

# Against All the gods of Egypt (of the World) pt 13

## “The Condemnation and Conquering of the Truth!”

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*“And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, 9 When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent. 10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. 11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. 12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. 13 And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.” Exodus 7:8-13*

We return this morning to our series “Against all the gods of Egypt.” this will be our 13<sup>th</sup> message in our series on the 10 Plagues. We have been considering verses 8 - 13 and this is our outline:

- I. **The Commission of the Truth:**
- II. **The Confirmation of the Truth:**
- III. **The Counterfeit of the Truth:**
- IV. **The Crowning of the Truth:**
- V. **The Condemnation of the Truth:**
- VI. **The Conquering of the Truth:**

We have considered the first 4 points in our outline and this morning we shall pick up at number 5 on:

### **V. The Condemnation of the Truth:**

By the condemnation of the truth I am not saying that the truth is condemned, no but that the TRUTH has a two-fold effect, that is; Truth Conquers or Truth will CONDEMN! In very simple terms, the truth will either save us or the truth will condemn us. When Aaron's rods swallowed up all the rods of the magicians, it condemned them in that fact that they were in error and not in a right relationship with God and when later on in Exodus 8:19, the magicians said this is the finger of God! *“Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, **This is the finger of God**: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.”* Did you notice the next 5 words after the phrase, this is the finder of God, it says, *“...and Pharaoh's heart **was hardened**...”*

In other words instead of being submissive to the Word of God, Pharaoh's heart was

hardened against God, that is, because he refuse to believe and he refuse to obey his heart was hardened, that is, he WAS CONDEMNED by the truth of God! The words of John 3:18 is very applicable at this point for it says John 3:18, “*He that believeth on him is not condemned: **but he that believeth not is condemned already**, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” Noah whom we know that the Bible says that he was a preacher of righteousness and he preached fervently for 120 years to the people of his day and at the end of 120 years he only had 7 converts and the rest were condemned in the awful deluge and or flood where the whole world was judged and condemned by God. In Hebrews 11:7, “*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; **by the which he condemned the world**, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”**

Please turn to 2 Peter 2:1-9, “*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. 4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 **And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow**, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; 7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.” It is not a light thing to reject and or to disobey the TRUTH of GOD!*

Not to be misunderstood, the Bible clearly teaches that the GOSPEL when the Spirit of God applies it to the heart of an unbeliever it is the POWER of GOD UNTO SALVATION! Paul clearly establishes this in Romans 1:16, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: **for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth**; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

In other words when the gospel is preached it has two effects, it saves, but it also condemns and this is the means that I used this 5<sup>th</sup> point, the Condemnation of the TRUTH! John 8:32 says, “*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*” But I want us to also notice that in the same context in the chapter it shows that not everyone receives this truth of God in order to be saved and be set free from our sins, turn to John 8 quickly: beginning at verse 30 and following:

Again Romans 1:16 is very clear, notice also Romans 1:17-18, “*For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and **unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness**.” Romans 1:25, “*Who **changed the truth of God into a lie**, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.” People**

either receive the truth of God in the grace of salvation or reject the truth of God to their own condemnation. Romans 2:4-8 *“Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: 8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath.”* Look at the contrast in Eph1:13 it says, *“In whom ye also trusted, **after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation**: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.”* Notice how the truth of God is synonymous with the gospel in Colossians 1:5, *“For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in **the word of the truth of the gospel**.”* 1 Thess.2:13, *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, **but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe**.”*

Then you have the opposite regarding those who will not believe the gospel, that is the truth of God’s Word as in 2 Thessalonians 2:10, *“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved**.”* Also in 2 Thessalonians 2:12, *“That they all might be damned **who believed not the truth**, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”* Then the opposite again in verse 13, *“But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and **belief of the truth**.”* Then of course we have the text in 1 Timothy 2:4, *“Who will have all men to be saved, and **to come unto the knowledge of the truth**.”* The purpose of the gospel is to bring you to a knowledge of the truth for the salvation of your soul, not just to get some head knowledge, but that you might be saved from your sins!

