

"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"

Part 22

Exodus 7-12

Introduction: Tonight, in our look at the life of Moses we are again going to look at the preliminaries to the tenth and final plague. These preliminaries are found in Exodus 11 and while there is the desire to rush quickly through this chapter in order to get to the tenth plague, we must realize there are lessons within chapter 11 that are important for us to see. Last week in this chapter we considered several points:

1. **The Promises for Moses - Notice 11:1**
2. **The Precepts for Israel - Notice 11:2-3a**
3. **The Prominence of Moses - Notice 11:3**

This brings us to where we are for this evening.

"Slaying the Firstborn"

Part 2

I. The Preliminaries

4. The Proclamation for Pharaoh

Notice Exodus 11:4-8

Here we see another meeting between Moses and Pharaoh. When they parted ways in the last chapter both seemed content to never meet again.

Notice Exodus 10:28-29

The first point we see is:

A. The Courage of Moses

The last words spoken to Moses by Pharaoh was if they ever met again Moses would die. Why would Moses go back into the presence of Pharaoh who threatened to take his life? Considering that Moses has walked in obedience to God's commands previously we must conclude that God ordered him to do so. For Moses to walk back into Pharaoh's presence took great courage on the part of Moses and Aaron.

Application:

Let us understand that when we walk in obedience to the Word of God, we are going to need courage and faith. Let us also know that when we do walk into situations such that are humanly dangerous there will be those who do not understand. To many who observe our

faith in God and courage exercised as we serve Him, they will see it as being foolish. There are many people who want to serve God in comfort and safety. But many times, it is God's will for His children to serve Him in dangerous situations.

Hebrews 11:36-39

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.*

³⁹ *And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:*

Let me show you what was commanded to the recipients of the letter to the Hebrews.

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*

²⁵ *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

These believers were commanded to come together with one another. When we consider the background of this letter then this verse takes on a completely different light. There is a verse in the book of Acts that gives to us some of the background.

Acts 8:1

And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Now I want you to notice the words of the Jewish scholar Adolf Saphir:

"Then arose another persecution of the believers, especially directed against the apostle Paul. Festus died about the year 63, and under the high priest Ananias, who favored the Sadducees, the Christian Hebrews were persecuted as transgressors of the law. Some of them were stoned to death; and though this extreme punishment could not be frequently inflicted by the Sanhedrim, they were able to subject their brethren to sufferings and reproaches which were felt most keenly. It was a small thing that they confiscated their

goods; but they banished them from the holy places. Hitherto they had enjoyed the privileges of devout Israelites; they could take part in the beautiful and God-appointed services of the sanctuary; but now they were treated as unclean and apostates. Unless they gave up faith in Jesus, and forsook the assembling of themselves together, they were not allowed to enter the temple; they were banished from the altar, the sacrifice, the high priest, the house of Jehovah.

We can scarcely realize the piercing sword which thus wounded their inmost heart. That by clinging to the Messiah they were to be severed from Messiah's people was indeed a great and perplexing trial; that for the hope of Israel's glory they were banished from the place which God had chosen, and where the divine Presence was revealed, and the symbols and ordinances of His grace had been the joy and strength of their fathers; that they were to be no longer children of the covenant and of the house, but worse than Gentiles, excluded from the outer court, cut off from the commonwealth of Israel,—this was indeed a sore and mysterious trial. Cleaving to the promises made unto their fathers, cherishing the hope in constant prayer that their nation would yet accept the Messiah, it was the severest test to which their faith could be put, when their loyalty to Jesus involved separation from all the sacred rights and privileges of Jerusalem."

Let me give you one more example.

Revelation 2:10

¹⁰ Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

I show you all of these verses to help you to see that when we walk in obedience it is often going to require faith and courage.

