

"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"

Part 17

Exodus 7-12

Introduction: As we return to our study of the life of Moses, we are again returning to the 10 plagues which God brought upon Egypt. This is our 17th study in the plagues and as we work our way through these chapters of Exodus, we can clearly see that we get more information about the people involved than we get about the plagues themselves. In each plague we are able to walk with Moses and Aaron into the presence of Pharaoh and listen to the conversation. I am sure that you have noticed that much of what we read seems to be repetitive. Let me give you an example of what we have been reading:

Go in unto Pharaoh and say, let my people go, that they may serve me.

Then we read how Pharaoh hardened his heart and how God hardened his heart. We read this in just about every plague, but we get very few details of the devastation. The question is, "Why is the conversation and the heart of Pharaoh the focus?" The answer is because God is more concerned about people than He is about plagues. I am reminded of what we read in the Creation account in Genesis 1 where we see the same thing.

Genesis 1:14-16

¹⁴ And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

¹⁵ And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

¹⁶ And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

The phrase at the end of verse 16 says, "And He made the stars also". There are billions of stars which hang in outer space, but we get no details on how God did all of this. WHY? Because God cares more about souls than He does stars.

The point we need to grasp as we work our way through the plagues is that God is focused upon the people. Pharaoh is under the microscope because God wants us to see the danger of rejecting God and His grace. Moses and Aaron are under the microscope to help us to see the importance of staying the course and how we glorify God as we do. So, let us not grow tired and weary of looking at these conversations for they are here for us to learn from.

The 8th Plague

Part 2

Exodus 10:1-20

1. The Declaration before the Plague

Notice Exodus 10:1-3

We must commend Moses and Aaron here in this text. They were not afraid to confront Pharaoh with a very difficult message. Many believers would have shrunk back from this responsibility. They would have been afraid of offending someone. This same fear is in many churches today and the result is that sin is permitted to exist. The leadership will not confront sin because they do not want to offend someone, or they are afraid someone may leave, or they are afraid the finances may be less. As someone has said, "***Too many believers develop velvet lips when they stand in the presence of certain people.***"

Let me just say that when God calls us to stand against sin we must know that our stand may offend, it may cause someone to leave, and it may cause giving to go down as people leave, but it is a bigger offence to God to allow sin to exist, it is better that people leave than that the Holy Spirit leave and God will take care of the finances. I would much rather offend someone who was practicing sin than I would offend God.

Let us now look a little closer at the declaration before the plague.

a. Pharaoh condemned.

Notice Exodus 10:3

Moses confronted the PRIDE of Pharaoh. His pride was confronted earlier and here we see that his pride still exists in the midst of the plagues. We looked at the danger of pride before so we shall not go too far into this thought, but it is important to know that a person who maintains their pride will experience plague after plague.

Proverbs 6:16-19

¹⁶ *These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:*

¹⁷ **A proud look**, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸ *An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,*

¹⁹ *A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*

The first thing on the list of things which God hates is a **PROUD LOOK**.

It was pride that caused Satan to fall.

Isaiah 14:12-15

¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

¹⁵ Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

b. Pharaoh commanded.

Notice Exodus 10:3 again.

The command was to let God's people go so that they could serve Him. This is at least the 7th time Pharaoh heard this command. It shows us that Israel belonged to God. They did not belong to Pharaoh. It also shows us the purpose of freedom. God gives to us freedom so that we may serve Him. Attacks against and the stripping away of our freedoms are Satanic for Satan desires that we would be enslaved so that we would not be free to serve and to worship our God.

God's people can be enslaved by others and they can also be enslaved by their own choices. Many of God's people are slaves to STUFF or slaves to DEBT. We must be disciplined to live within our means so that we are free to serve God when He calls.

c. Pharaoh cautioned.

Notice Exodus 10:4

Let us not miss the grace of God in this verse. Pharaoh is given another tomorrow, but he will waste this tomorrow away also. The point we need to see here is that Pharaoh is given a choice and God has extended His grace. Pharaoh proved to be a poor steward of grace. God reaches out to the man and he makes the choice to suppress God's grace.

