

**"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"**

**Part 19**

**Exodus 7-12**

**Introduction:** In our study of the plagues we have looked at nine of the ten plagues so far. Before we study the tenth plague we are going to backup and look at the compromises that were offered by Pharaoh to Moses. There were four offers to compromise within the first nine plagues. The first two offers were made in the plague of flies. The third offer was made in an attempt to stop the eighth plague and the fourth was offered in the ninth plague. We shall look at several points from these four offers today. But before we get into the lessons from the offers, we need to consider the three reasons why Satan presents opportunities of compromise. In these three points we also see why compromise is so tempting for many people.

**1. The Appeal of Compromise**

Compromise is appealing because it is a short cut to your goal. But the short cut is not without sacrifice. Satan has a way of convincing people it is better to have part of what you desire than not to have any of it. This is the smoke screen which hides the Truth. The Truth is that compromise gives you only PART NOW instead of ALL LATER. Compromise robs us of our goals. It short-changes us and convinces us to settle for something less than our goal. When this happens in the area of character and spirituality it becomes a tragedy.

**2. The Acceptableness of Compromise.**

Compromise has become a "way of life" in our society. It is basically the normal. It is often called the consensus. Because it is the "way of life" when we refuse to compromise, we are considered unreasonable and inconsiderate. This is why we get so much pushback when we take a stand against sin today. We are often looked at as someone who is just standing in the way of progress or someone who does not care about the desires and dreams of others. In some situations, compromise may be acceptable, but when it comes to RIGHT and WRONG and when it comes down to the Truth of God's Word it is NEVER acceptable.

**3. The Assault of Compromise.**

There is a major assault which takes place when we compromise. It is an assault upon obedience. Disobedience is Satan's goal for God's people. When compromise occurs with God's commands it produces partial obedience which is really another form of disobedience. You see, compromise opposes complete obedience. It is another way of saying, "God is not Lord, but I also have some say in this also". Compromise says it is fine

to negotiate God's orders instead of living in full submission to them. So, compromise brings a subtle assault upon obedience to the Word of God. It advocates disobedience to God's Word.

Now let us examine the offers of compromise by Pharaoh.

## I. The Place of Worship

### A. The defiance in the offer.

#### Notice Exodus 8:24-25

Here is the first offer to compromise. It had to do with the PLACE of worship. Let me remind you what God had commanded earlier.

#### Exodus 5:1-3

*And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.*

<sup>2</sup> *And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.*

<sup>3</sup> *And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.*

God's command was that Israel was to go three days deep into the wilderness and worship God there. But here in Exodus 8 Pharaoh tells them to worship IN THE LAND. This was a direct attack upon God's orders. This confirms what we looked at in the tree reasons why Satan promotes compromise. Pharaoh's offer was advocating partial obedience. They could worship but they could not worship where God told them to worship.

We can see in this offer the APPEAL of the compromise. Someone could say, "Let's accept what Pharaoh is offering because it gets us to our goal of worship". That statement would be true but in reaching the goal it would mean sacrificing to get to the goal. Israel would short-change themselves if they were to compromise. We can clearly see the ASSAULT in this offer. This offer would cause Israel to walk in partial obedience which is actually disobedience. We can also understand how this offer would be seen as ACCEPTABLE. To accept the compromised offer could possibly relieve some tension between Israel and the Egyptians. To reject it would be seen as unreasonable. If this had been brought up for a vote in Israel there would probably have been many who would have voted to accept it. But the offer would go no further than Moses and Aaron. Moses would cut it off before it reached the people of Israel because he knew it was advocating walking in disobedience.

**B. The defilement in the offer.**

To accept this offer of compromise would mean that Israel would not separate from Egypt. This would be sure to bring defilement because if Israel compromised on the PLACE of worship, they would surely make other compromises in their worship. One compromise leads to another. If Israel stayed in Egypt, they would be faced with danger as they sacrificed animals that were sacred to the Egyptians and this would have led to more compromise.

**Application:**

We also are commanded to separate from the world.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-17**

*14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

*15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*

*16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

*17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

It is often when the church refuses to separate that they fall into compromise. But separation is not popular with many believers. They do not want to separate from the world. They want to mix with the world, and they fail to understand what the Bible says concerning the believer and the world.

**1 John 2:15-16**

*15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

*16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

Let me show you what happens when believers refuse to separate with the world.

**James 4:1-4**

*From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?*

<sup>2</sup> *Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

The love of the world in the group James was writing to had brought strife, divisions, fighting, lust, distorted spiritual vision, and hindered prayer lives. James made it clear to his readers that friendship with the world made them enemies of God. In other word to join with the world is to stand against the purposes of God.

