

“THE PLAGUES OF EGYPT: THAT THOU MAYEST KNOW THAT THERE IS NONE LIKE UNTO THE LORD OUR GOD”

PT 2

Pastor Jose Maldonado

Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church

Nov. 27, 2016

“And he said, To morrow. And he said, Be it according to thy word: that thou mayest know that there is none like unto the LORD our God.” Exodus 8:10

We return this morning to our new series on “The Plagues of Egypt: That Thou Mayest Know That There Is None Like Unto The LORD Our God!” As we said last week I repeat that I don’t share this story just to give you a historical narrative of the 10 Plagues, no my intent is to set forth the Omnipotent Sovereignty of God and to declare to you that there is no other God like the God of the Bible and that salvation is found only in this same God that delivered Israel from the oppression and bondage of Egypt.

Again, this is the SAME SOVEREIGN GOD who delivers sinners from their sins that is; from the oppression and bondage of sin is the same God that delivered the Israelites from Pharaoh and Egyptian bondage. We have made emphasis regarding the similarity regarding the story in book of Exodus that this is a type of our spiritual salvation as Egypt is a type of the world, Pharaoh is a type of Satan and their deliverance is a type of our redemption in Christ. One of my favorite verses in Exodus is Exodus 6:6, *“Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments.”* God redeems sinners with an omnipotent and sovereign stretched out arm.

We set forth 3 things to you last week:

I. The Plagues were to Declare God’s Power:

II. The Plagues were to Deliver God’s People:

III. The Plagues were to Demonstrate God’s Preeminence:

All the plagues were specific in that they were by the definite hand of GOD, in other words they were on purpose by design in the demonstration of His SOVEREIGN POWER! God’s POWER is seen and declared in the sending of these plagues. Under our first point we had 8 sub points in the declaration of God’s Power: The Plagues (1) They were **Predicted**. (2) They were **Planned**. (3) They were **Particular**. (4) They

were **Partial**. (5) They were to **Punish**. (6) They were **Patterned** (7) They were **Purposeful** that is; they were decisive and fixed and (8) they were a **Prototype** of future judgment.

Under the 6th point that they were **PATTERNED**: The plagues were also set forth in a pattern, yea a very distinct pattern with each progressing in intensity. They can be divided in a series of 4: I mentioned 4 things:

- (1). The first 3 plagues 1-3 produced: **Distress**: From the water being turn into blood; frogs and lice upon man and beast which created such discomfort: You couldn't drink the water or water your crops it was a complete contamination of water supply therefore the liveliness of the Nile was completely gone. Then the frogs came and you couldn't even go to bed because there were frogs everywhere plus their property was ruined and there was threat of disease and then you could not hide from the lice that was throughout the land of Egypt. Thus these first 3 plagues created awful distress:
- (2). The next 3 plagues 4-6 produced: **Discomfort**: The next 3 plagues would produce awful discomfort anguish upon the people and land. There was great damage everywhere except of course in the land of Goshen. The 4th plague were flies which led to awful pollution and uncleanness. This particular plague also got the attention of Pharaoh as he willing to negotiate. This was also the first plague where God put a division between Israel and the Egyptians: "*And I will put a division between my people and thy people...*" Ex.8:23. Then in the 5th plague the livestock was killed and in the 6th plague was awful boils to which the magicians were not only not able to get rid of but they were so afflicted by that they could not stand before Moses as they were unable to stand, work or move about.
- (3). The next 3 plagues 7-9 produced: **Destruction**: These 3 plagues brought forth destruction and devastation. The plague of grievous hail that thundered in Egypt. It was the worst thunderstorm ever in that land. This 7th plague caused both destruction and death as the result of hailstorms and lightening. The 8th plague brought forth the locusts. Whatever the hailstorm did not destroyed the locusts would wipe out their food supply. Then the 9th plague was the awful plague of darkness. This plague of darkness was so intense in that it produced such fear and dread in the hearts of the Egyptians because of the inability to see move or work. For 3 days there intense darkness so that they were all confined in the awful darkness, yea a darkness that could be felt. This plague was aimed at the chief Egyptian deity the

sun god Re or Ra of whom Pharaoh was a representation.

