

"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"

Part 8

Exodus 7-12

Introduction: As we return tonight to our study of the life of Moses, I want to remind us all of something that God has had Moses record for us to see. We are currently looking at the plagues and as we do, we are constantly brought into the palace with Pharaoh to see his response. There is a reason for this:

Romans 9:17-18

¹⁷ For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

¹⁸ Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

Here we see there are two main reasons why God permitted this man to live and why God inspired Moses to record so much about the man. God power would be seen through him and God's name would be magnified. So, as we watch Pharaoh in the midst of the plagues, we see the power of God in the consequences which came about by his rebellion. For this reason, Pharaoh is a warning to all who make the choice to rebel against God and who suppress His Truth.

I. The Third Plague
Exodus 8:16-19

There is not much recorded concerning this plague but there is much for us to see.

Notice Exodus 8:16-17

There are several points to consider here:

1. No warning.

In the previous plagues God gave a warning to Pharaoh of what would happen if he refused to let Israel go but here there is no warning. In the previous plague Pharaoh had bargained with God and promised if the frogs were removed, he would let Israel go. Then when the frogs were taken away, he refused to honor his promise. Because of this there would be no warning. The frogs were gathered, Pharaoh hardened his heart and still refused to let God's people go, and now there will be another plague.

Application:

This is a warning to people who refuse to repent and to turn from their sin. God warns in advance but just when someone thinks that there will be no chastening or consequences and they continue in their sin then suddenly something happens as God brings the chastening.

Proverbs 29:1

He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy [cure, it means incurable].

The idea here is that when someone goes so far, they are bound for consequences and they can come suddenly without warning. There are two main thoughts which we need to see here:

- A. If a believer gets into sin and God sends a warning, the warning had better be heeded.**

If the warning is ignored there may not be another and when the chastening comes it will be severe. Also let us keep in mind that these plagues came 80 years after the start of the persecution upon Israel.

Psalm 145:8

⁸ *The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.*

God is slow to anger but when the patience runs out the consequences will come.

Hebrews 12:6, 11

⁶ *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

¹¹ *Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

- B. Many believers who fall into sin miss the warnings from God.**

God warns us through His Word, through a sermon, through a Sunday School lesson, and through spiritual leaders. The problem when a believer falls or steps into sin is, they avoid all of these. They usually stay away from church, and spiritual leaders because both make them feel guilty. So, because they stay away, they also miss the warnings that God would have them to hear. Therefore, they continue on in their sin thinking there will be no consequences. Let me show you what happened to Israel and we can see the parallels.

Zechariah 7:8-14

⁸ And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying,

⁹ Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:

¹⁰ And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.

¹¹ But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.

¹² Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.

¹³ Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:

¹⁴ But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.

Getting back to our text, this third plague came suddenly upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians. There was NO WARNING. Next we see there was:

2. No Worship

Notice Exodus 8:16-17 again.

I want to show you the words of Kiel on "lice" that came upon all of Egypt.

"This was a species of gnats, so small as to hardly be visible to the eye, but with a sting which causes a most painful irritation of the skin. They even creep into the eyes and the nose."

Notice the words from another commentary:

"They were very small, painfully stinging gnats, crawling on the skin, and even in the nose and ears. They are very abundant in Egypt. The dust marks the transition from the mire to the time of drought. They come out of the dust, and fly around like the dust, too small to measure or to seize."

The biting gnats would have caused sores all over the body. Notice the words of Butler:

"The effect of this plague on the bodies stopped the Egyptians from worshipping because it stopped the priests from shaving their heads and their bodies. The priests did this shaving every few days or so in order to not have any vermin or other impurities on them in the exercise of their duties. But with all these small insects coming upon their bodies and causing itching, numerous sores, and infection, it made it impossible to keep up the ritual shaving and preparation for worship. Hence, there would be a stopping of the Egyptians worship."

This plague was fitting. The Egyptians refused to let Israel go and worship their God and here we see that God was now stopping the worship of their false gods. The chickens had again come home to roost. Pharaoh had sinned by not allowing Israel to go and worship and now their suffering was connected directly with their sin.

