

**"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"**

**Part 16**

**Exodus 7-12**

**Introduction:** Today in our study we are coming to the eighth plague which God brought upon Egypt. This eighth plague will be a great swarm of locusts upon the land of Egypt. Let me quickly review the first seven plagues and the false gods which were associated with each:

1. Nile turned to blood - The false god Khnum who was believed to be the giver and the guardian of the Nile.
2. Frogs - The false goddess Heqet, the goddess of birth. She was depicted as a woman's body with a frog head.
3. Lice - The false god Geb who was believed to be the god of the earth.
4. Swarms - The false god Kheper. This god was depicted as a man with a dung beetle head.
5. Disease on Livestock - This plague was directed at several false gods. There was Ptah the creation god. This god was represented by an actual living bull. When the bull died it was embalmed and people mourned as though the Pharaoh died. There was also the goddess Hathor. This was a cow headed goddess with cow features and was viewed as the mother of Pharaoh.
6. Boils - The false god Imhotep the god of medicine.
7. Hail - The false god Nut who was seen as the sky goddess and the false god Shu seen as the god of the air and the bearer of heaven.

Now we come to the eighth plague.

**I. The Duty**

**Notice Exodus 10:1**

Again, we read that Moses is commanded to enter into the presence of Pharaoh with another message.

**Application:** There is a very important lesson in each of these commands for our lives. Sometimes serving God means that we must do things which are not easy. It often involves confronting sinful powerful people. It often means confronting people more than one time. It often means speaking the Truth into the lives of people who will rebel continuously and refuse to repent. Now someone may ask, "What is the purpose of me staying the course when I see no results?" The reason we continue to stay the course is because in our obedience God is glorified. It is for us to live to glorify God with all we do.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> *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?*

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

**Psalm 86:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> *Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.*

<sup>12</sup> *I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.*

We bring glory to God when we stay the course which He has set before us. In order to do this we often must stand in the presence of difficult people, that may be people who despise our message, it may be people who refuse to submit to the Word of God and it may be people who come to hate us for walking in obedience and preaching the Truth which we preach.

**1 Peter 4:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> *If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*

<sup>15</sup> *But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.*

<sup>16</sup> *Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

Getting back to the text: Moses had a duty to stay the course and so do we. Fulfilling our duty may not be easy, but it does bring glory to our Lord just as Moses' obedience did.

**Notice Exodus 10:1 again.**

We see something different in this verse that we have not seen before. God will not only harden Pharaoh's heart, but He will also harden the heart of Pharaoh's servants.

**Application:**

I mentioned something last week that I want to bring up again. When a mom or a dad or anyone else make the choice to set their hearts against God and spurn His grace it will many times have an impact upon their children as well as others around them. Let me show you a Biblical example:

**Joshua 7:1-6, 8, 10-11, 24-26**

*But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.*

*<sup>2</sup> And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai.*

*<sup>3</sup> And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few.*

*<sup>4</sup> So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai.*

*<sup>5</sup> And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.*

*<sup>6</sup> And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.*

*<sup>8</sup> O LORD, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies!*

*<sup>10</sup> And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?*

*<sup>11</sup> Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.*

*<sup>24</sup> 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.*

*<sup>25</sup> 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.*

<sup>26</sup> And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So, the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.

## II. The Design

### Notice Exodus 10:1-2

The word "THAT" is used three times in these two verses. Each time it is used it show one of the designs of the plague.

#### 1. This plague as well as all the others were to show forth the power of God.

In verse 1 we read, "that I might shew these my signs before him".

In everyone of the plagues God shows forth His power to the Egyptians and in the display, God also shows His power over the false gods of Egypt.

#### Application:

When I stop and consider this thought there is much that comes to my mind. God often works through difficult and trying situations to show for His power. This is exactly what He is doing in the plagues. God is making His power known to the Egyptians and to the people of Israel and He is doing this in the midst of the plagues.

