

First Encounter

From the Book of Jasher, regarding Moses' first encounter with Pharaoh.

And when the king saw this thing, he ordered the book of records that related to the kings of Egypt to be brought; they brought the book of records, the chronicles of the kings of Egypt in which all the idols of Egypt were inscribed, for they thought they would find there the name of Jehovah, but they found it not.

And Pharaoh said to Moses and Aaron, "Behold, I have not found the name of your God written in this book, and His name I do not know."

The counselors and wise men answered the king, "We have heard that the God of the Hebrews is a son of the wise, the son of ancient kings."

Pharaoh turned to Moses and Aaron and said to them, "I know not the Lord whom you have declared, neither will I send His people away."

And they answered and said to the king, "The Lord God of Gods is His name; He proclaimed His name over us from the days of our ancestors and sent us, saying, 'Go to Pharaoh and say to him, "Send My people away that they may serve Me." ' Now therefore send us, that we may take a journey for three days in the wilderness and there may sacrifice to Him, for from the days of our going down to Egypt, He has not taken from our hands either burnt offering, oblation or sacrifice; if you will not send us, His anger will be set ablaze against you and He will strike Egypt either with the plague or with the sword."

And Pharaoh said to them, "Tell me now His power and His might."

They said to him, "He created the heaven and the earth, the seas and all their fish; He formed the light, created the darkness, caused rain on the earth and watered it, and made the herbage and grass to sprout; He created man and beast and the animals of the forest, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, and by His mouth they live and die. Certainly He created you in your mother's womb and put into you the breath of life, and reared you and placed you on the royal throne of Egypt, and He will take your breath and soul from you and return you to the ground from where you were taken."

And the anger of the king was set ablaze at their words and he said to them, "But who among all the Gods of nations can do this? My river is my own, and I have made it for myself." And he drove them from him; he ordered the labor on Israel to be more severe than it was yesterday and before. Moses and Aaron went out from the king's presence, and they saw the children of Israel in an evil condition for the taskmasters had made their labor extremely heavy.
(Jasher 79:43-53)

Can this account, in the Book of Jasher, be accepted as being true?

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that a man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2Ti 3:16-17)

But looking at our Chronicle of the account, the Book of Exodus, there is no mention of this part of their conversation. So were these words actually spoken, and did this really take place, as it is described in the Book of Jasher?

Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.' "

And Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go."

So they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days' journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword."

Then the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people from their work? Get back to your labor." And Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are many now, and you make them rest from their labor!"

So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their officers, saying, "You shall no longer give the people straw to make brick as before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. And you shall lay on them the quota of bricks which they made before. You shall not reduce it. For they are idle; therefore they cry out, saying, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.' Let more work be laid on the men, that they may labor in it, and let them not regard false words." (Exo 5:1-9)

"Ah – ha!" exclaim the critics, "you see! That part did not happen because there is no mention of it, in our Chronicle of the Exodus!"

This week I was reading the Book of Ezekiel, and I came across the following.

In the tenth year, in the tenth month, on the twelfth day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him, and against all Egypt. Speak, and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I AM against you, O Pharaoh king of Egypt, O great monster who lies in the midst of his rivers, who has said, 'My River is my own; I have made it for myself.'

But I will put hooks in your jaws, and cause the fish of your rivers to stick to your scales; I will bring you up out of the midst of your rivers, and all the fish in your rivers will stick to your scales. I will leave you in the wilderness, you and all the fish of your rivers; you shall fall on the open field; you shall not be picked up or gathered. I have given you as food to the beasts of the field and to the birds of the heavens. Then all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know that I AM the Lord, because they have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel. When they took hold of you with the hand, you broke and tore all their shoulders; when they leaned on you, you broke and made all their backs quiver."

Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Surely I will bring a sword upon you and cut off from you man and beast. And the land of Egypt shall become desolate and waste; then they will know that I AM the Lord, because he said, 'The River is mine, and I have made it.'

Indeed, therefore, I AM against you and against your rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, from Migdol to Syrene, as far as the border of Ethiopia. Neither foot of man shall pass through it nor foot of beast pass through it, and it shall be uninhabited forty years. I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate; and among the cities that are laid waste, her cities shall be desolate forty years; and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them throughout the countries."

Yet, thus says the Lord God: "At the end of forty years I will gather the Egyptians from the peoples among whom they were scattered. I will bring back the captives of Egypt and cause them to return to the land of Pathros, to the land of their origin, and there they shall be a lowly kingdom. It shall be the lowliest of kingdoms; it shall never again exalt itself above the nations, for I will diminish them so that they will not rule over the nations anymore. No longer shall it be the confidence of the house of Israel, but will remind them of their iniquity when they turned to follow them. Then they shall know that I AM the Lord God." ' ' "
(Eze 29:1-16)

Wow, do you have gooseflesh? This was spoken about 900y after the Exodus from Egypt! The phrase, 'The River is mine, and I have made it,' may have been the boast of all the Pharaohs who ruled over Egypt. Let's look at Jasher again, and see what is written prior to the previous quotation.

