

HEART FOR THE HOUSE

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COC

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SCRIPT. TEXT: “*He will present the Church to Himself glorious*” — Eph. 5:27

Do some housecleaning with FB, Google Reviews

I. GOD’S HEART FOR HIS HOUSE DETERMINES HIS DISPOSITION TOWARD THOSE WHO ARE ENEMIES OF HIS PEOPLE —

A. Exodus 9:12 NLT says, “*But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and just as the Lord had predicted to Moses, Pharaoh refused to listen.*”

B. God spoke to Moses, & He said to him, “*I am Yahweh – the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as El Shaddai (with [the name] Almighty God) — but with My Name YHWH, I did not become known to them.*” Exodus 6:2-3

C. “**Va'era – And I appeared...**”

1. When God **chose** to **appear** before *Abraham* at the moment he was binding Isaac to the altar, it is interesting to note HOW God appeared —

2. God caused *Abraham* to lift his eyes & behold a ram, his horns caught in a thicket.
3. *Abraham* immediately understood (Abraham possessed deductive reasoning) **God's** message & named the place, "*Yahweh will see, as it is said to this day: On the mountain, Yahweh will be seen.*" **Genesis 22:14**
4. You see, there is nothing extraordinary about a ram caught in a thicket, unless God is on your radar, & you understand the real significance of the (otherwise) ordinary event.

D. When **God** chose to appear before *Moses*, He did so in a way that no longer abided by the laws of nature, which **God** had put in place at creation —

1. But, by showing *Moses* a *bush on fire, yet not consumed* (producing an inextinguishable light), *Moses* **took note of this extraordinary occurrence**, & God called his name, "*Moses, Moses!*" **Exodus 3:4**
2. *Moses* immediately understood that **God** was communicating to him via the laws-of-nature-confounding burning bush.

E. Ladies & Gentlemen, it was not so with *Pharaoh*

1. Time after time **God** displayed His might before *Pharaoh*, & *Pharaoh* just didn't see.
2. He didn't see **God** in the moral imperative of *Moses's* first words to him, "*Let My people go, that they may hold a feast unto Me* (make offerings *[of worship]*) *to Me in the desert.*" **Exodus 5:1**
3. *Pharaoh* refused to 'see' —
 - a. He refused to *see* — when *Aaron's staff*, through the power of **God**, was transformed into a *serpent* & *devoured the serpents* *Pharaoh's* sorcerers —
 - b. *Pharaoh* didn't *see* when his beloved Nile *turned to blood*, nor when *countless frogs* invaded his very own palace.
 - c. *Pharaoh* didn't *see* when **God** created a *plague of lice* out of thin air, & *Pharaoh's* necromancers (wizards, sorcerers, warlocks, witches) declared "*It is the finger of God,*" —
 - d. The Bible says, "*Pharaoh's heart remained steadfast, & he did not hearken to them, as the LORD had spoken.*" **Exodus 8:15**

F. But how could *Pharaoh* see?

1. When confronted by *Moses*, *Pharaoh* stated explicitly, "*Who is the LORD that I should heed His voice to let Israel out? I do not know the LORD, neither will I let Israel out.*"

Exodus 5:2

G. You see, *Pharaoh* live in a world of his own machinations, a virtual world, a fake world in which *Pharaoh* was king: *Pharaoh* & no other.

H. The historicity of mankind has been one of rebellion against God —

1. From the days of *Adam* man had rebelled against **God**.

- a. **Nimrod** & his builders at the Tower of Babel attempted no less than a coup against God, plotting to replace God's authority with their own.

2. *Pharaoh* didn't know **God**, nor did he want to.

- a. He was the all-powerful *Pharaoh* & he had no intention of letting **God** into his reality —

I. The messages which appeared before *Abraham* & *Moses* wouldn't do, so God displayed His

message to Pharaoh across the heavens, & on the face of the earth, in devastating fashion —

J. But *Pharaoh* wouldn't get it — after each plague he would feign recognition (*seeing*) for the purpose of having *Moses* remove the plague, only to restate his refusal to recognize **God** the moment *Moses* returned the status quo —

1. *Pharaoh* **hardened his heart**: that is, he used his God-given free will to deny God's existence —
2. *Pharaoh* kept hardening his heart, going head to head with God, employing the very gift of free will that God gave to man in order to deny that God existed!
3. Clearly, the greatest & most devastating of calamities that **God** could bring upon **Egypt** would not budge *Pharaoh* from his desperate refusal to deny **God**.
4. So **God** turned the tables on *Pharaoh*, employing *Pharaoh* own trick against him —
5. *Pharaoh* had repeatedly called upon *his magicians* to reproduce the plagues that **God** was raining upon **Egypt**, in his mind negating

that fact that **God** was the power behind the plagues —

6. If *Pharaoh* could freely call upon his *magicians* to fulfill *Pharaoh's* will, **then God would impose His will upon *Pharaoh* by *hardening Pharaoh's heart***, which ultimately led to *Pharaoh's* impending disaster —

7. So we read, following the *plague of boils* which afflicted **Egypt**, that "*the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, & he did not hearken to them, as the LORD spoke to Moses.*" **Exodus 9:12**

K. I see something here — *Man is created in God's image* — meaning that every fiber in man's being derives its existence from God —

1. If a man so adamantly sets himself against his Creator that he severs himself apart from his Godly source, then his is no longer a man —

a. **Man is...because he recognizes God.**

b. When we deny that recognition, what we are is no longer *what* (and who) God created us to be

c. This is the real dividing line between **liberation & slavery** —

i. *Straw & bricks & backbreaking labor* was *Pharaoh's* way of enslaving Israel, but his resolute denial of God was his way of enslaving himself & his entire nation —

d. It would not end well for *Pharaoh*. He refused to 'see' & as a result of his choice of trying to take **God** on, he lost —

e. *Pharaoh* had to lose. He had no choice because he forfeited his choice —

f. We too have choices, we can choose to magnify God's presence in our lives or turn our backs on God, but complete & utter denial of God's being is a self-imposed spiritual death.

L. Today, our society affords us the opportunities to 'create' our own self-imposed bubbles, our own virtual worlds, our own fake realities —

1. We live on the slipperiest of all slopes, **Mt. Pride** – the very "I, me, mine" slope that destroyed *Pharaoh* —

2. It's the mental & emotional peaks that attempt to convince us that we too have the 'liberty' &

'individualism' to become our own gods,
denying the true God who *rules* our world —

Notes