### **C. The Danger in the Compromise.**

#### **Notice Exodus 8:26**

We had looked at this previously, but I need to touch on it briefly again. Moses knew how the Egyptians viewed the "sacred" animals. To sacrifice any animals which were considered sacred would have been very dangerous for the people of Israel. Listen to the words of Rawlinson:

***"Death was the legal penalty for willfully killing any sacred animal in Egypt". He goes on to say, "On one occasion a Roman ambassador was put to death for accidentally killing a cat."***

Moses therefore had legitimate concerns about worshipping in Egypt.

#### **Application:**

There is an application here that is important for us to understand. True worship of our Lord will always provoke animosity within some circles. When we walk in His Word, testify of Him, and when we offer True worship to our God there are going to be pockets of opposition. As time moves forward, we can be sure this is going to increase because of where our world is heading.

#### **Revelation 6:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> ***And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:***

<sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

<sup>11</sup> And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

#### Daniel 7:23-25

<sup>23</sup> Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

<sup>24</sup> And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

<sup>25</sup> And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

#### D. The Defeat of the Compromise.

##### Notice Exodus 8:27

Moses overcame this offer to compromise and he did it by a two-fold stand:

##### 1. Moses was firm in his word.

Moses was not in any way intimidated by Pharaoh. He knew the One whom he severed was greater than Pharaoh. Therefore his "NO" was firm toward the offer of the compromise. There was no guessing where Moses stood. He made it very clear that he would in no way compromise.

##### Application:

Let us know that our stand against compromise must be firm or we will never defeat compromise. We must be determined to stand firm. Evil looks for weakness and if our answers are not firm evil will see an opportunity to gain ground. We cannot shut the door gently upon compromise, but we must SLAM THE DOOR, or it may never get shut.

##### 2. Moses was faithful to God's Word.

Moses stated that Israel would go into the wilderness "AS GOD SHALL COMMAND US". Moses' conduct would be guided by God's Word not by the orders of people or by the

intimidation of Pharaoh. It made no difference to Moses that his stand would offend Pharaoh for Moses knew it was better to offend a man than it is to offend God.

**Application:**

There is a great lesson here for churches. Many have gone down the path of compromise because they were concerned about offending people. For that reason, many have watered down the Word of God and even avoided certain subjects that are considered to be "hot button issues". Let us never be afraid of people. Might we always be true to God's Word. Let us remember God's Word to Joshua.

**Joshua 1:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

<sup>8</sup> This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

<sup>9</sup> Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Let us now look at the next offer to compromise.

**II. The Passion of Worship**

The first offer of compromise was directed at the PLACE of worship. Now we shall see that when Moses stood firm Pharaoh made the next offer and this offer would deal with the PASSION of worship.

**Notice Exodus 8:28**

This too was focused upon the place, but we are going to look at this from a different angle. Pharaoh told Moses he could go worship, but he was not to go very far.

This can be applied in several ways to what we hear today. Today believers are encouraged to restrain their passion for the Lord. When someone desires to be sold out to Jesus Christ they are considered to be a radical. If they make the choice to attend three services a week they are often viewed as being too excited or too enthusiastic.

It is interesting to know that many who are concerned about someone being too involved for the Lord have no problem when someone is overdoing it in secular matters. If a young man gets a job and works every day after school, they see him as young man of character

and they say he will go far in this world. But if the same young man were to get involved in the church and the church was to assign him a task in which he could serve every day they would say the church is being too demanding. If someone buys an expensive car and makes payments for the next five or six years many would admire him and conclude that this individual is doing very well. But if this man were to choose to drive an old beat up car and make large contributions to the Lord's work, they would criticize him and question his intelligence. If a man works several extra days a year to get overtime he is seen as a diligent and wise man to grab all the extra money he can. But if the same man were to give up the overtime to serve in the Lord's work he is viewed as a religious fanatic.

You see, Satan exhorts us not to go too far in spiritual matters. The sad point is that many believers buy into Satan's philosophy.

**Notice Exodus 8:28 again.**

Pharaoh did not want Moses to go very far and he wanted Moses to entreat the Lord for him. Pharaoh's offer was only designed to benefit him. He was in no way concerned about Israel's worship he was only concerned with stopping the plague. His compromise would be costly to Israel, but it would benefit him.

**Application:**

The lesson here is that Satan's compromises are always designed to promote his program and never God's program. Compromise never helps God's work it only hinders it. No matter how good the temptation appears let us always remember that it will hinder the work of the Lord and God will NEVER honor or bless service that is done through compromise.

**Conclusion:**

Next week we will continue our look at the offers of compromise.

**Romans 13:14**

<sup>14</sup> *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*