

V. Conclusion

This story in the Old Testament is one of the pivotal encounters with God and His people. This story is recounted time and time again, throughout the centuries in every Jewish Synagogue, in every family, at every gathering, on every Sabbath.

We live in a day when many “religious scholars” are repulsed by any emphasis on the blood. But God is not repulsed by it; rather, He tells us in this passage that only those protected by the blood of the lamb would be spared the loss of their first born. Not only was the lamb's blood spilled out, it also had to be applied to the top and the sides of the door frame of each house.

We who know the story of the Lamb of God realize that tremendous implications of this passage in Exodus. Indeed, we too are spared the wrath of God because, by faith, we have been placed under the protection of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. But many reject this simple but eternally profound truth. Like Pharaoh, who trusted in his own power and the power of his false god, people still refuse to humble themselves to believe in God.



The simplicity of God's provision is still a stumbling block for men and women today. We live in a time of constant urging to be the “greatest” and to “do it our way.” Pharaoh realized too late that he was not the greatest, nor could he do it his way. Maybe you are struggling with these very issues. The world may have taught you that you should put yourself first and not to allow God or anyone to tell you what to do. We need to recognize that God is sovereign, omnipotent, and omniscient.

Know this truth: Only those that are under the blood will be saved.

LET US PRAY

The Plagues of Egypt

Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC

Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.

September 27, 2020

Diaspora XXVIII – The Church Scattered, Twenty-eight Sunday

Text: Exodus 12:1-14

Purpose: The deliverance of Israel out of Egypt demonstrated the mighty hand of God to work in the affairs of man. His might was demonstrated over each of the Egyptian gods. His purpose of bringing out His people was never thwarted. The last plague not only demonstrated that God was Lord of all – including life itself – but that it pointed towards a more perfect lamb to come in the future. That Lamb was God’s only Son – Jesus Christ.

I. Introduction

When I was growing up, my parents would tuck me in bed and help me say my night time prayers. We would include a list of our family and friends and any other concerns we had on our heart. I continued to do that with my daughter and continue it today with my grandchildren when they stay with us. When I came across this story this week I thought back to those days.

A mother shared the following story:

“When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past).

For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing.

My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?"

"Because everybody always finishes their prayers by saying 'All Men!'"¹

Last week we examined the life and call of a man by the name of Moses.

The young baby that was hidden in the bulrushes became the young prince that took the life of an Egyptian, later became the old man tending the sheep and goats in the desert near Midian. At the age of 80, Moses encountered God at the burning bush. From that encounter with God, He was commissioned to go and lead the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt back to the Promised Land of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.



Today, I want us to examine how God used the ten plagues in Egypt to bring about their liberation. We may be tempted to think that these plagues were only done to free the people of Israel. But God's plan included more than that. God wanted to once and for all, to demonstrate He was the Lord of All creation. The Lord was sovereign over all the other "gods" that the people of Egypt had concocted.



II. Moses' Encounter with Pharaoh²

When Moses met Pharaoh, he brought along his brother Aaron to be his spokesman. Moses gave God the excuse back at the burning bush, that he was not an eloquent speaker, so he must not be the one that should lead the people. God's response was that Aaron, his brother, would be the spokesman for God before Pharaoh.

Moses, along with Aaron, came to Pharaoh as instructed by God to request that his people be given permission to go three days journey into the wilderness to worship **"I AM WHO I AM."** Pharaoh immediately rejected Moses' request.



To demonstrate that Moses came in YHWH name, he cast his walking stick onto the ground and it became a snake. The Pharaoh was not impressed since his court magicians immediately cast their sticks on the ground and they became a snake.

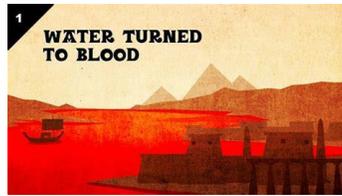
If the magicians didn't know who they were dealing with, they would soon realize who they were dealing with. Moses' snake immediately killed and ate up the other magician's snakes. Moses reached down and took his snake by the tail and it became a stick again.

