

"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"

Part 9

Exodus 7-12

Introduction: In our study of the plagues we have looked at three of them.

1. The Water turned to blood.
2. The invasion of frogs.
3. The invasion of lice.

Each of these related to the sin of Pharaoh and the Egyptians. The Egyptians put the blood of the babies in the Nile and 80 years later the Nile turned to blood. God filled the land with His people whom were sacred to Him and the Egyptians afflicted them. God then filled their land with frogs that were sacred to the Egyptians and because of their laws they were unable to kill them. They were forced to deal with the frogs even after they all died. Pharaoh refused to repent and let the people go to worship, so God brought the lice. This completely stopped the worship of the Egyptians because the priests were not able to purify themselves for their worship. The consequences can often be connected directly to the sin.

The magicians testified that what they were seeing was the "finger of God" but Pharaoh refused to repent. He continued to harden his heart. As we continue this evening, we are going to see evidence of something that we talked about last week. That is, "Sin Deadens the Heart".

The Fourth Plague

"Swarms"

Exodus 8:20-32

As we begin to look at this 4th plague we need to notice that it is the translators who have referred to this as a plague of flies. The word "flies" is in italics the entire way through this passage which means it was added by the translators. The original text just refers to the plague as "SWARMS". We do not know what kind of bugs they were but what ever they were they came in swarms. They were inescapable. They penetrated every area of the lives of the Egyptians. These swarms filled the homes of the Egyptians.

A. Pharaoh's Cold Heart

Notice Exodus 8:20

Before we get to Pharaoh let me just point out something about Moses here. He was commissioned by God to "STAND" before Pharaoh and to confront the man once again. Let us understand that this was not easy. Pharaoh was the most powerful leader in the world at this time. He was completely set against God and God's people. Many people would have been very intimidated to just be in the presence of Pharaoh. But Moses was called to not only to step into the man's life but to also confront him once again and he will do just that.

Application:

When we, who are the children of God/members of the Royal family of Almighty God, are called to stand up against sin there is no reason we should ever be intimidated. You may be the only person who will be willing to take the stand, but the Bible tells us we are not alone.

2 Timothy 4:14-17

¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:

¹⁵ Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

¹⁶ At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

¹⁷ Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

There were times when no men stood with Paul, but he tells us that the Lord stood with him. That is also true of you and me when we stand for God. We are never alone.

It is so important that believers who know the Truth are willing to stand. When we refuse to be intimidated and we gather the courage to take a stand we can make a difference for God. Let me show you a passage from Ezekiel that shows the importance of taking a stand for the Lord.

Ezekiel 22:23-31

²³ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

²⁴ Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation.

²⁵ There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.

²⁶ Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

²⁷ Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain.

²⁸ And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken.

²⁹ The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.

³⁰ And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

³¹ Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.

God told Ezekiel that because there was no man to stand in the gap, He had to bring judgment. I point this out to help us to see that when we stand in the gap, we may prevent someone from experiencing the wrath of God.

Let us now get back to our text.

Notice Exodus 8:20 again.

I want you to notice that Pharaoh is coming forth to the water. This tells me that Pharaoh was going about his day as he always did. This shows the effects of sin on this man's heart. He has witnessed the "FINGER" of God in turning the water to blood, in bringing the frogs upon the land, in turning the dust of the ground into lice. He has listened to the testimony of his magicians as they declared that what was taking place was the "FINGER" of God. You would think that all of this would have changed the man's life, but he is going about his life as though nothing has changed.

Application:

This is what we briefly looked at last week and how sin deadens the heart. We see the very same thing in the book of Revelation as John describes the coldness of the unsaved of the Tribulation. I will show you that in a moment from Revelation 9 but first let me explain all that these people will see.

In Revelation 6 there are the Seal Judgments. In Revelation 8 there is the start of the Trumpet Judgments. In the beginning of Revelation 9 as the 5th Trumpet sounds the bottomless pit is opened to allow demonic creatures to come out and torment people. When the 6th Trumpet sounds there are 4 angels that are set free to kill one third of the world's population. By this time over one half of the world's population will have died and now notice what John writes concerning the unsaved of that time.

Revelation 9:20-21

²⁰ And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

²¹ Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

These people just continue on with their sinful lives. Then in Revelation 18 when Commercial Babylon is destroyed, we read more shocking words.

Revelation 18:10-11

¹⁰ Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

¹¹ And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her: for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

They do not weep over the loss of life, but they weep over the loss of money. Regardless of how desperate the situation is they want to continue on with business as normal. This is what we see in the life of Pharaoh. He is not concerned about how the people of Egypt are suffering. He just goes on like everything is normal. The people of the Tribulation and Pharaoh show us clearly how sin deadens the heart.

B. The Separation

Notice Exodus 8:20-23

This plague will be different than the previous plagues in that Israel, who is in the land of Goshen, will be excluded from the swarms. In the previous plagues Israel also suffered because of the plagues.

Application:

I need to stop here and point out something that many believers are confused about. There are many believers that are under the misunderstanding that as things in our nation continue to get worse that the end must surely be near. They have somehow come to believe that the church will be raptured away before God judges this nation. Let me just say that the Rapture is imminent which means it can happen at any time. There is nothing that must happen before the Rapture can take place. But at the same time there is no promise that as believers in the United States we will not go through a time of suffering and testing.

Let us remember the believers who Peter wrote to who were under terrible persecution for their faith by Nero. Their suffering was a time of testing.

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:*

James tells us that trials are going to be part of our lives.

James 1:2-4

² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations:*

³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

⁴ *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

Let me remind you of what Paul wrote in Romans 8.

Romans 8:35-36

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Here in verse 36 Paul quotes from Psalm 44 to let us know that believers are often appointed to suffering. Let us remember Daniel and his friends who were true to God, but they were taken in the Babylonian captivity. They separated from their family in a strange land.

The point we need to grasp here is that there is no promise that we will not suffer in this life. If God chooses to judge our nation before the Rapture, we will have to endure whatever judgment comes.

Notice Exodus 8:22-23

I want you to notice in verse 22 that the purpose of the separation was for the purpose of God being glorified and magnified.

Application:

Let me show you a command that is given to us.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

¹⁴ *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

¹⁵ *And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*

¹⁶ *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

¹⁷ *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

¹⁸ *And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

We are commanded to live separated lives. Using the separation of Israel and Egypt in Exodus 8 we can know two main reasons for separation:

1. To glorify the Lord.
2. To magnify the Lord.

We glorify Him as we separate from the sin of this world and as we do that, we also magnify Him to the lost people around us.

Conclusion:

We will look deeper into this next week. As I close let me pull some of these thoughts together. We are called to stand in the gap today. When the opportunity comes do not be intimidated. You are serving the Creator so stand strong. We may be called to suffer so we need to be trained in the Word so as to be able to endure the suffering. Let us always live separated lives whether we are suffering or whether life is easy, in order to honor our God and to magnify Him.

Tonight, we remember that He bore our sins upon the cross so we can surely live to honor Him.