In the morning Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron to come before the king, and they took the rod of God and came to the king and spoke to him saying, "Thus said the Lord God of the Hebrews, 'Send away My people that they may serve Me.' "

And the king said to them, "But who will believe you, that you are the messengers of God, and that you come to me by His order? Now therefore give a wonder or sign in this matter, and then the words which you speak will be believed."

Aaron hurried and threw the rod out of his hand before Pharaoh and before his servants, and the rod turned into a serpent. The sorcerers saw this and each man cast his rod on the ground and they became serpents. The serpent of Aaron's rod lifted up its head and opened its mouth to swallow the rods of the magicians. Balaam the magician answered and said, "This thing has been from the days of old that a serpent should swallow its fellow, and that living things devour each other. So now restore it to a rod as it was at first and we will also restore our rods as they were at first; if your rod shall swallow our rods we will know that the spirit of God is in you, and if not, you are only a magician like ourselves."

Aaron hurried and stretched forth his hand and caught hold of the serpent's tail and it became a rod in his hand; the sorcerers did the same with their rod and got hold each man of the tail of his serpent, and they became rods as at first. When they were restored to rods, the rod of Aaron swallowed up their rods.
(Jasher 79:32-42)

Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, "When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Show a miracle for yourselves,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and cast it before Pharaoh, and let it become a serpent.' "

So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the Lord commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. And Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the Lord had said. (Exo 7:8-13)

It is interesting to read what is discussed in the verses before 2Timothy 3:16!

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that a man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2Ti 3:1-17)

To discover the identity of Jannes and Jambres, let's go back still a little further, in the Book of Jasher.

Moses and Aaron rose up early the next day and went to the house of Pharaoh, and they took in their hands the stick of God. When they came to the king's gate, two young lions were confined there with iron instruments; no person went out or came in from before them, unless those whom the king ordered to come, when the conjurors came and withdrew the lions by their incantations, and this brought them to the king.

Moses hurried and lifted up the stick on the lions and loosed them, and Moses and Aaron came into the king's house. The lions also came with them in joy, and they followed them and rejoiced as a dog rejoices over his master when he comes from the field. When Pharaoh saw this thing he was astonished at it and was greatly terrified at the report, for their appearance was like the appearance of the children of God.

And Pharaoh said to Moses, "What do you require?" And they answered him saying, "The Lord God of the Hebrews has sent us to you, to say, "Send forth My people that they may serve Me."

When Pharaoh heard their words he was greatly terrified before them, and he said to them, "Go today and come back to me tomorrow." And they did according to the word of the king.

When they had gone Pharaoh sent for Balaam the magician and to Jannes and Jambres his sons and to all the magicians and conjurors and counselors which belonged to the king; they all came and sat before the king.

And the king told them all the words which Moses and his brother Aaron had spoken to him; the magicians said to the king, "But how could the men come to you, on account of the lions which were confined at the gate?"

The king said, "Because they lifted up their rod against the lions and loosed them, and came to me, and the lions also rejoiced at them as a dog rejoices to meet his master."

Balaam the son of Beor the magician answered the king saying, "These are none other than magicians like ourselves. So now send for them and let them come and we will try them, and the king did so. (Jasher 79:20-31)

It is important to note, that in the Book of 2Timothy: Paul does not say that scripture is for the creation of wealth, and the conversion of debt into credit.

These people abuse scripture, doctrine and congregation to enrich themselves materially, just as Balaam used his sorcery to enrich himself. Note, these are not common thieves, who have no time for God and the Bible! They are wolves in sheeps clothing, appearing outwardly righteous and operating from within the church environment!

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I AM well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2Pe 1:16-21)

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who brought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. (2Pe 2:1-3)

But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.

They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. (2Pe 2:12-17)

For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."
(2Pe 2:18-22)

"Therefore listen to me, you men of understanding: Far be it from God to do wickedness, and from the Almighty to commit iniquity. For He repays man according to his work, and makes man to find a reward according to his way. Surely God will never do wickedly, nor will the Almighty pervert justice. Who gave Him charge over the earth? Or who appointed Him over the whole world?

If He should set His heart on it, if He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.

If you have understanding, hear this; listen to the sound of my words: Should one who hates justice govern? Will you condemn Him who is most just? Is it fitting to say to a king, 'You are worthless,' And to nobles, 'You are wicked'?

Yet He is not partial to princes, nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; for they are all the work of His hands. In a moment they die, in the middle of the night; the people are shaken and pass away; the mighty are taken away without a hand.

For His eyes are on the ways of man, and He sees all his steps. There is no darkness nor shadow of death where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.

For He need not further consider a man, that he should go before God in judgment. He breaks in pieces mighty men without inquiry, and sets others in their place. Therefore He knows their works; He overthrows them in the night, and they are crushed.

He strikes them as wicked men in the open sight of others, because they turned back from Him, and would not consider any of His ways, so that they caused the cry of the poor to come to Him; for He hears the cry of the afflicted.

When He gives quietness, who then can make trouble? And when He hides His face, who then can see Him, whether it is against a nation or a man alone? – That the hypocrite should not reign, lest the people be ensnared."
(Job 34:10-30)

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