Thus, you see that there two effects of the gospel, one converts the soul and the other condemns the soul. These are the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Cor.2:14-17: *“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. 15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: 16 To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.”* When the gospel is preached, there are 2 effects made upon the soul and the reason for this is that the word of God never returns voids back to God, because God’s message is always effectual, God message never returns void, Isaiah 55:11, *“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”*

The condemnation of the truth pictures that of a sinner’s judgment that rejects the gospel; this is the two-edged side of the gospel or if you wish the two effects of the gospel. We were reminded earlier by the Apostle Paul that the gospel is an aroma, i.e. a savour of life unto life or of death unto death. Again, the gospel saves and or condemns. The gospel

saves or the gospel slays, it converts or it condemns, it humbles the heart or it hardens the heart... the gospel cuts and it condemns, it humbles the heart or it hardens the heart, yea; the two effects of the gospel. The gospel thunders with a message of deliverance or a message of doom. There is no in between. Remind of that story in the book of Judges in chapter 3 where it says, *“And Ehud came unto him; and he was sitting in a summer parlour, which he had for himself alone. And Ehud said, **I have a message from God unto thee**. And he arose out of his seat. 21 And Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly: 22 And the haft also went in after the blade; and the fat closed upon the blade, so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly; and the dirt came out. 23 Then Ehud went forth through the porch, and shut the doors of the parlour upon him, and locked them. 24 When he was gone out, his servants came; and when they saw that, behold, the doors of the parlour were locked, they said, Surely he covereth his feet in his summer chamber. 25 And they tarried till they were ashamed: and, behold, he opened not the doors of the parlour; therefore they took a key, and opened them: and, behold, their lord was fallen down dead on the earth. 26 And Ehud escaped while they tarried, and passed beyond the quarries, and escaped unto Seirath.”* I going to skip all the gory details of what happened, but as Ehud came into the king's summer parlor he said, **“I have a message from God.”** No, Ehud did not tell king Eglon, listen God loves you so very much and he has a wonderful plan for your life...no Ehud stood bold before the king and said I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM GOD and it was a message of condemnation! Christ's message in the gospels is very clear when He says in Luke 13:3 & 5, *“...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”* The message of the gospel is a message of peace, but also a message of condemnation. In Hebrews 4:12 it says, *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and **sharper than any twoedged sword**, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* The Word of God is quick or if you wish alive, it is powerful and it is a TWOEDGED SWORD, that is; it is a double edge sword! One side cuts to the conscience to open your mind and heart to show you your sins and that your only hope of salvation lies in the person of Jesus Christ and the other side cuts with sharp condemnation if you reject the gospel and if you die in that condition it seals your doom in hell. There is no escaping the GOSPEL of Christ it will accomplish its work either to the saving of the soul or the slaying of the soul, to convert or to condemn; to humble or to harden!

The message of the gospel is not sugar and spice and everything nice, it has its consequences if rejected. If received it leads to eternal life, thus, the two effects of the gospel, one leads to life and one leads to DEATH! Now back to the story of Ehud slaying the king with his sharp dagger. If you think his knife or dagger was sharp, the Gospel. Yea, Word of God is sharper. The Word of God is sharper still and penetrates deeper than the dagger of Ehud. As the dagger penetrated so deep that nothing but the refuse came out, the Word of God penetrates deeper and is so sharp that it divides asunder soul and spirit. I don't know of anything else that can do that. It also pierces deeper into the thoughts and intents of the heart. When the Word of God does this with the Power of the Holy Spirit, yes, the refuse comes out, you see, it reaches where no one else can, where nothing else can, it reaches all the way down to the depths of the heart and reveals the awful aspect of sin and depravity and the conscience is affected with guilt and that which comes out is confession of sin in true repentance. Yes, it comes out full, as it did with Eglon, his was physical and of course in salvation it is spiritual. Eglon's fatness provided an incredible