Application:

Mark it down that those who suppress the grace of God will face tragedy eventually.

Romans 1:18-24

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

This is exactly what happened to Pharaoh as well as many other people. Suppression of God's grace and Truth places a sinner in a downward spiritual spiral.

2. The Defending in the Plague.

Notice Exodus 10:5-7

Here is a breath of fresh air. Here in verse 7 we see that the servants of Pharaoh defended Moses and Aaron. They brought the obvious before Pharaoh and that was that Egypt was destroyed. Pharaoh had hardened his heart and now it was as though his eyes were blinded. Egypt was being destroyed before his eyes and he refused to acknowledge it. This brings several verses to my mind:

Proverbs 16:17-19

¹⁷ The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.

¹⁸ Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

¹⁹ Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Proverbs 18:12

¹² Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

The pride in Pharaoh's heart was leading him down a path of destruction and he refused to see it. When Pharaoh's servants defended Moses, it was a backhanded slap to him. But it still did not bring him to himself.

Notice Exodus 10:8-11

The words of the servants caused Moses and Aaron to be called back into the presence of Pharaoh. But instead of repenting he dictated what was going to happen.

Listen to how the Amplified Bible words verses 10-11.

¹⁰ Pharaoh said to them, "The LORD be with you [to help you], if I ever let you go with your children [because you will never return]! Look [be forewarned], ^[b]you have an ^[c]evil plan in mind.

¹¹ No! Go now, you who are men, [without your families] and serve the LORD, if that is what you want." So Moses and Aaron were driven from Pharaoh's presence.

We can clearly sense the frustration in Pharaoh's words. I can hear the torment and the wrestling's within his heart. Let us remember the warning in the previous plague.

Exodus 9:13-14

¹³ And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

¹⁴ For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth.

There were now convictions within the heart of Pharaoh that were not previously there. The man is miserable deep within.

Instead of repenting and surrendering to God he DROVE OUT MOSES AND AARON from his presence.

Application:

Let us all understand that when you drive from your life that which you need there will come a day when you will truly regret your choice. There have been many people who have driven from their lives those who cared enough to speak Truth to them from God's Word and you can be sure that if they die in their sins, they will regret their choice for all eternity.

I need to add here that when someone dies and goes to hell there are several things, they take with them and probably the most painful is their memory.

Luke 16:19-25

¹⁹ There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue: for I am tormented in this flame.

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Getting back to our text, we need more people like Pharaoh's servants who urge others to heed the Truth when it is proclaimed.

3. The Destruction from the Plague

Notice Exodus 10:12-15

When the locusts came, they stripped the land of any vegetation left from the hail. This was devastating to Egypt.

Application:

This too is a picture of what sin does in a person's life. Sin will extract more and more from our lives. The cost of sin is far greater than what a person expected. Sin strips people of their morals, health, family, character, money, and reputation. Sin will take you from the top to the bottom with one choice. It will turn your life completely upside down and leave you with a mark that people will always remember.

Genesis 4:13-16

¹³ And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

¹⁴ Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.

¹⁵ And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

¹⁶ And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

4. The Deceit in the Plague

Notice Exodus 10:16-20

Here is another "fox hole conversion". Pharaoh made it sound sincere, but it was not from the heart.

There is something here that we do need to see that applies to us. When Pharaoh turned God removed every last locust from the land.

This is the way we are to fulfill our promises and our commitments right down to the last "locust". Too many people today look for ways to get out of their promises and commitments.

Conclusion:

As believers we are to be true to our word. Let me show you what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 5:33-37

³³ Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

³⁴ But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

³⁵ Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

³⁶ Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

³⁷ But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

The religious leaders were swearing by many things and they believed if they did not swear by the Lord, they did not need to keep their promises. But Jesus made it clear that God holds man accountable for all his promises.

Regardless of what the Pharaohs of our lives do we must keep our word when we make a promise.