
SG020202

The Whole Counsel of God – Exodus 5-8

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Introduction & Overview of the Section

Last week we looked at God developing the Deliverer. The time had come for God to deliver His people from Egypt, but first Moses needed to be prepared. As we get to chapter 5, Moses is 80 years old and ready to be used by the Lord. God brings upon Egypt 10 plagues so that the Egyptians, and the children of Israel might know that He is God!

God Delivers His People from Egypt

#1 - The Prologue (Exodus 5:1-7:13)

In this section we see what leads up to the plagues. A chain of events is set in motion starting with Moses and Aaron coming before Pharaoh. He rejects what they request, and increases the load upon the children of Israel. They turn around and complain to Moses who goes right to God. That gives God the chance to explain why the plagues are needed to deliver the people. The Egyptians and the Israelis need to know that God is the Lord.

#2 - The Plagues (Exodus 7:14-11:10)

God unleashes ten plagues upon the nation of Egypt. As mentioned above, their primary reason is to show the Egyptian people and the Israeli people that He is the Lord, but there is something else at work here. With each of the plagues one of the Egyptian gods is being shown to be powerless.

#3 - The Passover (Exodus 12:1-51)

For the last plague, “The death of the firstborn”, God provided a way of escape. The Israelites were to go through a ceremony that would come to be known as The Passover. The blood of the lamb slain, needed to be applied to the doorposts for the Angel of Death to Passover. The symbolism of the feast seen with the work Jesus Christ did for us and how we are saved is amazing.

Going Deeper (think it over or discuss with your family)

#1 –As you read through Moses’ dealings with Pharaoh, (Exodus 5-12) how many compromises can you find Pharaoh trying to get Moses to make?

#2 - Do you see the enemy of your soul trying to get you to walk in any of those compromises?

#3 – As you read chapter 12 of Exodus concerning the Passover, how many similarities can you find between Jesus and the lamb of the Passover?

Homework 4 Next Week – Read Exodus 9-12

Exodus 5-8

“The Plagues – part one”

The Book of Exodus can be divided into 3 sections

#1 - Exodus 1-4 – God Develops His Man

- It is the story of the background and calling of Moses

#2 - Exodus 5-24 – God Delivers His people

- By bringing them out of Egypt
- By setting them apart in the wilderness
- By giving to them His law

#3 - Exodus 25-40 – God Dwells with His Saints

- The design of the tabernacle
 - The building of the tabernacle
- Just a guess but you might hear that again

Last week we began our study of the book of Exodus

- And we saw God developing His man
 - A great need had arisen
 - Israel needed a deliverer and so God did just that
- Not doing it the way we might
 - But doing it the way He Knows is best

So now that we have seen the need, the birth, the preparation, the calling and the obedience of the deliverer, as chapter 5 opens

- Moses is 80 years old
 - God has prepared him thoroughly, humbled him deeply to the point that he is usable
 - And now the deliverance will begin

And it is brought about by 10 devastating plagues, which is the main subject here tonight

- If you are taking notes tonight and next week – we are going to see

Exodus 5-12

- **The Prologue - Exodus 5:1 – 7:13**
 - what happened before and brought on the plagues
- **The Plagues – Exodus 7:14 – 11:10**
- **The Passover – Exodus 12:1-51**
 - a Feast of the Lord brought on by the final plague that will set the people free
 - the Passover has huge implications in the Sacrifice of Christ, as we will discover

The Prologue – Read Exodus 5:1-23

- Moses and Aaron go before Pharaoh and boldly declare, “God says, Let my people go”
 - Now this sets a chain of events in motion that lead to the coming of the ten plagues

It begins first with the reaction of Pharaoh

- He says, “Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice, I do not know Him, nor will I let Israel go.”
 - Pharaoh is going to come to regret that statement – who is the Lord, I don’t know Him
 - You are going to get to know Him

But then Pharaoh takes it further than a simple rejection of Moses’ request.

