**Walking in the footsteps of our Forefathers: seeking a redeemed world**

**From Covenant to Fulfillment - Abraham to Shlomo**

**Class # 9– Narratives and Reality and The plagues of Egypt**

Senior Fellowship Leadership Program

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# Narratives versus Reality

An increasingly common term that we are seeing in Western political discourse is “narrative.”  Everybody has their narrative.  The news media build a narrative, politicians create their narratives, entire governments produce narratives which they wish for their populations to consume unquestioningly.  The term essentially refers to the version of events, coupled with the interpretation (aka spin) of those events, that the narrative-builder wishes for the consumer to believe, nearly always in contravention to what is plainly visible before our eyes.  Who are you going to believe?  The narrative builder telling you something you likely *want* to hear, or your lying eyes?

- [**The Neo-Ciceronian Times**](https://neociceroniantimes.wordpress.com/)

Two narratives of the same event

MNBC - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyVMmptVP3E>

Fox narrative  <https://youtu.be/eVD0AtTPHVA?t=14m43s>

*Moses Told What to Expect – Shemot Chapter 7*

7:1 God said to Moses, 'Observe! I will be making you [like a god](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=7#C1111) to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your [prophet](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=7#C1112). 7:2 You must [announce](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=7#C1113) all that I order you to, and your brother Aaron will relate it to Pharaoh. He will then let the Israelites leave his land. 7:3 'I will [make Pharaoh obstinate](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=7#C1114), and will thus have the opportunity to display many miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt. 7:4 This is why Pharaoh will not pay attention to you. But then I will [display My power](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=7#C1115) against Egypt, and with great acts of judgment, I will bring forth from Egypt My armies - My people, the Israelites. 7:5 When I [display My power](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=7#C1116) and bring the Israelites out from among them, Egypt will know that I am God.' 7:6 Moses and Aaron did this. They did [exactly](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=7#C1117) as God had instructed them. 7:7 When they spoke to Pharaoh, Moses was 80 years old, and Aaron was 83 years old.

*The Staff Becomes a Serpent*

7:8 God said to Moses and Aaron, 7:9 'When Pharaoh speaks to you, he will tell you to prove yourself with a miraculous sign. You [Moses] must then tell Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh. [Let it become](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=7#C1118) a [viper](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=7#C1119)!' ' 7:10 Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh. They did exactly as God had said. Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh, and it became a viper. 7:11 Pharaoh summoned his scholars and magicians. The [master symbolists](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=7#C1120) were able to do the same thing with their [magic tricks](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=7#C1121). 7:12 When each one threw down his staff, [the staffs] all turned into vipers.

Aaron's staff then swallowed up their staffs.

7:13 But Pharaoh remained obstinate and did not pay attention to them, just as God had predicted.

The Covenant with Avraham – “Between the Pieces”

15:13 [God] said to Abram, 'Know for sure that your descendants will be foreigners in a land that is not theirs for [400 years](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=15#C300). [They will be enslaved and oppressed](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=15#C301). 15:14 But I will finally bring judgment against the nation who enslaves them, and they will then leave with great wealth. 15:15 You shall join your fathers in peace, and you will be buried at a good old age. 15:16 The [fourth generation](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=15#C302) will return here, since the Amorite's sin will not have run its course until then.' 15

1. Why wasn’t there just one plague to release the Jewish people from slavery?

**The Ramban on the Plagues – the Makot**