- (4). The last plague # 10 produced: **Death**: This last plague was the death of the firstborn males. This totally devastated and overwhelmed Egypt because they were all affected by this plague as all the firstborn males would die. This plague was perhaps more devastating than the former ones because it included death in every Egyptian family.

Thus, under our first point The Plagues were to Declare God's POWER.

Secondly: **II. The Plagues were to Deliver God's People:**

When God met Moses at burning bush He said to him in Ex.3:7 & 8, "*And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; 8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey...*"

Now turn to Ex.6:1-8. It was very clear that God was going to deliver His people. As a matter of fact back in Genesis 15:13 - 14 it says, "*And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; 14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. 15 And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.*"

Allow me to insert something very important here that I've not found in the commentaries that I have. Not saying that no one has dealt with this already but if they have I don't have their commentary. You see I believe that there are two specific reasons why they were to be delivered but both of them fall under the category of glorifying God which is set forth in the first question of both the Baptist and Protestant Catechism as question # 1 simply asks: What is the chief end of man? The answer is: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Even in their bondage and hardships they were to glorify God and enjoy Him. This is also applicable to us that is; even if we go through hardships, circumstances and trials if does not absolve us of glorifying God in our lives. Sometimes we think that because we are in an intense trial that we don't have to continue to in our Christian duties in serving God. No, whether there is sunshine or clouds in your life, your chief duty is to GLORIFY GOD. What some don't understand is that this is a means to help us as we go through difficulties. You see as long as see the need to glorify God our eyes are set upon Him, but as we take our eyes off our God we start to set our eyes upon our problems and trials and they rob us of faith, because now we are more consumed with our problems instead of being consumed with God, thus the children of Israel should be a lesson for us in that even in their hardships they were to glorify God and to enjoy Him.

Now, going back to our 2nd point the plagues were to deliver God's people: We have given you the reason and that is they were to be delivered for the purpose to glorify God, and this glorification of God was seen: (1st) TO SERVE God and secondly (2) to SACRIFICE to God which is part of glorifying God and enjoying Him in our service to Him. We glorify God in serving Him and in worshipping Him, this again is the whole essence of man, this is why we were created, to serve God with a willing heart in sincerity and truth and to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. We must not lose sight of this in the 10 plagues, because they were given to glorify God first and foremost everything else is under the aspect of His providence. Thus, the Plagues were to Deliver God's people, but for what? First to glorify God and then secondly: to serve Him and to worship Him, again please keep this mindset as we go through the 10 plagues, to glorify God by serving and worshipping HIM! First they were:

- (1) To Serve God,
- (2). To Sacrifice to God. By sacrifice I specifically mean to WORSHIP the Living and TRUE GOD!

They were to be delivered in order to serve God and to also sacrifice that is, to WORSHIP the Living and TRUE GOD! I want you to notice that these two things were made very clear to Moses from the very beginning so that there would be no misunderstanding in the part of Moses as he was called of God to lead the people out of Egypt so that they might freely serve God and sacrifice to God, that is; to serve and worship GOD! Turn to Exodus 3:1-18 where God spoke to Moses from the fiery bush: I'll read the whole context so that you can see from the very beginning it was all about SERVING God and sacrificing to Him or if you wish WORSHIPPING HIM! From here on out this is what Moses will continue to tell Pharaoh. Turn to Ex.4:21 -23. Ex.7:16, 8:1 & 20, 9:1 & 13. Not only to serve God but to sacrifice/worship HIM secondly:

Ex.5:1-3, the words feast in verse 1 and sacrifice in verse 3 clearly show that they were being delivered to WORSHIP GOD! Ex.8:8; 25-28. I want you to notice in this section of verses Moses introduces us to the Regulative Principle of worship that is; God regulates our worship, we worship according to what God has shown us. John 4:24, *"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."* Now the opposite of the Regulative Principle of Worship is the Normative Principle of worship which says that if it is not prohibited in the Bible we are at liberty to worship as we please: Did you notice verse 27. Let's read it again very carefully notice that Moses did not compromise to accommodate his situation. Look at Ex.10:8-11. Same thing again in verses 24-27, don't you just love the answer of Moses in verse 26, yes AMEN! Then God says to Moses in 11:1. Then of course you have in chapter 12 the instruction regarding worship as God gives them and instructs on The LORD's Passover. As they are leaving in Exodus 13 Moses reminds them very clearly in verses 9-10 & verse 16. There is much more which we will cover as we go through these texts but I believe you get my point:

