

SPIRITUAL TASK – A ROD TRANSFORMING INTO A SERPENT (Exodus 5)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story Moses and Aaron confronted Pharaoh with a message from the Lord that he was to let the children of Israel go from slavery. To show that Moses was sent by the Lord, he cast his rod on the ground and it became a serpent. Pharaoh wasn't impressed and refused to let the people go. And so begins a series of plagues: today we read of water to blood, frogs, lice, and flies. With each plague Pharaoh promises to let the people go, and after each plague lets up he breaks his word.

Meaning These plagues illustrate what happens if we ignore the truth and our higher nature, and instead listen to our senses. These plagues are not punishments from God. They picture spiritual conditions we bring upon ourselves. They illustrate our progression toward increasingly more tragic states of disorder, pain, and unmanageability when we don't make an effort to change the things we know we need to in our lives.

Task What action, habit, or pattern of thought has hurt you in the past or hurts you now? Analyze why you hold onto it. Imagine the worst negative consequences that would have to happen before you'd consent to let go and change.