

"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"

Part 18

Exodus 7-12

Introduction: Today as we return to our study of the life of Moses, we are coming back to the ten plagues upon Egypt and as we do, we are arriving at the ninth plague. In our study today we are going to look at the ninth plague and the details connected to this plague.

Last week we looked at the eighth plague which was locusts. This was an attack upon the false god of the fields, Anubis. This god was believed to be the guard of the fields. But he showed forth no power against the locusts.

The Ninth Plague

"Darkness"

Exodus 10:21-29

1. The Disadvantage of the Plague

Notice Exodus 10:21

Here in this verse we see that there was no warning. We considered a thought with this previously and that was grace that is repeatedly rejected will eventually become grace removed. There is a warning in God's Word that is very frightening.

Genesis 6:1-3

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

² *That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.*

³ *And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*

This warning tells us that there comes a time when God's grace and long-suffering ends. In Genesis 5 we read the words, "AND HE DIED", eight times. The deaths listed in Genesis 5 should have been a warning to the people of Noah's day, but they chose to ignore the death all around them. They also chose to ignore the preaching of Noah and Noah's construction on the ark. Therefore, the grace came to an end.

The situation with Pharaoh was basically the same. He rejected the grace given in the offer of the tomorrows and now grace is removed.

Application:

Let us understand that God goes to great lengths to extend grace to people today but many continue to reject His grace and so we can be sure that the long-suffering of God will one day come to an end. The grace will be removed and replaced by His wrath.

2 Peter 3:9-10

⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

¹⁰ **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night;** *in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

The Day of the Lord is in contrast to His long-suffering.

2. The Deprivation of the Plague.

Notice Exodus 10:21-23a

The darkness that came upon Egypt was a darkness that could be felt. It was so great that their eyes would not adjust, and they were not able to even get out of their beds for three days. This plague of darkness deprived the Egyptians of several things:

a. It deprived them of worship.

The Egyptians worshipped the sun god Ra. But in this darkness, they could neither worship the sun god nor any of their false gods because they could not get out of their homes. In this plague we again see the "chickens coming home to roost". The Egyptians had refused to let Israel go to worship and now they too are not able to worship. This again shows us that the consequences of sin are directly connected to the sin committed.

b. It deprived them of a good life.

The Egyptians could do nothing in this plague. The basic everyday activities were stripped away due to the darkness.

Application:

This is a picture of what sin does in a person's life. Many people look at Christianity and declare that we are too restricted. They see themselves as being free and able to do

whatever they please, but the Truth is they are not free. They are entrapped and enslaved by sin. This is a Truth which angered the religious leaders in Jesus day.

John 8:30-36

³⁰ *As he spake these words, many believed on him.*

³¹ *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

³² *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

³³ *They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*

³⁴ *Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

³⁵ *And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.*

³⁶ *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

Every unsaved person is a slave to sin. They have no power to over come their sin.

Romans 6:17-18

¹⁷ *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

¹⁸ *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

The plague of darkness is a picture of what sin does to a person. In sin they are shackled and enslaved. They have no freedom from sin for sin controls them. They cannot in any way produce righteous works no matter what they do. Nor can they experience the true joy of life for they are dead in their sins.

God created man to have fellowship with Him. When man is out of fellowship (lost in their sins) there can be no joy and no satisfaction. Life becomes a revolving cycle. They see something they desire and go after it thinking it will bring joy. Then when it is attained there is a temporary satisfaction, but it grows old. So, they begin the search again and find something else to grasp. It is this cycle that continues over and over.

Ecclesiastes 2:11, 15-19

11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

15 Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity.

16 For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool.

17 Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

18 Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.

19 And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity.

3. The Division in the Plague.

Notice Exodus 10:23b

Here we see that the Egyptians were in the dark, but Israel had light in their dwellings.

Application:

This is a picture of the two groups of people in the world today. Believers walk in spiritual light and unbelievers walk in spiritual darkness.

John 8:12

12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

You who are not saved have no idea of the danger that you are in. You are walking in spiritual darkness and cannot see the traps and the snares that are surrounding you. You are unable to see what is happening in our world today as the stage is being set for the Tribulation. You cannot see that you are walking on a rotten net over hell and at anytime you could break through into the flames. You cannot see the ever-reaching hand of God that is extending grace into your life.

Let me show you what Paul wrote concerning the REFORMED SINNER.

Romans 2:1-4

Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

² *But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.*

³ *And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?*

⁴ **Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?**

God gives blessings to the reformed sinner so as to get him to repent. But the reformed sinner walking in darkness see the blessings as a sign of God's approval on his life or he sees the blessings as something that he has earned and that he deserves. He is in the darkness and he is unable to see the outstretched arm of God into his.

If you are not saved let me just say that Jesus came to rescue you from the darkness. Let me show you what is recorded concerning the birth of Jesus Christ.

Luke 2:8-11

⁸ *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock **by night**.*

⁹ *And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

¹⁰ *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

¹¹ *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

These shepherds were in the darkness of the night which is a picture of the spiritual darkness. The good news was there was a Savior born for them. Jesus had come to rescue them from the spiritual darkness.

God gave to every person a "light" which is the conscience.

John 1:6-9

⁶ *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*

⁷ *The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.*

⁸ *He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*

⁹ **That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.**

The light spoken of here is the conscience. It is given to us to know right from wrong. But when a person ignores the conscience it becomes seared and this is dangerous ground.

I want to show you something that Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount concerning light and darkness.

Matthew 6:19-23

¹⁹ *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:*

²⁰ *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:*

²¹ *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

²² *The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.*

²³ *But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. **If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!***

The SINGLE EYE is a generous spirit and the EVIL EYE is a greedy spirit. When a person ignores the conscience and lives for the world the light within them turns to darkness and Jesus makes a very chilling statement. He says that darkness can become very great. We see this in our nation today. Leaders who are power hungry are completely set on evil. The darkness within them is extremely dark.

This is where Pharaoh was in his life. He was deep into spiritual darkness and the physical darkness of the plague was a picture of that darkness.

4. The Decisions in the Plague.

Notice Exodus 10:24-29

Pharaoh told Moses he could leave but the flocks and the herds needed to stay behind. But Moses would not accept that offer. He told Pharaoh there would not be one hoof left behind. Pharaoh then sent Moses from his presence and he threatened Moses' life if he

should ever see him again. Pharaoh was at this time wrestling with the inward torment and it was manifest through his actions and his words.

Application:

There is something here that is very obvious and if we are not careful, we can look right over it. Pharaoh's choices manifest what was truly in his heart. His heart was wicked and sinful and no matter what his words sounded like it was his choices which manifest the true condition of his heart.

This is also true of you and me. Our heart is manifest by the choices we make. A believer who has a heart for the Lord will stand with Him and walk in obedience to Him no matter the cost.

Hebrews 11:24-27

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

*²⁵ **Choosing** rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;*

²⁶ Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

The writer of Hebrews tells of others who stood for the Lord.

Hebrews 11:35b-38

and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

³⁶ And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

³⁸ (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Conclusion:

The opposite of this is seen in the book of James.

James 1:8

⁸ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.