- He stiffens the burden upon the people of Israel. – “you have time to think about going to worship your God, then you need more work. Collect your own straw and keep the number of bricks you make in the day the same.
 - You know it is really interesting to me, they have now done excavations in the city of Phyton in Egypt and they have found evidence of this
- Great brick structures where the bricks on the lower levels are made with straw, then the next level has got uneven amounts of straw, then the upper levels was just made of grass and whatever else you would find lying around – just as the book of Exodus talks about

But this having to make bricks without straw leads to the next chain of events and that is the outcry of the people

- they start by asking Pharaoh why they have to collect their own straw
 - and when he tells them it is because Moses and Aaron have come before them, they turn on Moses
 - “you have made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh and you have given him a sword to kill us.” – good job, deliverer
- Instead of coming before the Lord, trusting in the leadership that He had established, and crying out to Him, God save us

They go in rebellion and complain against Moses

- And unfortunately we are going to see this seen repeated over and over in the book of Exodus

But the people’s complaining leads to the next chain of events and that is Moses goes to God, and pours out his heart in verses 22-23

- and this is so important for you and me to see
 - as I just mentioned – this will not be the last time the people of God turn on God’s leader – they will do it over and over again, in this book

But that is just the point – God wants to teach Moses how to deal with this issue

- He obviously, as we continue in this story, does not just simply want to take away the trouble

We get into our minds sometimes that God’s ultimate goal for us in our happiness

- that all He wants for you and me is fields of flowers and joys
 - but friends – although God does desire to bless us, and though He does want us to walk in joy, happiness is not His ultimate goal, our holiness, our completeness as a child of God is what the Lord is aiming for with us

And so He will allow us to face things over and over again in our lives as He teaches us the lesson we need to learn

Sometimes I will counsel a married couple who are having trouble with one another – and the conversation goes like this – “He is just like this and it drives me crazy. She does

this and I can't stand it – and so we have decided to end the marriage, the best way out of this trouble is to just remove the situation.

- although that sounds good to our intellects – here is the problem with that type of thinking
 - often God is wanting to teach you something through that circumstance, He is wanting to grow you through that experience
- And just because you usurp His authority and remove the circumstance – does not mean that God is done teaching you that lesson

And I can't tell you how many times I have seen a couple divorce and then remarry and they find themselves in the exact same situation

- And we use worldly lingo to explain this – “I'm attracted to the same type of hurtful person”
 - Maybe? – Or maybe God is trying to teach you something – and to remove the lesson does nothing but put it off for another day

Watch what Moses does with this problem, and know it will be the foundation of how he deals with what God is going to bring over and over again

- Moses goes to the Lord
 - Moses, honestly pours out his heart before God
 - And finds this is the way to deal with these things
- “I couldn't talk to God like Moses did” – He already knows your heart
 - Be honest, cast your cares upon Him
 - And be sensitive to His leading – watch Him work
- God then responds to Moses...

God responds to Moses – Exodus 6:1-13 & 7:1-13

- 4 times God says to Moses as he pours out his heart, “I am the Lord!!!!”
 - and He reiterates this message, and He is bringing the plagues so everyone will understand who He is and who is really in charge

God is bringing the plagues...

#1 – Because His people need to know

- God says I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but by my name LORD, I was not known to them
 - This covenant name of God YHVH – that we really don't know how to pronounce – Jewish scholars long ago left out the pronunciation marks so no one would speak the covenant name of God
 - Jehovah or Yahweh is probably close
- But God is saying – My people need to know who I am
 - They are dealing harshly with Moses, they are walking in unbelief – they do not have a genuine fear of the Lord
 - And so God says, “I am going to do this – for the people – that they may know I am the Lord!

God is bringing the plagues...

#1 – Because His people need to know

#2 – That Pharaoh & the Egyptians may know

- God says I am going to harden Pharaoh's heart

- But before we start to think Pharaoh had no part in this – please understand
- 5 times the text is going to say that Pharaoh hardens his own heart
- 5 times it will say God hardened his heart
- Yes God is going to use Pharaoh’s hard heart for His purposes – but it was going to do something to him

The term that God uses literally means to strengthen Pharaoh’s heart

- Pharaoh already thought He was god
 - Pharaoh already was determined to not follow the Lord
 - So God strengthened him in his decision to accomplish His purposes
 - To deliver His people

He is going to do it through mighty plagues

- And even this is for a reason
 - That Moses, that the people, that Pharaoh and the Egyptians might know that He is the Lord
 - That is not these false gods of nature
- And as we see these plagues tonight – you will see that each one of them are direct attacks on the gods of Egypt

The chain starts with Moses before Pharaoh

- Pharaoh gets mad, makes the people work harder
 - The people get mad, blame Moses
 - Moses goes to God, cries out
- And God says, “I am the Lord” – and I am bringing these plagues for a reason – and now we see them