aspect of resistance; this is why the dagger had to be at least a foot and a half long. We are also overlaid with great depths sin, we are fat with sin and the sword of the God with its message has to penetrate deep into the resources of the heart. Again, this is the word of the Apostle Paul in Romans 1:16 again, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: **for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth**; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”* The Greek word for power is ‘dunamis’ we get our English word dynamite from this. The gospel is not some fire cracker message; no it is a message full of spiritual dynamite. Talk about the two effects of the gospel; consider these two events when the gospel was presented:

- Acts 2:37, 38 & 41, *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”* They heard the gospel and their hearts were pricked or humbled, they believed and repented and that day 3,000 were saved.
- Acts 7:51-54, *“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. 52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: 53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. 54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.”* These heard the gospel also and harden their hearts to it.
- Acts 17:2 – 5, *“And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, 3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ. 4 And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few. 5 But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.”* Some believed and some believed not.
- Acts 17:31 -34, *“Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. 32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. 33 So Paul departed from among them. 34 Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.”*

The gospel has its two effects, or two results of the gospel. God will judge all those who reject and spite His message of the gospel. Thus, I DO HAVE A MESSAGE FROM GOD THIS MORNING for you if you are outside of Christ:

- Except you repent you shall likewise perish.
- Except you are born again you will not enter the kingdom God.
- Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.
- Except you bow the knee and confess the tongue that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father, you shall be judged worthy of death as king Eglon.

The result or effect of Ehud's message was fatal to the ears of king Eglon, oh to God that this morning the message is a sweet odor or aroma to your soul and that you will embrace the gospel by coming to God in repentance and in faith to Christ. Thus we see the Condemnation of the TRUTH, not that the truth is condemn, but again that the TRUTH of GOD will condemn your soul if you die without Christ. Reminds me of the words of the Lord Jesus Christ in John 5:24, "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and **shall not come into condemnation**; but is passed from death unto life.*" Remember also Christ says in John 3:18, "*He that believeth on him is not condemned: **but he that believeth not is condemned already**, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*" This brings us to our 6<sup>th</sup> and final point:

## VI. The Conquering of the Truth:

No doubt that the truth of the gospel always conquers when the Spirit of God is applied because its power is from God. One of my favorite verses in the Bible is Romans 5:20 where it says that, "*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, **grace did much more abound**.*" No matter how great the sin, grace is greater than all our sins. When I remember the sins of my youth, I shudder to think that my sins would have damned me to hell were it not for the precious blood of Christ that saved me and cleanse me from my sins. No matter how great my sins were, God's grace was greater and God's mercy deep, the blood of Christ cleanse me from all my sins. To think that I stand before God this morning forgiven and justified just baffles my mind, but it's true and it causes me to love my God and to serve Him as a willful bond slave until the day I die.

Now, the phrase in verse 20, "*...did much more abound,*" is one Greek word. It is the Greek word '**Huperperisseuo**' it is a compound word made up from huper = over or super + perisseuo = which means be above or be over, that is; to cause to overflow or superabound. The application basically means to be in great excess or to be in great abundance, that is; to be full and be running over or to be overflowing. As one writer has put it, "*Where sin overflowed, grace flooded in.*" Where sin abounded, thanks be to God that GRACE did MUCH MORE SUPERABOUND! Martyn Lloyd Jones says, "*The idea is that of an overflowing, as if a mighty flood were let loose, sweeping everything before it. Indeed, we might well use the term 'engulfed'; such an abundance, such a superabundance that it drowns and engulfs everything.*" I also love what Spurgeon says, "*Blessed be God for that, sin may be a river, but grace is an ocean, sin may be a mountain, but grace is like Noah's flood which prevailed over the tops of the mountains fifteen cubits upwards.*" Thus, where sin multiplies over and

