

"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"

Part 5

Exodus 7-12

Introduction: Tonight, we return to the first of the ten plagues which God brought upon Egypt. This plague consisted of the water being turned into blood. This beginning of plagues would have been devastating to the Egyptians. The Nile River was the lifeline which flowed through the land. Let me review the points which we looked at last week.

1. The Reproving before the Plague

Notice Exodus 7:14-16

Pharaoh was given fair warning before the plague. We considered this thought before, but I will remind you again that God always brings a warning before His judgment falls.

2. The Revelation in the Plague

Notice Exodus 7:17

One of the purposes of all the plagues would be to educate the people of Egypt and Israel about God.

3. The Ruin of the Plague.

Notice Exodus 7:19-21

This plague was devastating to the Egyptians. The river waters and the ponds were all turned to blood. It would affect three areas of their lives:

- 1. Their food supplies.**
- 2. Their environment.**
- 3. Their economy.**

Egypt was desert country. They depended completely upon the Nile for irrigation as well as soil to put upon their fields. Most of Egypt's trade and commerce depended upon the Nile River. This plague was a great blow to every area in Egypt.

4. The Reaping of the Plague.

This plague of water to blood brought upon Egypt was the reaping of that which they were guilty of in the past. They had thrown the babies in the river feeding them to the crocodiles thus spilling their blood in the river. Now the water being turned to blood was the consequences of their actions over 80 years before. The plagues started with the Nile because God is a God of justice and judgment. They used the Nile to kill the babies so it is

only fitting that the first plague would strike the Nile River. They had poured the blood of the innocent into the river and it was as if God was saying, "If you want blood, I will give you blood to drink!" The chickens had come home to roost and so the Egyptians were reaping exactly what they had sowed.

Last week we considered how this plague as well as the other nine yet to come were the results of the sins of the national leader. This is why it matters so much who becomes the President of our country. What the man or woman believes and what they do will have an impact upon all of us. It is our responsibility to find out where they stand on moral issues because we are accountable for who we vote for.

2 John 1:10-11

¹⁰ *If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:*

¹¹ *For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*

Now, someone would look at this and say, "I just won't get involved and I will abstain from voting." That is just as serious! When there is someone running who has an immoral agenda and we do not do our part to keep them from office we will be held accountable for doing nothing.

James 4:17

¹⁷ *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

If it is your job to watch the door at a school and a man shows up with evil intentions and you do nothing to stop him then you are responsible for the devastation he causes.

This now brings us to where we are in our study tonight.

I. Plague #1 Water to Blood

Exodus 7:14-25

Part 2

5. The Religion of the Plague

In several of our earlier studies we discussed how the plagues were direct attacks upon the false gods of the Egyptians.

Exodus 12:12

¹² *For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.*

Numbers 33:4

4 For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments.

The Egyptians believed there were several gods which watched over the Nile.

- a. Khnum - This was viewed as the giver and the guardian of the Nile River.
- b. Napi - This god was believed to be the spirit of the Nile and was credited with annual Nile flood that brought in thousands of tons of fresh topsoil to re-fertilize the land every year.
- c. Osiris - This was the god of the underworld. The Nile was believed to be his "bloodstream". We can only imagine what the people thought when the Nile turned to literal blood.

So, the Egyptians worshipped these gods and depended upon them for all their provisions which were connected with the Nile River. When this plague struck, the people would have felt completely abandoned by their gods. They would have been devastated by this plague. The gods which they believed had provided for them all these years now seemed to turn upon them.

There are three lessons which we can learn from what the Egyptians experienced:

- a. **Man's idols can quickly become plagues in their lives.**

We can see this lesson lived out in the rich man's life who came to Jesus with a question.

Matthew 19:16-22

16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

This man's wealth was his idol and his devotion to his idol kept him from eternal life. Thus, the idol turned into an plague of the worst kind.

Here is another example:

Luke 12:16-20

¹⁶ And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

¹⁸ And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

²⁰ But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

This man's possessions were his idols and they also became a plague that landed him in hell.

b. That which is sweet in sin will one day prove to be very bitter.

This statement is true for believers and unbelievers alike. People reject God and His Word because of some sweet tasting sin which they are determined to lay hold of and for a while it tastes sweet but there will come a day, it may be in this life and if not it will be in the next life, but know for sure that the sweet will give way to a terrible bitter taste. In Joshua 7 we read about Achan's sin. He was later exposed for his sin and we read of his confession and judgment deeper into the chapter.

Joshua 7:20-25

²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:

²¹ When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it.

23 And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.

24 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor.

25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.

When Achan took the forbidden items, they were sweet as he hid them in the midst of his tent. He had something no one else had. He was in the midst of several million people and was sure he would never be discovered. That which was sweet would soon turn to bitterness as the items were discovered and his family would die because of what he believed to be sweet.

c. Blessings misused become curses.

The Nile River was intended to be a blessing, but the Egyptians used it for a means of killing the babies so now it had become a curse. Let me show you another example.

Luke 16:19-25

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

6. The Replicating of the Miracle

Notice Exodus 7:20-22

The magicians must have dug to find water and they then performed the same miracle. There is a point here which we need to consider:

a. The stupidity of the miracle.

These men only added to the problem which the Egyptians were facing. Satan empowered them to do the same thing in a lesser degree, but it was no help at all. This tells us that Satan can never take away judgment. All he can do is add to it.

Application:

There is an application here that I want to share with you. Satan and his demons place clever thoughts into the minds of many people today which the people use to reject the Truth of the Word of God and ultimately, they use them to reject the Gospel. But what they do not understand is they are not making the situation better but only worse. They see themselves as being very clever with their quick thinking but what they do not understand is that every time they reject the Truth there are several things that are taking place:

- They harden their own heart.
- They place themselves in a position where God can harden their heart as He did Pharaoh.
- They place themselves under the wrath of God.
- They become more accountable every time they are confronted with the Truth.
- They do not help those around them, but they lead them down a dangerous path also.

7. The Rejection of the Miracle

Notice Exodus 7:22-25

Pharaoh manifests his heart of unbelief as he turns and goes home instead of repenting and seeking God. The miracle of the magicians was inferior to what Moses and Aaron had done. But Pharaoh would accept what the magicians had done as though it was equivalent.

Let me point out something here that we need to keep in mind, "Error never gets inspected by unbelief like the Truth does".

We see people today, especially politicians and liberal media, that gloss over evil and let it go unmentioned but when it comes to the views of the conservatives, they pull out the high-powered microscopes to examine every detail. Evil is more tolerant of evil than it is of good. This is a terrible state for an individual to fall into, but it happens all around us. Pharaoh accepted the counterfeit of the magicians, but the work of Moses and Aaron was unconvincing to him.

Conclusion:

This all shows the depravity of man's heart. This will also happen in the Tribulation when people will refuse to repent in the midst of all the devastation.

Let us know that apart from the grace of God we could be walking the same path as Pharaoh did. We have so much to be thankful for.