, friends, society
3. Moses realizes this is illusion and man has God-given dominion; and the hand is healed

8And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.

The two signs are proof, evidence

Both of them were just illusions, appearing real to mortal thought