

"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"

Part 29

Exodus 7-12

Introduction: The last time we were together in our study of the life of Moses we looked at two points:

1. **The Death of the Firstborn**
2. **The Despair of the People.**

This tenth and final plague brought great pain and devastation to the Egyptians.

Psalm 105:36

³⁶ *He smote also all the firstborn in their land, the chief of all their strength.*

In our study we looked at the words of Rawlinson concerning this plague:

The "law of the firstborn" prevailed in Egypt, as among most of the nations of antiquity. The monarchy was hereditary, and the eldest son was known as "hereditary Crown Prince". Estates descended to the eldest son, and in many cases high dignities also. No severer blow could have been sent on the nation, if it were not to be annihilated, than the loss in each house of the hope of the family-the parents' stay, the other children's guardian and protector."

Tonight, in our study we come to the next point:

3. The Deliverance of Israel

A. The demand of deliverance.

Notice Exodus 12:30-33

This plague did what none of the other [plagues could do and that was it caused Pharaoh to let Israel go. Not only did he agree to let them go but we are told that he actually THRUST them out.

Notice Exodus 12:39

I want to break this DEMAND down into two points to help us to see a few important spiritual Truths.

- ✓ **The control behind the demand.**

Before the plagues began God had given to Moses words of encouragement that would have seemed to impossible. The words came after Moses and Aaron had met with Pharaoh and he we set against letting Israel go.

Exodus 5:1-2

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.

² *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.*

Now let us notice what God had said to Moses.

Exodus 6:1

Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.

This promise would seem so incredible at the time it was given for at this time Pharaoh we set against letting Israel go and so to hear God say that Pharaoh would "drive them out" was just difficult to comprehend. But God was in control and He would see that Israel would not just be set free, but they would be THRUST OUT of Egypt.

Application:

Let us never forget that God is also in control of the events in our lives today. God can and will work the events of our lives so that those who chose to stand in our way and oppose the will of God, will eventually not just agree to His will for us but they will also insist upon it. Let us notice the Words which God gave to Joshua.

Joshua 1:1-5

Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

² *Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.*

³ *Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.*

⁴ *From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.*

⁵ There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

⁶ Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

God assured Joshua that NO MAN would be able to stand in his way of walking in the will of God. Let us understand that God can move people physically and He can change the heart and the mind of people in our lives in order for us to walk in His will.

Nehemiah 2:1-6

And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence.

² *Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,*

³ *And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?*

⁴ *Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.*

⁵ *And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.*

⁶ *And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.*

This was amazing that the king would send his trusted cupbearer away. It was because God moved the king's heart to do so.

Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

So, when someone choses to block us from walking in the will of God we can be sure that God can move that person to the point they will insist we walk in His will.

Now there is yet another thought to combine with this Truth. When we do encounter a blocked path or a closed door it is very important that we wait upon the Lord to open the door of clear the path. Let us remember that from the first plague to the last plague there were a space of about nine months. As we walk in the will of God, we must learn to exercise patience. There are times when God will clear a path immediately and at other times it may take months or years.

When we become impatient then we find ourselves in situations that can be very troubling, and the consequences are often lifelong. Let me show you one such example.

Genesis 16:1-4

Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.

² And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.

³ And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.

⁴ And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

Abram chose not to exercise patience and from this sin came Ishmael and from Ishmael came years of heartaches for the Nation of Israel. There was also another consequence of Abram's impatience that many do not see.

Genesis 16:16

¹⁶ And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

Genesis 17:1

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

When Ishmael was born Abram was 86 years old. The next time Abram heard from God he was 99 years old. It therefore appears as though Abram experienced 13 years of silence due to running ahead of God.

Let us learn that God can make a way, but we must learn to be patient.

Isaiah 40:29-31

²⁹ He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

✓ The compliance in the demand.

Notice Exodus 12:30-32

Pharaoh told Moses to take the women, the children, the elderly, the flocks and the herds and go and worship the Lord. Let me show you what Pharaoh had said before.

Exodus 10:8-11

⁸ And Moses and Aaron were brought again unto Pharaoh: and he said unto them, Go, serve the LORD your God: but who are they that shall go?

⁹ And Moses said, We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go; for we must hold a feast unto the LORD.

¹⁰ And he said unto them, Let the LORD be so with you, as I will let you go, and your little ones: look to it; for evil is before you.

¹¹ Not so: go now ye that are men, and serve the LORD; for that ye did desire. And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

Let us notice something else that Pharaoh had said to Moses.

Exodus 8:28

²⁸ And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away: intreat for me.

Pharaoh had earlier placed a restriction upon how far they could go. But after the tenth plague Pharaoh complied completely to every demand. There were no restrictions now he just wanted them to leave.

Notice Exodus 12:32 again.

The end of this verse is very important to notice. Pharaoh wanted a blessing for letting Israel go. But there would be no blessing for he waited too long. His delayed obedience cost him any blessings that may have been available.

Application:

Delayed obedience has cost many people more than they ever wanted to pay over the years. They knew what they needed to do but instead of being obedient they continued on the path of disobedience. We must know that the longer obedience is put off the greater the cost.

Maybe there is something which God has been convicting you about and you have brushed it aside every time. It could be that He is urging you to serve in some capacity but right now is not a good time for you so, you chase your own desires. What you need to know is that there will be a cost to your disobedience and right now, because you will not surrender, you are missing an abundance of blessings that you can never get back.

Maybe there is a besetting sin in your life that God has been convicting you of and you know it needs to be forsaken. But you have chose to hold to it for now. This too is keeping you from blessings and this too may very well cost you dearly on down the road of life.

Illustration:

I have watched people over the years that clung to a besetting sin all the while knowing that it needed to be forsaken, but they enjoyed the sin, so they continued down the path of disobedience. One person in particular that I knew eventually forsook the sin, but like Pharaoh it was too late, and the consequences ended up taking their life. I cannot help to think of what might have been. I cannot help but think of the blessings that were lost.

If God is urging you to serve Him, then do it NOW. There may come a day when the door shuts and you will not get another chance. If the Lord is convicting you of a besetting sin, then forsake it. Let it go! He has given to you the power to walk away. Be obedient now before the consequences scar you for the rest of your life or cause you to be disqualified from service.

Conclusion:

There are many people who like Pharaoh desire the blessings of God, but they are not willing to meet the conditions. Esau was on such man.

Genesis 27:34, 38

³⁴ And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father.

³⁸ And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.

He wanted the blessing without the birthright. He did not meet the conditions. Unless we too meet the conditions, we will miss out on blessings.