
SG020203

The Whole Counsel of God – Exodus 9-12

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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?

Exodus 9-12

“The Plagues – part two”

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 did not finish our look at the plagues and the Passover and so we pick it up where we left off in chapter 9

- For some context remember with me what has happened up to this point

Exodus begins about 300 years after the death of Joseph in the book of Genesis

- You add in the life of Joseph and the Life of Moses and you get to the 430 total years the Bible says the children of Israel were in bondage (Exodus 12:40 and Galatians 3:17)

Israel in that time has gone from a people enjoying the best of the land as guest of Pharaoh

- To living in cruel bondage as slaves of Pharaoh

And so God saw it was time to deliver His people, to bring them out of the bondage of Egypt and begin to point them toward the promise land

- and the story of this is the book we are studying
 - It begins (Chapters 1-4) with God developing His man

80 years of preparation for the ministry God had for Moses

- We are now in the second section of book of Exodus, (Chapters 5-24) – God delivers His people
 - And we see He delivers them from the hand of the Egyptians through a series of 10 plagues

Now we considered last week the reason God used plagues

- it was for a very specific purpose
 - When Moses and Aaron first go in front of Pharaoh he tells them “Who is the Lord?”
- And that was definitely true – The people of Egypt and even Pharaoh himself thought he was a god
 - As well as hundreds of other things as gods

And so the Lord brings 10 plagues upon the nation of Egypt

- and He does it in such a way so that He begins them at Moses word, and takes them away as Moses would pray
 - and each of them are an affront to one or more of the Egyptian gods

- And the reason is so the people of Egypt, the people of Israel, Pharaoh and even Moses would know – that “He is the Lord” – there is no other

We looked at the first 4 plagues last week

The 10 Plagues – Exodus 7-11

#1 -The Nile into blood

- It was an affront to Hapi and his wife Isis, the god and goddess of the Nile
 - And the magicians, working with the power of Satan could only make things worse
 - That is always the way Satan works

#2 - Frogs

- It was an affront to the god Heqet – body of a woman, head of a frog – blind date worse case

But what was really happening is God was taking that which was once pleasurable, became a plague

- and that can happen with sin in our lives
 - sin is pleasure for a season, but it always brings death
 - so unlike Pharaoh who said, get rid of them tomorrow
 - we need to realize today is the day of salvation

#3 - Lice

- It was an affront to the Egyptian god Set – the god of the desert or literally the dust – God was saying, I can turn your god into lice
 - As it was a personal attack against the upper class and the priests who would shave every other day to avoid just this thing – lice

#4 - Swarms of flies

- These were nasty biting flies who would bury their eggs in your skin – it is getting worse
 - But this was the first time there was a distinction between Israel and Egyptian
 - There were no flies in Goshen, the first no fly zone
 - And we looked how when we just do what God says, as we learn the big picture – there is no god like God and nothing like His word
- So obey it – and some things we will still have to face because we live in a fallen world
 - But some things you will never have to face, because you are listening to the love of God as expressed through His commandments
 - Well, tonight we get to plague #5

#5 – Livestock stricken – Read Exodus 9:1-7

- For the fifth plague God strikes all the cattle in the field of the Egyptians – notice “in the field” – for that will come into play later

God says I will destroy the cattle in the field

- Again God makes a distinction between the cattle of the Egyptians and the cattle of the Israelites
 - And again the things the Egyptians worshiped were under attack

The Egyptians among hundreds of other things, worshipped their cattle and livestock

- It is crazy to me what people will worship when they do not worship the Lord

You have spent time around cattle – can you imagine worshipping them

- But people do
 - When the Williamsons were in India - They would tell me of people starving and perfectly good cattle walking around – being fed, being protected because they were worshiped - How sad
- But such is the case when God is removed
 - Pharaoh again would not budge
 - So more plagues were coming

#6 – Boils – Read Exodus 9:8-12

- the next plague involved painful boils
 - and this sixth plague was an affront to the god typhoon
- It is so interesting – the Egyptians would sacrifice people by burning them alive to the god typhoon, for the avoidance of boils
 - And many biblical scholars believe, that when it says, “The furnace” – that it was speaking of that sacrificial furnace
 - So Moses takes ashes from that furnace where people had been burned to appease the god Typhoon in order to avoid boils and sends them into the wind and those ashes bring about the boils

So often the one thing we want to avoid, when we worship something other than God is what ends up happening

- I think of Solomon who started out so well, but put so many things in front of God in his life
 - And the expected result would have been – he will be well rounded
 - He will have a full vibrant life
- But you read Ecclesiastes and you realize that is not true at all
 - Everything is vain Solomon says
 - It is a real bummer
 - No wonder Rehoboam ended up so messed up, imagine His Dad saying these things to him
- It isn't until chapter 12 that Solomon says, this is best thing to do – Fear God and what??? – keep His commandants
 - Don't do everything your heart wants to do, follow the Lord, obey the Lord
 - Because sin will produce the opposite results
 - The people of Egypt sacrificed people to avoid boils – and yet that is exactly what they get