(Matt.16:24-26 with John 12:26 regarding the importance of serving God, as God is not interested in your lip service of your mere religion, no God wants your heart, notice the words of Matthew 15:7-9, “Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”) The Plagues were to Deliver God’s People for the purpose of serving Him and worshipping Him! Quickly in Exodus 12:40-42, “Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. 42 It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.” The LORD took them out of the land of Egypt on time, He was not early nor was He late, and He did it on HIS TIMETABLE according to His Holy WILL and PURPOSE! The end result of these plagues was to let His people GO and they did let them Go to serve God! In Ex.18:10 notice the words from Moses’s father in law: “And Jethro said, Blessed be **the LORD, who hath delivered you** out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaoh, who hath delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians.” There is much more here but we a lot to cover and I believe the point is made quite clear that the Plagues were to DELIVER God’s People!

III. The Plagues were to Demonstrate God’s Preeminence:

Not only were the Plagues given to Declare God’s Power and to Deliver God’s People but also that these same plagues would Demonstrate God’s Preeminence that is; THAT HE ALONE IS SUPREME and SUPERIOR to everything. This was the whole purpose of the plagues to show that there is no other God but the LIVING and TRUE God; Jehovah – Yahweh! Again Ex.9:16, “And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to show in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.” God used the plagues to show Pharaoh and the Egyptians and to teach us this TRUTH: The LORD (Jehovah, Yahweh) is the only TRUE God of salvation and that He is the Sovereign Lord and Majesty of the whole universe who knows every star by name and He is the God who controls all nature and all history. I want you to notice how God over and over again uses the word KNOW to show and manifest His PREEMINENCE! Starting in:

- Exodus 6:7, “And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and **ye shall know that I am the LORD your God**, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.” He speak to His people these words:
- Exodus 7:5, “And **the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD**, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.” He now speaks to the Egyptians these words.

- Exodus 7:16 & 17, “And thou shalt say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness: and, behold, hitherto thou wouldest not hear. 17 Thus saith the LORD, **In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD**: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.” Now He tells Pharaoh these same self-words.
- Exodus 8:8, 9 & 10, “Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, Intreat the LORD, that he may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the LORD. 9 And Moses said unto Pharaoh, Glory over me: when shall I intreat for thee, and for thy servants, and for thy people, to destroy the frogs from thee and thy houses, that they may remain in the river only? 10 And he said, To morrow. And he said, Be it according to thy word: **that thou mayest know that there is none like unto the LORD our God.**”
- Exodus 8:22, “And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; **to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.**” The phrase, ‘to the end’ is the Hebrew word ‘**Ma-an**’ which means for this purpose or to this intent:
- Exodus 9:14, “For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; **that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth.**”
- Exodus 9:29, “And Moses said unto him, As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; **that thou mayest know how that the earth is the LORD'S.**”
- Exodus 10:2, “And that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; **that ye may know how that I am the LORD.**”
- Exodus 11:7, “But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: **that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.**”

Yes, God’s PREEMINENCE is clearly set forth with these verses and of course all the others one we have share, thus: The Plagues were to Declare God’s Power, The Plagues were to Deliver God’s People and The Plagues were to Demonstrate God’s Preeminence. There’s more we can add but I decided to just set it forth with these 3 simple points. The plagues display the Sovereignty and Severity of the Living and True God.