Pharaoh refused to acknowledge God or let the people go.

² Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ, lesson 22, Shepherds Notes, Exodus Chapter 12, The Sermon Notebook, CRAM, "Plagues"

¹ Mikey's Funnies – August 22, 2014 – A Prayer Funny

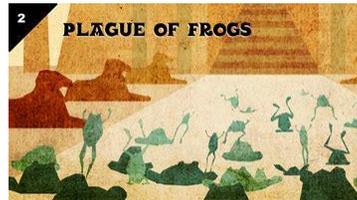
The next day, Moses and Aaron went out and met the Pharaoh by the Nile River. Moses took his rod and touched the water and it became as blood. Pharaoh was not impressed because Pharaoh's court magicians could also turn the water into blood. In turning the Nile into blood, God proved his sovereignty over the Egyptian god, Nilus, who was supposed to be the giver of life and nourishment.



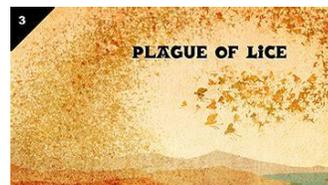
Pharaoh refused to acknowledge God or let the people go.

After three days, Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and requested that the plague on the Nile River be ended and he would let the people go. When God relented and restored the water, Pharaoh didn't change his mind – he refused to let the people go.

Next, Moses unleashed **frogs** upon all the land. This plague attacked the goddess Heki, who was the goddess of the frogs. Why anyone would want to make a god of frogs is beyond me! Pharaoh was not impressed because his magicians were able to duplicate this feat. Again Moses requested that the Pharaoh release the Israelites, but Pharaoh refused to let the people go. After a few days, the Pharaoh relented and agreed to let the people go, but after the plague of frogs ended, the Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to let them go.



Next Moses unleashed **lice** upon all the land. All the dust of the land became as lice. The magicians, who had been successful in duplicating the previous plagues, tried to duplicate this demonstration of power, but they were unable.

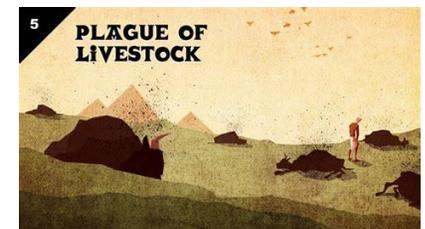


They turned to the Pharaoh and said, “*This is the finger of God.*” (8:19) God was demonstrating His power and sovereignty over the Egyptian priests. The plague of lice rendered the Egyptian priests defiled. After a few days, the Pharaoh relented and agreed to let the people go, but after the plague of lice was ended, again, the Pharaoh refused to listen to his advisors and refused to let the people go.

The **fourth plague** was swarms of flies. Beginning with this plague, God only brought suffering upon the Egyptians and not the Israelites. God caused a distinction between the two. This plague of flies demonstrated God's power over the god, Kephrah. This god was also called the god of life since they determined that when flies landed on a dead animal, maggots would be seen a few days later. Thus life came from death. Pharaoh called Moses and asked that the plague be ended and he would set the people free. But once the flies left, do you think that the Pharaoh let them go? No. He continued to refuse to set the people free.

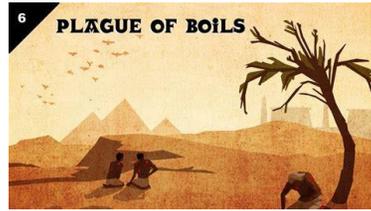


The **fifth plague** was an attack on the cattle of the land. In Egypt, cows were worshipped and they were believed to be the reincarnation of deceased people. This plague attacked three different gods: Apis, the god of bulls, Mneirs, the god of a cow, and Hathor, a cow headed goddess. Even though the scripture says that all of Egypt's the cattle were destroyed, that may not be the case since more cattle were killed in a later plague. At any rate, this was an intense demonstration of power.