I point this out because God often works the very same way in our lives. He allows trying times such as we are in today in order to show forth His power and He does it with a purpose. It may be to get His people to turn back to Him. It may be to get His people to forsake the false gods which they have adopted. It may be to separate His people from the ways of the world.

Let me show you what God told to Jeremiah concerning the Babylonian captivity.

### Jeremiah 32:32-38

<sup>32</sup> Because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

<sup>33</sup> And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction.

<sup>34</sup> But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it.

<sup>35</sup> And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I

*commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.*

*<sup>36</sup> And now therefore thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city, whereof ye say, It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence;*

*<sup>37</sup> Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:*

*<sup>38</sup> And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:*

The captivity was the chastening of God upon His people and it was a very difficult time for Israel, but it was all for a purpose. I cannot be dogmatic about what is happening today but possibly one of the purposes is to get the church to forsake the world and the false gods which have become such a part of the lives of many.

## **2. The plague would be a teaching tool.**

### **Notice Exodus 10:2**

These plagues were never to be forgotten. They were to be used by Israel to teach their children about the Lord.

### **Application:**

Teaching our children about the Lord is very important to our God. There are several times in the Scriptures where God's people are commanded to teach their children concerning the Truth about God.

### **Deuteronomy 6:1-2, 4-7**

*Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:*

*<sup>2</sup> That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.*

*<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:*

*<sup>5</sup> And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

<sup>6</sup> *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:*

<sup>7</sup> **And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children**, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

In Joshua chapter 3 we read of Israel crossing the Jordan River then we read of the memorial they built in Joshua 4.

#### **Joshua 4:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> *And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take you up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel:*

<sup>6</sup> *That this may be a sign among you, **that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?***

<sup>7</sup> **Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.**

The memorial was a teaching tool. Let me show you one more passage.

#### **Psalm 78:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> *We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.*

<sup>5</sup> *For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:*

<sup>6</sup> *That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:*

<sup>7</sup> **That they might set their hope in God**, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

Too many see the church as having the responsibility of teaching the children about the Lord, but God places the responsibility on the parents. It is so important that our children are taught to fear the Lord while they are young. I am reminded that Satan would love for you to send your children into the world with no Biblical foundation so that he could

provide them with one of his teachers who would be more than happy to fill their minds with lies and deception.

**3. This plague would be used to help others have a greater knowledge of God.**

In verse 2 we read, "*that ye may know how that I am the LORD*".

Through the plagues the Israelites knowledge of God would increase as well as the Egyptians.

**Application:**

The trials which we face in life are not wasted experiences when we see them as a means to deepen our knowledge of the Lord.

**Psalm 119:71**

*<sup>71</sup> It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.*

Let me show you the message which God had for Cyrus through Isaiah.

**Isaiah 45:1-3**

*Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;*

*<sup>2</sup> I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:*

*<sup>3</sup> And **I will give thee the treasures of darkness**, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.*

He promised to give Cyrus the treasures of darkness. When we go through the times of darkness there are always lessons for us to learn. There is always the opportunity to deepen our knowledge of God.

In the time which we are facing now we have the opportunity to deepen our knowledge of the Lord. There is more time to read and to pray. There is more time to be still. Everything has slowed down and that is a good thing. We may not know where this is all headed, and we do not know when it will all end but we can certainly take this time to seek to know our Lord in a deeper way.

**Conclusion:**

Let us learn from the plagues that God had a purpose in bringing them. They were a judgment to the unsaved of Egypt and they were a way for Israel to be encouraged and equipped for the journey they were about to take into the wilderness. The knowledge they would reap from the plagues was meant for encouragement at that time and later in their travels.

What we are facing today also has a purpose. One purpose we can be sure of is to draw God's people back to Him. The church has certainly become entrenched into the world over the years and this season we are can be a means of separating ourselves from the world. Let us use this time to search our hearts and draw closer to our Lord.