B. The Grace of God.

Notice Exodus 11:4-5

This would be the last time God would show grace to Pharaoh. In seven of the ten plagues God warned Pharaoh in advance. Over and over again God reached out to this man but each time he would reject the offer of grace. In these plagues we see what we have been looking at in Romans.

Romans 10:19-20

¹⁹ But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.

²⁰ *But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.*

Here in Romans we looked at how God had manifest Himself to the Gentiles. They were a people who did not seek God and they were a people who did not ask for God. But God placed Himself before them so that they would find Him. This is exactly what we see with Pharaoh. God has stood before him over and over again. He continued to extend His grace to Pharaoh, but the man kept pushing God aside and he continually rejected the grace of God.

Now in our text Pharaoh has gone too far. This is the last warning from God. The door of opportunity is about to slam shut and Pharaoh's destiny will be sealed.

Proverbs 29:1

He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

C. The Anger of Moses.

Notice Exodus 11:8

When Moses walked out of Pharaoh's presence he left in anger. There are many people who believe a Christian should never get angry. They will point to verses such as:

Ephesians 4:31

³¹ *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*

Colossians 3:8

⁸ *But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*

These are the verses which many will point to but there is another verse in the Bible that needs to be considered:

Ephesians 4:26a

²⁶ *Be ye angry, and sin not:*

There is such a thing as righteous anger. This is the anger which Moses expressed here. He was angry at sin. Notice the words of Matthew Henry:

"To be angry at nothing but sin is the way not to sin in anger."

Moses had every right to be angry with Pharaoh's sin. Pharaoh had brought cruel slavery upon the Israelites, he had continually rejected the outreached hand of God, he had denied each of God's orders to let Israel go, he had caused great suffering upon his own people, and now the saddest plague of all was about to fall upon Egypt and he had the power to stop it if he would submit to God, but he refused. When we look at all of this, we can understand why Moses was angry at the sin of Pharaoh.

Application:

It would do us good to be angry at sin. Many believers have become soft toward sin and so when someone speaks out against sin, they claim that person is intolerant, or they lack love and compassion. In the world in which we live in [a sinful world] we better learn to stand against sin and we better learn to develop a hatred for it. Let me give you several reasons why we must hate sin and stand against sin.

1. **Sin in a church will rob all of us of the blessings of God and it will keep us from moving forward.**

Joshua 7:1-5

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.

² 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.

³ 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.

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

⁵ 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.

When one man by the name of Achan sinned Israel could not move forward until that sin was confessed and eliminated. The same is true for the church. While there is sin in the midst the power of God is hindered.

2. Sin in an individual's life will bring lasting consequences.

There are many examples of this in the Bible and we see some of the saddest consequences in David's life.

2 Samuel 12:7-11

⁷ And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

⁸ And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

⁹ Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

¹⁰ Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

¹¹ Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

This is why we must stand against sin and be angry at sin. It will devastate a person's life.

Leviticus 19:17

¹⁷ Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

D. The Summary

Notice Exodus 11:9-10

There are 2 points to be seen in these two verses.

1. The Failure of Pharaoh.

Notice Exodus 11:9

Pharaoh was a "great man" in the world but he was a sinful creature before God. He was held high by the world but in God's eyes he was a failure. This is also true of many in our world today. They are held high because of some feat which they have accomplished but if they reject their Creator, they are a failure.

In verse 9 we can see two thoughts. We see the knowledge and the power of God. God knew exactly what Pharaoh would do. There is nothing hidden from the Lord.

Psalm 139:1-6

O lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.

² Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

³ Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

⁵ Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

We also see the power of God for even Pharaoh's refusal to let Israel go could not stop the plan of God.

2. The Faithfulness of Moses and Aaron.

Notice Exodus 11:10a

Let us notice that Moses and Aaron did ALL that God had commanded. We also need to know they were faithful even without one convert.

Conclusion:

Might we walk in faithfulness to our Lord's commands regardless of the results. Let us not forget that God sees all we do, and it is not our responsibility to bring about results but ours is to walk in obedience.