Did Pharaoh let the people go now? No.

The **sixth plague** brought boils upon all the Egyptians. This included the priests and doctors. This plague attacked the god Imhotep, the god of healing. The reason this was considered as a direct attack upon the priests and doctors was that they could not bring about healing for this disease.

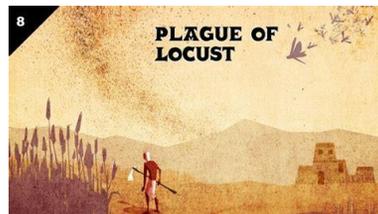


Well, after that last plague, any reasonable person would have let the people go. They had seen the Nile turned to **blood**, **frogs** cover the land, **lice** as numerous as dust, **flies** everywhere, all your **cattle** are diseased or dead, and now you have **boils** on your skin. But the Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he would not let the people go.

The **seventh plague** of hail attacked the feminine deities of rain. There were three goddesses: Isis, Sate, and Nephi. This plague caused the Pharaoh admit he had sinned, but his heart was still hardened and he still refused to free the people.



The **eighth plague** of Locust attacked the gods that were in charge of protecting the harvest. There were many of these gods, with most regions having their own god. What crops were left after the destruction of hail, the locust came behind and devoured the rest. Once again, Pharaoh admitted his sin, but he would not submit to God, nor would he let the people go.



The **ninth plague** brought about total and complete darkness. This plague directly attacked the god Amen-ra, also known as Ra. He was the god of light or the sun. He was known as the “prince of light.” It was so dark that even a lantern would not work. The darkness was so heavy upon them, that they could feel the darkness.



With all of these plagues placed upon Egypt, Pharaoh still refused to let God's people go free. With each of these plagues, Pharaoh requested time and time again for God to remove his hand of judgment on them, but once the plague ended, the Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to let the people go.

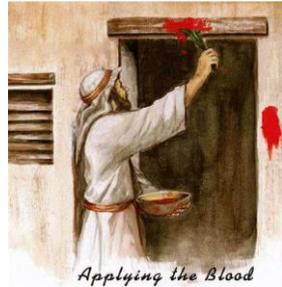
III. Passover

But God was not finished with Pharaoh. In that culture and almost every culture, the first-born child is special. God intended to demonstrate and claim the first born of every family and animal as his own. This plague was one that addressed Pharaoh himself because the Pharaoh was considered to be a god and a protector of the people.

God gave Moses detailed instructions as to how the Israelite families would be “passed over” by the last and most powerful plague. Moses made sure that every family understood what they were to do.

First each family was to take a lamb or goat, one year old, without any spot or blemish, on the tenth day of the month into their family’s house like a pet. They were to take care of this animal in the home. Then four days later, on the fourteenth day of the month of Abib, now know as the month of Nisan after the Babylonian captivity, they were to kill this lamb at the beginning of evening. This perfect, spotless lamb was to become the sacrifice for the family.

Moses also instructed that the blood from the lamb was to be put on the sides and the top of the doorpost of the house. They were to use hyssop, a type of plant, as the brush to paint on the blood. Then the family was to roast the lamb or goat and eat it that evening for their meal.



Along with the meal, God instructed Moses to have cakes of bread made. These cakes were not to have any leaven in them. This was so that when the order came to flee Egypt in the night, their bread would not spoil during the journey. God also instructed them to have their bags packed, clothes on their back and shoes on their feet. Because sometime through the night, God was going to come and take the life of every first born throughout the land of Egypt. The only families that would not be touched by this plague would be the ones that had the doorpost of their house covered in the blood. The blood of the lamb would save all that were under its saving power.

That evening, the destroyer, or the death angel, passed throughout Egypt. Can you imagine the horror and terror that passed through out the land that night? Finally, the Pharaoh realized the power of God, relented and let all the people go. In the agony of the death scene, the Egyptians drove out the Israelites. Moses had instructed the people to request gifts from the Egyptians as they left. The people of Egypt didn't care; they gave them all the gold and silver in the land of Egypt. All they wanted was for these people to leave before they all died!