#7 – Devastating Hail – Read Exodus 9:13-26

- the seventh plague involved hail
 - God is now going to bring a plague of hail
 - Measuring some scholars believe up to 2 pounds, coming down from heaven
 - That is not golf ball size hail, that is grapefruit size hail
- You would not want to be walking outside, or probably even inside, because those things are coming through the roof

This is the first plague where God gives the opportunity for the people of Egypt who would believe the word of God, to avoid the plague

Some of the people were thinking let's see – we believe Pharaoh is a god, and frogs and cattle are gods – but the score seems to be 6 to zero – in favor of the God of the Hebrews

- If the God of the Hebrews says He is bringing hail, well then I'm going indoors
 - God is giving a chance to the Egyptians to respond to Him

As I notice that I see a pattern with God

- He is always giving us a chance to respond to Him
 - He is not unfair in saying – “this group, you will be left out, and you over there, you will be blessed
 - He lays out the rules of life – and the direction from Him is, respond and you will be blessed, ignore Me, ignore My word and you will suffer loss – pretty simple
- In my reading of II Chronicles right now I am amazed they don't see the pattern
 - If a King loves God, serves God, gets rid of idols, good times are a coming
 - But if a King ignores God, serves the Baals and Ashtoreth, well here comes the Assyrians, here comes plague – they don't get it
 - But do we, do we really
- We are saved by grace, we are going to heaven by grace
 - But if you don't think obedience to God and His Word is important – then get ready for trouble

Now a word about the cattle killed

- when I first read this I thought – what cattle are left?
 - were they not all destroyed with plague #5
 - doing some research I discovered something

You see, I work with an assumption that you would be good to adopt and that is that God is never wrong in what He says or reports

- And even if it seems wrong, we just need to pray and dig and we will discover the truth
 - Such is the case with this

If you will notice in verse 3 of this chapter, the fifth plague came upon those cattle who are out standing in the field, it says nothing of the cattle in barns and stalls

- Those animals survived, only to be hit by giant hail as they stood out in their field
 - and the destruction was based on whether or not you took God at His word

And it is such a lesson for us

- We can either do it God's way or we can say, “God I'm okay – I'm outstanding in my field, I don't need you
 - We can have that heart and end up devastated
- Or we can take God at His Word – Lord I believe You say what you mean and You mean what You say, want me to obey
 - Well, that brings us to plague number 8

#8 – The Locusts – Exodus 10:1-20

- the eighth plague is swarms of locusts
 - and they were devastating because they attacked the fields

- A Locust swarms can be 460 square miles
 - That would be a swarm of locusts from LA to San Francisco north to south and extending to the East all the way out to Utah
 - A swarm that size would have 37 billion locust, each eating their body weight every day in green plant food
- You see why it would devastate a nation's economy

In those days your wealth was determined by your cattle and your crops, and now that God had destroyed one He destroyed the other

- and by doing so He was showing His authority over Osiris
 - this was the Egyptian god who they worshiped in order to have good crops
 - too bad it wasn't working now

I don't know about you, but there have been days when I skip my time in God's word – because I am too busy

- Now what is ridiculous about that is normally if that happens my motivation is I need more time

But it seems regardless of how much time I save, it is not long before it is gone

- and yet when I make time to get into the word, spend some time in prayer
 - God just seems to order my day – and more time is there, and I have the strength to deal with whatever is before me – God's economy is different than ours

It is the same way when it comes to giving

- When I was a younger believer there would be months when I don't give to the Lord thinking – it is the only way I will have enough
 - and yet it is times like that – it seems to go quicker – a bag with holes like the prophet Haggai says
 - but then months where we would – God makes it work

You see the Egyptians worshiped Osiris for the protection of their fields, thinking if we do this, they will be okay – God shows this is the wrong perspective

- the Bible has things that appear to be backwards

If you desire to save your life, loose it

If you want to always have enough money – give some of it to the Lord

- it doesn't make sense
 - But if you and I will trust in the Lord – we will see – Father knows best
 - He knows what He is doing

#9 - Darkness – Exodus 10:21-29

- The next plague was darkness, you could not see your hand in front of your face those 3 days
 - If you have ever been down inside a cave, like the Carlsbad Caverns, then you know – they take you down there and then turn off the lights and you can't see your proverbial hand in front of your face
- And think that through, how that would alter your life if for 3 days you couldn't see anything

- unable to see or to walk around with confidence – have you walked around after just turning off the lights, can you imagine that much darkness
- We get so used to our modern conveniences of electricity and running water
- When those are out for a day or two, life is miserable
- Can you imagine not have the convenience of being able to see

This plague was an affront to the god RA – the sun god – one of the most powerful gods in Egyptian culture

- Powerful, but unable to stand against the one true God

#10 - Death of the firstborn – Exodus 11:1-10

- Now some people have a real problem with this plague – boils, locust, frogs – okay, inconvenient, God is getting His point across, but all eventually fixable

For some this seems to go too far

- but let's bring some understanding
 - first of all – what goes around comes around