Application:

Many times, the consequences of a person's sin are directly connected with the sin they are living in or have committed.

Galatians 6:7-8

⁷ *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

⁸ *For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

Let me show you another example of this.

Genesis 3:6, 16-19

⁶ *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

¹⁶ *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

¹⁷ *And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;*

¹⁸ *Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;*

¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Eve led her husband in disobedience and now for the rest of her life she would be under the leadership of her husband. She would desire to rule over him. but she would be out of order by doing so. Adam ate of the forbidden fruit that grew in the garden and now he would need to toil and sweat to get the ground to produce the food which he desired from that day forward. The consequences were connected directly with their sin.

Because of this spiritual principle it is good for us to look at the difficulties we face in this life to see if they are the result of sin that is unconfessed and not dealt with. There are many people who are dealing with difficult circumstances that are connected directly with their sin. Now I need to stop here for a moment and make it clear that all suffering is not the consequences of sin. Some suffering is due to the curse we live under. Some is due to getting older and our bodies are wearing out. Some is due to the tests and the trials of our faith that come upon us periodically.

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Getting back to our text, there was NO WARNING, NO WORSHIP and this then brings us to the next point:

3. No Understanding.

I need to point out that the Egyptians placed all the emphasis upon the cleanliness of the body. The priests shaving habits reflected what they saw as important. This is exactly what we see in our society today. The greatest emphasis is placed upon the body and not the soul. Now we need to understand that our bodies are the temple of God in that the Holy Spirit lives within us. For this reason, it is our responsibility to take care of our bodies.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

¹⁶ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

But our society goes overboard when it comes to the body. For many the body becomes an idol and their lives are lived around exercise and diet. They monitor everything they do and eat to the point that it all consumes them. But while they focus completely on the body, they give very little if any thought to the soul. This is referenced in Ephesians 2 where Paul described the believer's past.

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

³ *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

For the unsaved life is all about the desires of the flesh and the mind. The "course of this world" leads people to be consumed with the body and at the same time never think about the soul. This is seen in our society in many ways. One of the ways this can be seen is by looking at two things. A bottled prescription has a child proof lid, it comes with a list warning of the side effects, and also warns about how it is to be taken. But a pornographic magazine has no warnings telling people how it will affect the soul.

The body cannot be ignored but the soul needs to be given the greatest attention. God is concerned about the heart/soul of the person. The body can be sculpted like a stone but if the heart is not made new by God it is all for nothing.

4. No witchcraft but great insight.

Notice Exodus 8:18

The magicians tried as they did before but were unable to counterfeit the miracle. Their insight brought them to a conclusion that should have changed everything.

Notice Exodus 8:19a

The magicians saw this as the finger of God. Let me show you what God said in Exodus 3.

Exodus 3:20

²⁰ *And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.*

God told Moses that He would stretch out His hand and smite Egypt. Here then in Exodus 8:19 the magicians can see the "finger of that hand". What is happening is beyond the

power of their gods and so they testify to Pharaoh that what is happening is from the One True God. We see in this a picture of what is going to take place in the Tribulation period.

Revelation 6:15-17

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

¹⁶ And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

¹⁷ For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

There will be a recognition of what is happening as the Seal Judgments are poured out but there will be no repentance. This is exactly what was happening with the magicians.

5. No wisdom exercised.

Notice Exodus 8:19

Pharaoh heard the testimony of his magicians and refused to repent. He turned and walked away from the obvious.

Conclusion/Application:

When a man's heart is set on sin there is no amount of counsel, testimony or warning that will turn him. Sin deadens the soul. It is interesting that Pharaoh favored the works of the magicians when they could counterfeit the miracles but now their answer did not favor him and his desires, so he ignored what they said. Pharaoh pictures many today who will listen if the message is what they desire to hear but if the message is contrary to their desires they walk away with a deadened heart.

Pharaoh's life shows many things but tonight we see the frightening power of sin in a person's life.

Genesis 4:6-7

⁶ And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

⁷ If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.