The Plagues

#1 – The River turned to blood – Read Exodus 7:14-25

- God first strikes the River Nile
 - Now if you know one thing about Egypt – you know it has pyramids, if you know 2 things – you know the Nile is Egypt’s source of life

The people were dependent on the river for drinking water, to water their crops and to perform the necessary cleansing they needed to do

- The River was so important – they had a special god Hapi and his wife Isis – who were the god and goddess of the Nile

And so as God struck this body of water for seven days and turned it into blood

- it was a direct slap in the face to these false gods who were helpless to do anything about it
 - But Pharaoh does not repent, will not let the people go, and so the plagues continue

#2 - The plague of frogs – Read Exodus 8:1-15

- the frog was very important to the Egyptians

The idol they created which they named Heqet (Hecktick) to represent this god had the body of a woman and the head of a frog – pictures of Frog god

- it was like a worst case scenario for a blind date
 - but they worshipped this representation of the frog god, because they loved their frogs in Egypt

- the frogs would eat the bugs, in days before pesticides
 - it was also considered a delicacy
 - though if you can eat your god, he is not much of a god
- well, they worshipped frogs, they loved frogs and now they have them everywhere

But when the Egyptian magicians were able to duplicate the plague, Pharaoh hardened his heart once again and would not let the people go

- Now a word on these magicians
 - We don't know if they were doing some kind of trick or more than likely, Egyptians were known for their involvement in the Occult, it could be some sort of demonic power
- But here is the thing that is interesting to me – this demonic power never makes things better, it only makes things worse
 - It would be one thing if they could turn blood back into water, or get rid of the frogs, but they just produce more blood, and more frogs

And such will always be the case

- the enemy may be able to do powerful things in your life
 - but it will never make things better
 - Satan does have good days – oh I'm going to bless them today
- He is not like Reck it Ralph and decides to be good
 - He will always make things worse
 - Just like these instruments of the enemy here

So these guys just keep producing more of the problem

- And what Egypt once worshipped, now they have them coming out of everywhere
 - And Pharaoh says, I have had enough

You see what was once a pleasure to them had now becomes a plague

- and let me tell you what a plague it would have been
 - I've done some research on frogs this week and found some interesting facts

Unlike flies who have multiple eyes and little hairs to sense when you are swatting at them – frogs do not - meaning

- In places where they have had infestations before, the people complained that as they would get up at night and walk to kitchens for a drink, they would step on frogs with every step
 - Frog guts between the toes
 - Sick – oh you think that is sick

When a frog gets sick to its stomach, it vomits up its entire stomach, not just the contents, listen to me its entire stomach – no, it gets better!!!

- the frog then takes its legs and scrapes off the remaining contents of its stomach
 - think about that next time you eat frog legs
- then the frog swallows its stomach again

Imagine watching that happen over and over again in your kitchen

- and then that isn't even mentioning the noise
 - over and over again

- Truly what once was a pleasure to them had now become a plague
 - This is what they were facing in Egypt

**So Moses asks (verses 9-10 in chapter 8), “What do you want me to do?” –
When do you want them to go?**

- And Pharaoh says, “Tomorrow” – one more night with the frogs
 - Tomorrow??? - What????
 - Why did he not say, “right now????”

This seems strange until we pull it from ancient Egypt and begin to see it today

- we too have things we experience that once may have brought us pleasure, but now becomes a plague
 - Alcohol – it relaxes me, it brings me such joy, not big deal
 - But then it becomes a plague

The relationship was so fun – sure he wasn’t a believer but doesn’t really matter – he is so fun

- But now it has become a plague
 - Maybe those pictures off the internet – at first they were just an escape from reality

But now it has become a plague, threatening your family

- and the Lord comes to us and says, “I have provided for you a way of escape, I want to deal with this in your life
 - You repent, and reckon that old man dead and I will work in your life, so when do you want Me to free you, when do you want to get started’
- And we respond oh I know it needs to go

Oh I know it’s bad - I know You have the ability to deal with this in my life

- But how about we start tomorrow?
 - One more night with the frogs

We kid ourselves when it comes to our sin that we are going to get involved just one more time

- just one more drunken binge
 - just one more high
- Just one more fling with that person
 - Just one more look at that website
- And then tomorrow we will get on deliverance, tomorrow we will have victory

But friends – tomorrow never comes – it is a trick of the enemy to rip you off – today is the day of salvation!