If you remember last week, Pharaoh commanded that every baby boy of the Jewish people was to be killed

- and it said of the birth of Moses in chapter 2, verse 2, that eventually they could not hide him any longer
 - but here is the question – hide him from who
 - From Pharaoh
- Moses' parents didn't have any more contact with Pharaoh than the man on the moon
 - And what this shows us is the population was complicit
 - They were letting the officials know when a baby boy was born
 - So there was some fault there at the death of many young Jewish boys

Secondly understand God was doing something huge in bringing the children of Israel out of Egypt

- remember we are going somewhere in this Bible story
 - We have the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to get where
 - The 12 tribes of Israel (Jacob)
- And the reason we learn their story is because we want to learn about one specific person from the tribe of Judah
 - Jesus

Jesus would be born, live, minister and die

- not in Egypt, but in the promise land, in Israel
 - Bethlehem, Nazareth, The Galilee, and Jerusalem and Cavalry are all in Israel not in Egypt

And what I am trying to get you to see is there is a plan of salvation at stake here

- it is not just God trying to move His and the death of the firstborn of Egypt is really extreme
 - God has given 9 previous plagues – all with the same message – let me people go – God is really consistent with His message
 - But Pharaoh keeps rejecting God

- So God ups the severity of the plague, because the salvation of the world is at stake
 - This is not God being extreme

Finally God as we will see next week will give them a way to get out of it, they don't have to experience this plague of the death of firstborn if they would just take God at His Word

- God institutes this feast, which would from that time forward be known as the feast of Passover
 - And the blood of that lamb, if applied to the doorposts, would allow the death angel of Passover
- And that night is wasn't about who you were, what class you were from, what your social status was, or your race
 - It was just about the blood of the lamb
- And as we close our service tonight looking at chapter 12, I want us to notice – this Passover feast and I want you to notice the ceremony and the symbolism

The Passover – Exodus chapter 12:1-36

The Ceremony

- On the 10th of the month – they were to take a lamb without spot or blemish, and they were to take it into their homes until the 14th
 - Now this really was for two purposes

One – it endeared the lamb to the family

- It is one thing to sacrifice this livestock among the 100's in your field
 - It is another to sacrifice one that has been living in your house – imagine your cat your dog – not that those things are acceptable – but the connection is there
- **Two and more importantly** – it gave time to examine the animal to see whether or not it was truly without spot or blemish

On the 14th of Nisan the lamb was to be slaughtered at twilight, the time when one day is ending and the next is about to begin to a Jewish mindset

- Notice all throughout this chapter, all the Passover lambs were known as “It”, it says they killed “it” – I know some of you who use the NIV, it says “them”, but that is an unfortunate translation
 - For there were many lambs slain, about one for every ten people – that's a lot when you are dealing with 3 million – 300,000 lambs
 - However the word “it”, and “the” is significant, because you see in chapter 12 is not only detail about a ceremony – but it is full of symbolism

The Passover – Exodus chapter 12:1-36

The Ceremony

The Symbolism

- the word “the” lamb is important because the entire Passover feast points to Jesus – as John the Baptist said, **“Behold the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world” – John 1:29**
 - let see just a few examples

The 10 day of the month

- the lamb was examined to see if it was spotless

Jesus was examined by the Pharisees, remember their questions “is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar”, “Whose wife is she in the resurrection” “Which is the greatest commandment”

- That interrogation of Jesus began on the 10th of Nisan, just as the lambs were being examined

The 14th of Nisan

- Jesus was crucified, becoming the sacrifice for all mankind, at the same time the lambs were being killed for the Passover
 - At twilight, between the lights, called the third hour in Mark chapter 15 – it was at this moment Jesus was being killed

And as you look at the feast – there are so many symbols, with the bread that is passed, the wine that is partaken of, the yeast being out of the house

- We will look at that when we get to Leviticus, but none of those things are as important as the blood

The blood

- that night it was about one thing and one thing alone – what did you do with the blood of the lamb
 - did you apply it to the doorpost
 - or and for your information – some scholars see in the way the blood was applied to the door, as it was applied to the 2 posts on the sides of the door, and applied to the lintel or the top of the door and the blood, verse 22, was also poured into the basin or the foot of the door, that when you saw it – a door being taller than it is wide, you had the outline of a cross – great picture
- Even that aside – the question was what did you do with the blood
 - Did you apply it???

I’m sure there were some that wondered that night – how does the blood prevent death, that’s crazy, that’s too simple, that doesn’t make sense

- as some do today – it’s about the blood of Jesus, that is too simple, that doesn’t make sense
 - but the same thing is true tonight – that was true that night
- It’s about the blood, it is about what did you do with the blood
 - Did you apply it, did you see the need and apply it to your life
 - Or did you ignore it

Next week the Jews go camping – The trip to Canaan would have been 10 days, and although because of their rebellion it would take 40 years, the first year wasn’t their fault

- God sends them to 7 different camping spots in the wilderness
 - And at each stop He teaches them a different lesson about who He is
 - This book gets so good next week – hope you can be with us