

"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"

Part 21

Exodus 7-12

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of the life of Moses we have now come to the tenth and final plague which God would bring upon the Egyptians. This plague will be the most devastating of all, for it will be the slaying of the firstborn.

Notice Exodus 11:5

There is more recorded in the Bible concerning this last plague than there is about any of the other plagues. There are probably several reasons for this, and one reason is because in this plague we are able to see the greatest Old Testament picture of our salvation. Most of what is recorded about this plague is focused upon protection from the plague. The reader does not need to wait until they get to the New Testament to see God wonderful plan of salvation for it will be crystal clear as we examine this plague and the Passover Lamb. Now as we approach this plague, we shall see that from Exodus 11:1 - 12:2 we have record of the preliminaries. There is the temptation to rush through these verses to get to the plague itself but if we do that, we miss too much, so we are going to work our way through the preliminaries to see what God has for us.

"Slaying the Firstborn"

Part 1

I. The Preliminaries

As we approach the eleventh chapter of Exodus, we are going to see God preparing Israel for their departure.

1. The Promises for Moses.

God gave three promises to Moses that were very significant.

Notice Exodus 11:1

Here we see the three promises:

a. This would be the final plague.

This told Moses the battle was soon to be over.

b. This plague would cause Pharaoh to let Israel go.

After this plague Pharaoh would not retract his statement of release. He would surely let Israel leave.

c. This plague would cause Pharaoh to "THRUST" Israel out.

This means that Pharaoh would actually order Israel to leave. This would be a good thing. This thrusting out of Israel would show that Pharaoh and his people were no match for God.

When I was typing this up there was another thought which came to me that I wanted to share. Moses and Israel are being thrust out of the world NOT because they had done evil but because they were following the will of God. Let me show you another passage where a man of God was thrust out of the world for the wrong reason.

Genesis 12:14-20

¹⁴ And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair.

¹⁵ The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

¹⁶ And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.

¹⁷ And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.

¹⁸ And Pharaoh called Abram and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?

¹⁹ Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way.

²⁰ And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

Abram was thrust out of the world because of his deception. Let me show you what Peter recorded:

1 Peter 3:14-17

¹⁴ But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

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:

¹⁶ *Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.*

¹⁷ **For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.**

I share all of this to help you to see that we MUST live our lives in a way that honors God. If we get "thrust out" because we are walking in the will of God that honors Him, but if we are "thrust out" because we are living in sin that dishonors God.

Now let us get back to the promises of God made to Moses.

Application:

When this tenth plague would come the results would be that Israel would be set free which was the will of God from the beginning. And when they do leave, they will be "thrust out". Let the reader know that resisting the will of God is futile and dangerous. When it is in the planning of the Lord for something to take place there will be nothing that will stop God's will from being fulfilled. Those who choose to stand in the way place themselves in a very dangerous situation such as Pharaoh did.

These promises given to Moses were also essential. They would allow Israel to prepare for their departure. They would need to leave in haste and when the order came to leave, they had to be prepared.

Application:

Just as Israel needed to be prepared for their exodus from Egypt so we also need to be prepared for our exodus from this life. When the trumpet sounds and the Lord descends to gather His church there will be no time for preparation. It will be instantaneous and therefore we must be ready to go. Now, if the Lord tarries we must then be ready for death. It can come at any moment which means we cannot afford to procrastinate in our preparation. God gives to us plenty of time to be ready. He sends out many warnings that death will one day happen.

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷ *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

Job 14:1-5

Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.

² *He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.*

³ *And doth thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee?*

⁴ *Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.*

⁵ **Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;**

There is yet one more thought that is connected with these promises. They would have been great encouragement for Moses. Now he knew this was the last plague. Now he knew after this plague Israel would be set free. There would be no more confrontational meetings with Pharaoh. These promises would have been encouragement for Moses as he made all the preparation for their departure. There was more to do in connection with this plague than all the others put together. Moses needed the encouragement and God provided it.

Application:

God provides the same encouragement for us too when we face challenging situations. His Word is full of promises and it is our responsibility to search them out. Let me show you something which had happened to David and his men.

1 Samuel 30:1-6

And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;

² *And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way.*

³ *So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.*

⁴ *Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.*

⁵ *And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.*

⁶ *And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: **but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.***

II. The Precept for Israel

Notice Exodus 11:2-3a

These verses are amazing!! God provided for the needs of Israel in a most unexpected way. He gave them favor with the Egyptians and they were given jewels of silver and jewels of gold. This was actually the fulfillment of prophecy.

Exodus 3:20-22

²⁰ *And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.*

²¹ *And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty.*

²² *But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.*

Application:

The lesson for us within these verses is that God can supply our needs through means which we never considered. Too many times we hold back from giving or from serving in some way because we worry about our personal needs. These verses ought to encourage each one of us that God can meet our needs in ways which we never thought possible.

Philippians 4:15-19

¹⁵ *Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

¹⁶ *For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.*

¹⁷ *Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.*

¹⁸ *But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.*

¹⁹ *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

III. The Prominence of Moses

Notice Exodus 11:3

Despite the plagues it was Moses who was being elevated in Egypt. Pharaoh was powerful enough to keep the nation under his rule, but he was not able to keep Moses from gaining prominence. Notice the words of Matthew Henry:

"Those who honor God he will honor... how meanly soever they may pass through this world, there is a day coming when they will look great, very great, in the eyes of all the world."

Right now, you and I who are servants of the Lord, are despised by the world. That is ok because the Bible tells us we are not to be in favor with the world.

Luke 6:26

²⁶ *Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!* for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

When we stand for the Truth of God's Word people are not going to like our stand. They will despise us and what we stand for. We will be looked at as those who hinder progress. If the Lord tarries persecution may very well come and possibly even death. Let me remind you what life in the Tribulation will be like for those who get saved.

Revelation 6:9-11

⁹ *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:*

¹⁰ *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?*

¹¹ *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.*

It could be that persecution will start before the Rapture. We certainly are seeing religious freedoms attacked in certain states. So, the hatred will increase as times goes on and world's view of the Christian will be one of hatred. But there will be a day when we shall be seen for who we really are, and that is the children of God.

Romans 8:18-19

¹⁸ *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

¹⁹ *For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.*

Revelation 19:11-14

¹¹ *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

¹² *His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.*

¹³ *And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*

¹⁴ **And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.**

The world does not know it but the most important people on the earth are believers.

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³ **Ye are the salt of the earth:** *but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

¹⁴ **Ye are the light of the world.** *A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

¹⁵ *Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

¹⁶ *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Conclusion:

While we are here evil is restrained.

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8

⁷ *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: **only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.***

⁸ *And **then shall that Wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

Right now, the world does not understand who we are but someday our true identity in Christ will be revealed.