

"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"

Part 11

Exodus 7-12

Introduction: Last week in our study of the life of Moses we continued to look at the 4th plague which God brought upon Egypt. It was the plague of swarms. These swarms were inescapable. They penetrated every area of the lives of the Egyptians. These swarms filled the homes of the Egyptians. Last week we looked at the separation which God made between Israel in the land of Goshen and the Egyptians. Before this plague there was no separation, for the Israelites too experienced the plagues. But this plague would be different and there was a reason why.

The Fourth Plague

"Swarms"

Exodus 8:20-32

A. Pharaoh's Cold Heart

Notice Exodus 8:20

Pharaoh's heart had become hard and desensitized even though he had witnessed the previous plagues. He had come to a very dangerous place in his life by rejecting the Truth.

Proverbs 29:1

He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

B. The Separation

Notice Exodus 8:20-23

In verse 22 we were able to see that the division was not to shelter Israel, but it was to:

1. Glorify the Lord.
2. Magnify the Lord.

God's grace was seen in the testimony of the magicians in the previous plague and now God will extend His grace even further. These plagues are the judgment of God on Egypt but let us also remember that God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but He desires for them to repent. So, while these plagues may seem cruel through the eyes of some, they are for the purpose of destroying the false gods of Egypt and for the purpose of bringing the Egyptians to repentance.

Application:

We have looked at how there are many parallels between these plagues and the Judgments of the tribulation, and we see another parallel in the purposes. The Judgments of the tribulation will be for several purposes. They will bring judgment upon the world because of sin. They will be to try all who dwell upon the earth in those 7 years.

Revelation 3:10

¹⁰ *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

The "trying" of the world will do two things:

1. **It will bring many to salvation in the tribulation.**

Revelation 7:9-14

⁹ *After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*

¹⁰ *And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*

¹¹ *And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,*

¹² *Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*

¹³ *And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?*

¹⁴ *And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

The judgments will also do something else.

2. **It will show that God is justified in sending sinners to hell.**

There will be a great multitude that will be saved but there will also be many who continue to reject the message of the Gospel and they will refuse to repent of their sin in the midst of the devastation.

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.

Now let us get back to our text for tonight.

C. The Offer

Notice Exodus 8:24-25

When God brought the plague, it did not take long for Pharaoh to seek relief. But his offer was an offer to compromise that which God had commanded.

Notice Exodus 8:20

God's command was to let His people go to serve Him. In other words, the command was to set Israel free. But Pharaoh's offer was to let Israel sacrifice to their God IN THE LAND OF EGYPT. Pharaoh wanted to grant to Israel a special holiday in which they could worship right where they were at.

Notice Exodus 8:26

Moses understood that if Israel sacrificed their animals in Egypt it would cause a social uproar. Notice the words of Cole on this offer:

"Moses refuses on the grounds that to sacrifice in Egypt would be like killing a pig in a Muslim mosque, or slaughtering a cow in a Hindu temple...In the sense that the Egyptians would consider the sacrifice of a sacred animal as blasphemous."

Notice Exodus 8:27

Moses would not accept the compromise which Pharaoh offered but instead he stood up to him and demanded that they do as God had commanded.

Application:

Let us understand that evil is always suggesting some kind of compromise. It is so important that we who are God's people refuse to compromise with evil. True liberty is only found when the believer is willing to leave the land of evil. If the evil is not totally forsaken, then the believer will live under the bondage of the evil. God has given us the power to separate from sin.

Romans 6:6-14

⁶ *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

⁷ *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

⁸ *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

⁹ *Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.*

¹⁰ *For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

¹¹ *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

¹² *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

¹³ *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

¹⁴ *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

In Christ we have the power to reject sin. But it must be forsaken. You cannot compromise with evil for if you chose to stay in its presence you will find it controlling your life. True liberty only comes by leaving the land of evil. Joseph is an example of how we are to respond to evil.

Genesis 39:7-12

⁷ *And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.*

⁸ *But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;*

⁹ *There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*

¹⁰ *And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.*

¹¹ *And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.*

¹² *And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.*

D. The Promise

Notice Exodus 8:28-29

Moses promised to let Israel go if Moses would pray for the swarm to be removed. Moses rebuked Pharaoh because he remembered what he had done before. Pharaoh needed to be rebuked for his deception.

Application:

Deceitful people need to be rebuked today also. They may be like Pharaoh and not repent but the rebuke lets those who are watching know that deception will not be tolerated no matter what position they hold. To confront deception is to stand against evil. One of the reasons we are where we are in this nation today is because good men have done nothing.

Not only do deceivers need to be rebuked but we who are believers need to stand up for the Truth. Let me show you what Satan has done.

2 Peter 2:1-3

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

² *And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

³ *And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*

2 Peter 3:3-5, 17

³ *Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,*

⁴ And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

⁵ For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

¹⁷ Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

Satan has planted false teachers and those whom he uses to cause people to doubt the Truth of God's Word. Our responsibility is to not be intimidated by them but to stand for the Truth regardless of the cost. These people always seem to have an audience so when we have an opportunity it is our responsibility to stand against their lies and deception for there are souls at stake. Moses was not intimidated by Pharaoh and neither should we be intimidated by those who practice deception.

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.

Let me remind all of us of something which we looked at several weeks back.

Ezekiel 22:29-31

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.

E. God's Grace

Notice Exodus 8:30-32

When God removed the swarms there remained NOT ONE insect in any house. When I read this, I am reminded that when we come to Jesus Christ and accept Him as our Savior, He removes our sin and there is NOT ONE sin left on our account.

God removed the swarms and Pharaoh again would not keep his word.

Conclusion:

When I consider Pharaoh, I wonder what all he was involved in as far as sin early in his life. Sometime in his life he started to play around with sin and it eventually brought him this far.

Application:

This is a warning to everyone of the dangers of dabbling in sin. The alcoholic started with just one drink, the murderer began with a little anger toward someone, the rapist started with a little lust, the compulsive liar began with a little "white lie", the thief began by not returning something he borrowed, and slothful man began with a little rest. This list could go on and on, but you get the picture. A little sin will take you much further than you ever thought you would go.