#3 – The Plague of Lice – Read Exodus 8:16-19

- The third plague: God brings lice on the people
 - And this plague was devastating to these people, because cleanliness was of the utmost importance, especially to those in the upper class
 - The priests would shave their entire body every other day to avoid this one thing – lice
 - Now they were everywhere – you would look down and the ground would move – anybody itchy yet
- But as Moses tossed the dust up in the air, this plague was not just a personal affront, but an attack on yet another Egyptian God

- Set – was the god of the desert or literally the dust
- And God is saying, I can change your god into lice

And then to make things worse, this is the first plague where the magicians could do nothing to copy it

- they go to Pharaoh and tell him, this is the finger of God
 - but still – Pharaoh’s heart grew hard and he would not let the people go, so the plagues continue...

#4 – The Plague of Flies – Read Exodus 8:20-24

- The Egyptians had a god by the name of Uatchit and though he wasn’t a fly – he loved the fly – it was his little pet (weird)
 - Well God is going to take his little pet – and make him a terror to the Egyptians
- The phrase – verse 21 ‘on you’ – indicates that this type of fly was one common in the area, the fly bites you and implants his eggs in your skin, and nourishes them, by throwing up your skin on her babies
 - Love it – nice – sick – horrible

Now this is also the first plague in which God made a separation between His people and the Egyptians

- He says, but in the land of Goshen, that was where the Jewish people were – there will be no flies
 - This is the first instance of a no fly zone in the middle east
 - The no fly zone is very common all over the region today, but this was the first no fly zone
 - Not one laugh – really – no fly zone?

But God creates a separation between His people and the people of the world

- and this ministers something to me

Some plagues the Israelites had to endure because they lived in Egypt, and some they avoided because they were God’s people

- As you and I go through life there are things we have to face because we are living in the fallen world

Cancer, sickness – hurricanes – we live in a fallen world – we are all effected by sin

- However there are certain things you and I will never have to face because we are God’s people
 - What are you talking about

As I walk with the Lord – My liver will not pickle because of Alcohol abuse – it just won’t – I choose not to be involved in that so it won’t

- and the news can show how America is ravaged by the effects of alcohol abuse
 - and it may be true – but I won’t be
 - Because I am walking as a child of God

I bring it up, because there are some things that happen to us because we live in a fallen world

- And there is the tendency to think – then what is the advantage of being a child of God

- If the rain falls on the just and the unjust alike
- Or there are many - Because there are some things the world sees as unavoidable plagues, that you and I need never to experience, because we are walking with the Lord

But now Pharaoh offers a compromise – He says. Okay you can go sacrifice, but stay in the land, don't go into the wilderness

- and this is going to be the first of three compromises that Pharaoh offers and I just want to point them out to you, because the enemy of our soul, the same one who was the power behind the throne of Egypt, does and offers the same things to us

Three Compromises of Pharaoh

#1 – Don't go too far – Exodus 8:28

#2 – Don't take your families – Exodus 10:10

#3 – Don't take your money – Exodus 10:24

- the enemy knows you are a child of God so he has lost that battle, but then he offers compromises

Okay you are believer – but don't be crazy, don't go to church on Sunday morning and Wednesday Night

- that is cult status right there – reign the Jesus freakiness in a little bit

Okay you want to go to Wednesday – awesome, but don't put that on your kids

- they have homework, they have sports and what would a child's life be like if he didn't go to little league on Wednesday nights, empty – so leave the family at home

And don't give them money – don't invest your treasure in the Kingdom of God

- And the enemy offers these because he knows – well maybe I can cut off the next generation of faith
 - I know that where your treasure there you heart will follow – so don't give

The enemy will always offer a compromise

- but Moses would not compromise with what God had told him and the people to do
 - and we need to learn the lesson
 - Pharaoh did not, and so the plagues continue..

The Big idea in the text is the people of Israel and the Egyptians need to know – God is the Lord

- His Word stands
 - And we need to know the same thing
 - We have a choice every day to either respond to what the Lord calls us to do
 - Or live in Rebellion and suffer the consequences
 - It is time that we understand – He is the Lord
 - He has told us what do to because He loves us
- So no compromises – we need to live full on for Him!
 - Well, we are going to have to stop there tonight