Again the reason for the Exodus was for the purpose that they would serve and worship God and in doing this it would glorify God. For again this was the purpose for setting the people go so that they would give God all the glory because man's chief end is to glory God. The chief purpose of man and the ultimate end of all existence is to give to give glory to God. Well, as we can see Pharaoh had no interest in giving glory to God because he wanted all the glory for himself, so Pharaoh refused to give the glory to God. The end result was that his heart was hardened and unyielding to God and he refused to let the people go. It was his obstinate and rebellious heart that brought down the plagues on Egypt. This is an example of what happens when a sinner sets himself up against God. It is amazing to see Pharaoh's resolve so strong against the Lord. This is why sometimes I say to those who are lost, through down your arms of rebellion against God and take sides with God against yourself.

Notice 3 verses in particular that shows his awful pride: First in Ex.7:22 & 23, "*And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's **heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them**; as the LORD had said. 23 And **Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also.***" What we see here is nothing but pride, stinking wretched pride: You see this stubborn king had no interest or intention of submitting and or yielding to the Sovereign God of the Israelites and for that matter no one else! After the magicians duplicated this plague you see his awful pride. As a matter of fact when Moses and Aaron came before Pharaoh in this same chapter in verse 9, remember God said that Pharaoh would challenge them to perform a miracle. Pharaoh was not interested all he wanted was to be amused, to be entertained. Sounds like many churches in our day who want to be entertained than to be preached to with the TRUTH of God. People are more interested on Sunday morning's on being amuse that to be acquainted with the TRUTH of God. Reminds me also of King Herod who lived 1,500 years later from Pharaoh's time. When Herod finally met Jesus he like Pharaoh and many people were not interest in God, His word or God's kingdom, they are not interested in hearing a message on salvation or repentance, no all they want it to be amuse by seeing a miracle, Luke 23:6-8, "*When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean. 7 And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time. 8 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.*"

Notice also in Ex.10:3, "*And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.*" This was the main problem of Pharaoh, he refused to humble himself before God and all those outside Christ are also charged with this same sin of refusing to bow down to the Living and True God. Do you remember the first time that Moses and Aaron confronting Pharaoh what Pharaoh said: Again in Ex.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.*” Sinners say the same thing, who is the LORD that I should obey His voice, but they say I will not let my sins go. But then allow problems to arise maybe a sickness or a death in the family, it might affect the conscience as to the reality of life and death but like Pharaoh when it all passes away sinners will go and sin yet more, look quickly at the THIRD verse in Ex. 9:34, *“And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, **he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart**, he and his servants.”* After the lighting and thunder of his own conscience ceased he sinned yet more and hardened his heart.

The problem with Pharaoh is the problem of all man. You see in our lost estate we believe and think that we are not accountable to anyone which includes God. No one has a right to tell me what to do or what not to do. What is one of the first words your children learn at a very young age: NO, and then they pull the shoulder away from you. If you don't deal properly with that attitude it will create many more problems as they get older. Just look at the way people responded when Hillary lost the election. This is also the problem of our day with man's thinking or man's philosophy of moral relativity, if you feel that it is not sin, it is not sin, if you do not think it is wrong it is not wrong so we rationalize our behavior as though there is no accountability at all. Just look around you, at you work on the news, but oh my dear ones again the Scriptures declare: *“But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.”* Pharaoh learned the hard way that his sins would find him and out. He also learn the hard way that the wages of sin is DEATH and that the soul that sinneth shall die! Don't make the same mistake as Pharaoh learn from his mistakes and look to God this morning: Pharaoh thought that he could negotiate with God: God does not negotiate with sinners, He commands sinners to repent He demands that sinners repent! As a matter of fact the meek, mild and loving Jesus also said in Luke 13:5, *“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”* He also declared 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.”*

Don't get to the point that sin begins to harden your heart and then sin starts to deaden you conscience so that no longer do we feel guilty and then it leads that if we don't feel guilty it's because we are not guilty. This is why God warns us on the deceivableness of our hearts in Jeremiah 17:9, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”* Because before too long when engaging in this ideology we will do things we never believed we were capable of doing. I pray that God speaks to your heart this morning and that you would flee to God as your only hope. Isaiah 45:18, 21-23, *“For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. 21 Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. 22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. 23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall*

bow, every tongue shall swear.” Isaiah 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.”

Come this morning in repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!
Let's Pray and Let's Sing: