

**"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"**

**Part 12**

**Exodus 7-12**

**Introduction:** As we return to our study of the life of Moses, we are returning to our study of the plagues which God brought upon Egypt. So far, we have looked at 4 of the 10 plagues.

1. Nile to blood.
2. Frogs
3. Lice
4. Swarms

Each of these as well as the remaining plagues were all attacks directed toward the false gods of the Egyptians.

**Exodus 12:12**

*<sup>12</sup> 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.*

Egypt was polytheistic, meaning they worshipped many gods. So, one of the purposes of these plagues was to show the Egyptians there was only ONE TRUE GOD. The plagues then we to cause the Egyptians to repent and to turn toward the God of Israel.

**Ezekiel 33:11a**

*<sup>11</sup> Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live:*

The plagues were also God's judgment for the sins of Pharaoh and the Egyptians. They killed the baby Israelites and they prevented Israel from leaving to worship God and therefore all of these plagues are connected to these sins.

Tonight, we come to the 5<sup>th</sup> plague which God brought upon the land of Egypt.

**The Fifth Plague**

**"Disease on the Animals"**

**Exodus 9:1-7**

**1. The Commission**

**Notice Exodus 9:1**

There are two words in this verse which I want to draw your attention to. They are the words GO and TELL. We can call this the WHERE and the WHAT. In reading this I am reminded of what we are told in the Great Commission.

**Matthew 28:19**

<sup>19</sup> *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

Here we see the commission to GO and TEACH.

**Mark 16:15**

<sup>15</sup> *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Here we see that we are to GO and PREACH.

Moses was successful in his ministry because he paid close attention to the WHERE and the WHAT. For those who are searching for what God would have them to do I would say the Great Commission has the answer. We are to GO and TEACH/PREACH. We are to carry the good news of the Gospel into our world and proclaim it to those who will listen. If we are looking to be successful in our ministry, we must pay attention to the WHERE and the WHAT. God has a place for us to serve and He has something for us to proclaim. He has certainly set the stage for us with the Coronavirus for the masses are confused and searching for answers.

Let me pause here and remind you of something.

**2 Corinthians 5:10**

<sup>10</sup> *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

We will all stand before our God to give account of several things:

- a. How we used our gifts.
- b. How we used the finances He entrusted to us.
- c. How we used the time He entrusted to us.
- d. How we used the opportunities He placed before us.

The Coronavirus is an opportunity because of the questions which people have. This season we are going through is certainly a warning to the world concerning the Tribulation that is to come. So, we must be ready to share the Truth with those whom are looking.

**1 Peter 3:15**

*15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

**2. The Claim.**

**Notice Exodus 9:1 again.**

God's message to Pharaoh is, "Let **MY** people go." They are God's people and He wants them set free. God is simply asking for what belongs to Him.

**Application:**

When God asks us for something, He is only asking for what belongs to Him. The application for us is: All we have belongs to our God.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

*19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

*20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

We belong to God and so whatever He asks for belongs to Him anyway. Our lives are His and so we have no right to live for ourselves. My money is His, my time is His, my talents are His, and all I own is His. For you or me to withhold anything from God is to rob God of what belongs to Him.

**Malachi 3:8-11**

*8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.*

*9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.*

*10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

*11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.*

Here in these verses we see that Israel had robbed God by not giving their tithes and offerings. We can rob God by not giving to Him that which belongs to Him. Israel was promised physical blessings if they were to give. We do not give to God to get physical

blessings as many teach. We are blessed spiritually when we give to God that which He asks for.

**Matthew 25:14-19**

*<sup>14</sup> For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.*

*<sup>15</sup> And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.*

*<sup>16</sup> Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.*

*<sup>17</sup> And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.*

*<sup>18</sup> But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.*

*<sup>19</sup> After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.*

This parable is for the nation of Israel and is to let them know they need to be prepared for the return of Jesus Christ at the end of the Tribulation. That is the context and there is an application for us now. We will be held accountable for what God has placed in our lives. We are to invest by giving it to Him all that we have. These men in this parable invested and received a return. It reminds me of the fact that many believers are spiritually "poor" in the sense that they do not invest what they have. Let us be quick to give God whatever He asks of us so that we are investing in spiritual things.

**3. The Consecration.**

**Notice Exodus 9:1 again.**

God demanded Israel to be set free to SERVE HIM.

**Application:**

What a reminder to you and I who know Jesus Christ that when we were saved, we too were set free.

**John 8:36**

*<sup>36</sup> If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

**Romans 6:6-7, 18**

*<sup>6</sup> 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.*

<sup>7</sup> For he that is dead is freed from sin.

<sup>18</sup> Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Before we were saved, we were slaves to sin. We could not in any way produce righteousness no matter how upright and moral we were.

**Romans 8:2, 10**

<sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

<sup>10</sup> And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

There is a new law at work in the believer's life. Before salvation it was the law of sin and death. We lived in sin and that is what we produced. We were dead in that we were separated from God. But when we were saved the law of the Spirit of life set us free from the law of sin and death. Now we no longer need to serve sin.

**WE ARE FREE TO SERVE GOD.**

God has set us free, not to sin, but we are free to do what we could never do before and that was free to live a life pleasing to God.

What is recorded here concerning Israel is a picture of the sinner. The Israelites will remain enslaved until they come under the blood of the Passover lamb. It will be then that they will be set free to serve the Lord. This is a beautiful picture of what happened to us. We were enslaved under the power of sin then when we came to Jesus, we were washed in the blood of the Passover Lamb. It was then that we too were set free to serve our God.

Let me give you something else to consider.

This is a reminder that our freedoms, our blessings and our abilities are given to us to enhance our service for God. But the flesh ignores this truth and desires to use these things for selfish purposes. It would do us good to examine our hearts as to what our attitude is concerning our blessings. Do we pray for health so we might serve God better or do we desire to pursue carnal pleasures? Do we pray for freedom from poverty so we can give more to God's work or is it so we can spend more on carnal pleasures?

If we really want to serve God well, we must pray for freedom, whether financial, physical, or national, so that we might use these freedoms to better serve our Lord. This is not a truth which is very popular for we live in a society that has taught us that true happiness comes by indulging in the carnal pleasures of this world and this is the way the flesh would have us to go. We must remind the flesh daily that he has been crucified with Christ and

therefore we do not need to serve him. Now we have a new Leader and He is the Holy Spirit.

#### 4. The Clemency.

##### Notice Exodus 9:2-5

God warned Pharaoh as he told him that if he did not let Israel go there would be a grievous murrain come on the cattle, horses, asses, camels, oxen and sheep. Then he made it clear that there was a set time appointed and it would be TOMORROW. God was gracious and gave him a day to think about this warning.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> TOMORROW which Pharaoh was faced with. Pharaoh misused every one of his TOMORROWS.

##### Application:

Pharaoh is not alone in wasting his tomorrows. Many people do the very same thing. There have been many sinners who have determined that tomorrow they will consider Jesus Christ only to let tomorrow get away and eventually die in their sins.

##### Illustration:

I knew a man years back that when I spoke with him about salvation he always said, "One of these days preacher, we will get to that." That man died and we never got to the subject of salvation. He had many tomorrows and he wasted every one of them.

There are many people who chose to wait until tomorrow and tomorrow never comes.

##### Luke 12:16-20

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

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

*<sup>18</sup> 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.*

*<sup>19</sup> 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.*

*<sup>20</sup> 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 whom Jesus spoke of in the parable never made it to tomorrow.

**Proverbs 27:1**

*Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*

Many sinners have wasted their tomorrow and as they suffer in hell they are regretting letting it get away.

Many believers also waste their tomorrows and are very sorry. Let me remind you of what James said.

**James 4:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:*

<sup>14</sup> *Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

Life is frail and no one is guaranteed of tomorrow. Many believers have put off talking to a family member, neighbor, or a work acquaintance and they died. They decided to wait until tomorrow and when it came, they wasted it and all their tomorrows got away and the unsaved died in their sins.

**5. The Carnage**

**Notice Exodus 9:6**

Every animal died in Egypt. Just when we think the plagues could not get worse, we see this great devastation. Egypt was devastated in two ways.

**a. Religion**

The Egyptians viewed many animals as sacred. Remember what Moses said when Pharaoh wanted Israel to stay in the land and worship?

**Exodus 8:26**

<sup>6</sup> *And Moses said, It is not meet so to do; for we shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God: lo, shall we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us?*

When this plague hit the Egyptians would have been greatly hindered in their worship. Again, the chickens had come home to roost. They were reaping what they had sown. Pharaoh refused to let Israel go and worship and now again the Egyptians are unable to

worship. Let me give you some information that will help us to understand how the Egyptians viewed cattle.

*"Cattle in Egypt were not just highly valued; they were also considered sacred. The Egyptians worshipped many animals and among them were bulls and heifers. The creation god Ptah was represented by a living bull known as the Apis bull. The Apis bull was very sacred and when it died the Egyptians mourned as though they had just lost a Pharaoh. After death the Apis bull was embalmed and placed in a tomb like a Pharaoh."*

When God brought this plague, it was direct attack against the creation god Ptah. Not only was this a blow to their religion but also:

**b. Their Resources.**

This plague devastated the economy of Egypt. They lost all the cattle that were sacred, they lost the oxen which did the plowing, the camels which brought the merchandise, the horses that were vital to their military, and the sheep that were a major source of their wealth. We could say that the "stock market" of the Egyptians crashed on this day. This plagued crushed the economy. There was no calling off this plague for every domestic livestock animal died.

**6. The Contempt.**

**Notice Exodus 9:6-7**

Pharaoh sent his men to check the livestock and they were all dead but not in the land of Goshen. God separated between His people and the Egyptians. Pharaoh's heart had now become as stone and he seemed unmoved by what had happened.

Here again we see the danger of rejection and suppression of God's Word.

**Conclusion:**

Let us pray that our leaders today are not like Pharaoh but that they will see that what is happening in our nation is a warning. It is no coincidence that the two greatest idols in our nation went away first, SPORTS and MONEY. God has allowed what we are seeing so our nation will wake up. We need to pray for a great awakening in our nation.

We do not know how many tomorrows we have so let us make use of each one. Let us pray for freedom so that we might serve and let us never forget that what God asks us for is what belongs to Him. Therefore, let us be quick to surrender it over to Him.