This event was a fulfillment of Genesis 15:13-14. God told Abraham after 400 years, his people would be afflicted and serve another people. Then at the end they would take out great

possessions. That evening, the Israelites took the gold, silver, and clothing from them. In the middle of the night, over 600,000 men, along with their wives and children, headed out of Egypt and out of captivity.

Even to this day, Jews all around the world celebrate this victory and demonstration of God's power. The meal that is remembered is called Passover. The seven days following Passover, is called the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

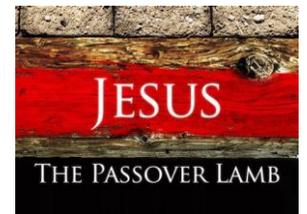


IV. Application

You may be sitting here wondering, "This happened so long ago. This has nothing to do with me!" But it does.

What happened that day was a shadow of the events that would happen in Jerusalem almost one thousand five hundred years later.

- Just as Noah built an ark that became the salvation of his family, God provided salvation for all of mankind through the future coming Messiah.
- Just as Abraham offered his son Isaac upon Mount Moriah, God completed it. What Abraham was doing that day was a foreshadowing of a future event.
- Just as Joseph became a deliverer for his family from the famine, God completed the deliverance by providing a perfect place of rest for those that love him.
- Passover became the same kind of foreshadowing. The day that Jesus died upon the cross in Jerusalem was on the 14th day of Nisan, which was the very same day as Passover.



- Jesus became our Passover sacrifice.
- He was the Lamb of God slain for the sins of the world, even before the foundations to the earth were laid.
- Jesus was sinless and pure like that lamb of Passover.
- Jesus' blood provides a covering for all that are willing to claim it. Just as Jesus was on the cross, and taking a drink of vinegar from a hyssop branch, the Israelites took that same hyssop and placed blood on their doorpost.
- Moses instructed that not one bone of the Passover lamb's body was to be broken that evening. When Jesus was on the cross, not one bone of His body was broken.

Don't you see it? Jesus is our covering. What Jesus did there on the cross willingly was foreshadowed here in this story in Egypt.

The application is very easy for us to make now. Only those that have taken the blood of Jesus Christ and applied it to their sins will be covered from the coming judgment. Only those that are in Christ will be accepted by the Father. Those that have rejected Jesus have already been condemned and rejected by the Father.



Imagine that evening that an Israelite said, "I know about the blood of the Lamb. I understand all the details about how it should be applied to my door. I have taken a lamb into my house. Surely God doesn't want me to kill this innocent, precious lamb and place its blood on the doorpost?"

What do you think would happen that evening? Yes, the death angel would come and take the firstborn from each home that did not have the blood applied. I have thought about this story

growing up because both me and my father were the first born in our family. I have thought about it more recently since both Amber and Kaitlyn are first born in our family. I have even thought about how Madelyn is also the first born in her family. How many first born are here this morning? If we were in Egypt that night, and did not have the blood applied to the doorpost of our home, we would have died that night.

What I want us to take away from this story of the rescue of God's people is that God is serious about sin. As we have seen over and over in the Bible, the wages of sin is death. All of us are sinners in need of a Savior. The ONLY remedy that God has provided to remove our sin as far as the east is from the west is in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. There is no other way by which we must be saved.

What can wash away my sin?
 Nothing but blood of Jesus?
 What can make me whole again?
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus?
 Oh, precious is that flow,
 that makes me white as snow.
 No other fount I know
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus!



Mankind throughout history has sought another way of escape. Man wants their works to count for something in God's kingdom. Man wants their good deeds weighed against the bad deeds so that maybe the scales will tilt towards acceptance. But that is not the way it works. Our sin pushes the scale down towards judgment. Only God can provide a way of acceptance. That way is Jesus Christ. His sacrifice paid the penalty for us. Repenting, turning away from your sin, believing in Jesus Christ is the only way back to God.