over, the grace of God always exceeds it without measure. What hope for every sinner, all my sins can be forgiven, every single one of them by the grace of God. There are basically two types of sinners in the world, one says my sins are too great, you have no idea what I have done, but again grace can conquer any fear and grace will forgive and subdue our sins. The other type says self-righteously, I'm not that bad, I've done a few bad things but I'm not that bad, grace can conquer this self-righteous approach also. The question that needs to be asked is; how many sins do I have to commit to go to hell? Just one, the simple sin of unbelief will damn a sinner for all eternity. We like to categorize sin, though there is a sense that one sin is greater than another sin, but all is needed to be condemned before God is one sin. We look at big sins like murder, adultery and so forth, but what about the sin of pride, the sin of covetousness and what about the sin of lying or the sin of not loving your neighbor? We think we can get away with all these sins, and I didn't even throw in the sin of idolatry, which can be anything that keeps you away from God, could be sports, could be your work, could be your family? You see our problem lies in the fact that we think that if we do not commit some atrocity, some wicked sin, then we are ok, but are we? Sin is sin and the Bible is quite clear that the wages of sin is death and that the soul that sinneth shall die. Have you ever read in Psalm 130 where it says in verse 3, "*If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?*" But thanks be to God for verse 4 and 7, "*But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. 7 Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.*" What a blessing, no matter how great the sin or how great the number of sin, there is mercy with God and there is plenteous redemption with God, because where sin abound, GRACE does MUCH MORE SUPERABOUNDS! Reminds me of that great hymn:

### **Grace Greater than Our Sin**

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

### **Refrain**

*Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide.  
What can avail to wash it away?  
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,  
Brighter than snow you may be today.

### **Refrain**

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
Freely bestowed on all who believe!  
You that are longing to see His face,  
Will you this moment His grace receive?

Grace is greater than all our sins, because where sin abounds, Grace does much more SUPERABOUNDS! Do you know how many sins you have committed against God? By simple math we can see the number of our sins to a degree, for example, just being conservative, if we were to sin 10 times a day at 365 days a year it would be 3,650 sins, if 25 sins it would be 9,165 in a year if I multiply that by my age 60 years it's 547,500 in my lifetime. If I double 25 to 50 sins a day at my age of 60 it is well over 1 million sins, 1,095,000. So what can wash my sins away, nothing but the blood of Jesus! Hebrews 2:3 says, "*How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation...*" reminds us that we have such a great salvation and the reason we have such a great salvation is because we are such great sinners!

Sometimes we take sin so lightly or we become insensitive to sin, but sin is what separates us from God and sin is what brings forth death and sin is the cause of every sickness in the world, sin is the cause of every war and sin is what condemns a person to hell. A person who dies without Christ goes to hell because of their sins. John Blanchard describes sin as that, "*...which defiles man and defies God... and or sin is moral mutiny by man.*" Tozer says, "*The essence of sin is rebellion against divine authority.*"

The best thing that can ever happen to a person is to have their sins forgiven them by God and God doesn't do this arbitrarily, but when a person comes in repentance of sin to Him, God will forgive and save. I love what John 6:37 says, "*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*"

In Isaiah 59:2 & 3 it says "*But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. 3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.*"

Sin is what separates us from God, sin is what shall condemn a person to hell if they die without Christ. Oh to God I pray that you listen to the good news of the Bible which includes 1 Timothy 1:15, "*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*" Then of course those precious words of Romans 10:9-13, "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*"



Jesus says so carefully in John 8:24, *“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”* The good news is that we do not need to die in our sins we can die in CHRIST oh I hope that you hear God calling you this morning and come to Christ this very moment and call upon His Holy Name for the salvation of your soul: Proverbs 28:13 says, *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*

Isaiah 45:22 says, *“Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”* Isaiah 1:18, *“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”* Isa.55:6 & 7, *“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”* The conquering of the truth is the salvation of your soul: Let's Pray: