THE SMITING OF EGYPT

THE AIM OF THE PLAGUES

**DATE: 5/6/2018 pm**

**TEXT: Exodus 7:14 – 10:29**

**INTRODUCTION**

God promised Moses at the burning bush that He would deal with Pharaoh and Egypt

**Exodus 3:20 – *“I will stretch out My hand, and smite Egypt with all My wonders”***

This part of our series on the Life of Moses will deal with God Smiting Egypt

So far in our study of Moses, we have only seen the Israelites suffering, not the Egyptians

The Israelites were the victims of Egypt’s cruel slavery

And when Moses requested that Pharaoh give Israel some time off to worship …

Pharaoh increased the pressure, and made them suffer more

That’s about to change!

God will begin to Smite the Land of Egypt

Moses will now witness the fulfillment of the promise of God in Smiting the Egyptians (as he had been promised)

And he will be very involved in all that goes on regarding this judgment

The Smiting of the Land of Egypt will come in the form of Ten Plagues

We will begin to Look at these 10 Plagues with this thought

**“THE AIM OF THE TEN PLAGUES”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “GLORIFICATION OF GOD”**

Everything that God does is to Glorify Himself

**Isaiah 42:8 *– “I am the LORD: that is My name: and My Glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images”***

**Revelation 4:11 – *“Thou (alone) art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created”***

Therefore, one of the Aims of Smiting Egypt would be to show forth God’s Glory

This would, in fact, be the Primary Aim God would have in these Plagues

There are other important Purposes for the Plagues, which we will note;

… But the Main Purpose was in bringing Glory to God

Keep in mind that there are No other gods

God is God Alone

Pharaoh and the Egyptian were not Glorifying God

They were worshipping other gods

Glorifying the only God should be the main reason for all we do

**I Corinthians 10:31 –** ***“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”***

But mankind too often thinks only of Glorifying himself, and not God

There are especially two areas in which the Plagues would Glorify God

First …

**A. In His ‘Power’**

God is Omnipotent

It means that God is All Powerful having unlimited Power; able to do anything

People need to be aware of that, I don’t think a lot are

The 10 Plagues would be a Great Demonstration of God’s Power

They would show that God has the Power to do with Creation what He pleases and when He pleases

Even centuries later, the Plagues were still a witness to the Power of God

The Philistines gave this testimony 4 centuries later

**I Samuel 4:8 *– “Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness”***

The plagues Demonstrated that God had the Power to -

-- Control the Natural World (water turned to blood)

-- The Animal Kingdom (frogs, lice, flies, and locust)

-- Diseases (the murrain and boils)

-- The Weather (the hail)

-- Light and Darkness and …

-- Life and Death (the slaying of firstborn)

When the Plagues were done, the Evidence was overwhelming that God had Power to control all of Creation

We need to realize that God Demonstrated His Power in a very difficult situation

It is when things get really bad with His people …

… that God steps in to show His power

It is when the enemy seems to have an insurmountable advantage on God's people that God enters the scene and shows His power

I’ve always said that God hangs out at the end of the rope

God's people can encourage themselves in this great truth;

For when our situation seems impossible …

It is then that God especially delights to step in and show Himself Great on our behalf

Second …

**B. In His ‘Pre-Eminence’**

**Pre-Eminence** *is the fact of surpassing all others; superiority*

The Plagues would show that God was superior to the pagan gods of Egypt

God told Moses in **Exodus 12:12 - *“Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment”***

Later Moses quoted God in **Number 33:4 –**

***“Upon their [Egypt's] gods also the Lord executed judgments”***

**Quote:** F.B. Meyers wrote - *“By entering into the spheres which were ruled by the gods of Egypt, and by overruling them; by predicting exactly what would happen, and by causing the prediction to come to pass; by leaving the magicians, with all their arts, out-distanced and ashamed; Jehovah ... gave incontestable proof that He was God of gods”*

When visiting Moses after the Deliverance took place,

Jethro confessed this fact about the supremacy of God

**Exodus 18:8** - Moses ***“told his father in law all that the LORD had done unto Pharaoh and to the Egyptians”***

Jethro said in **v. 11** – ***“Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods; for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly He was above them”***

Rivals to God may have their day now,

But the time will come when God will display His Pre-Eminence at their expense

Might God always remain Pre-Eminent in our lives

Lest the time come when He will have to display His Pre-Eminence through judgment upon us

**THE “GLORIFICATION OF GOD”**

**II. THE “MORTIFICATION OF EGYPT”**

**To Mortify -** *cause (someone) to feel embarrassed, ashamed, or humiliated*

God is about to embarrass Egypt

Nobody likes to be embarrassed

God’s about to deal with Egypt for their …

**A. Mistreatment of ‘Humanity’**

The cruel way Egypt treated their fellow man was at best evil

They took away the Israelite’s freedom,

They ground them down with the heavy hand of slavery

No nation has the right to do that sort of thing to God's creation

I don’t care who it is or when it was

America paid an awful price for the mistreatment of others

After Cain killed Abel and God asked Cain where Abel was,

Cain scornfully responded in **Genesis 4:9 – *“Am I my brother's keeper?”***

The answer to Cain's question is *Yes*

We are our brother's keeper

That is, we are obligated to treat others with respect

At least that was what Jesus said

He summed it up in **Matthew 22:37-40 -**

***“… Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” “This is the first and great commandment” “And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” “On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets”***

Man has trouble with both of these

But the reason we have so much trouble with the second commandment is that we don’t do well regarding the first commandment

When we do not love God as we ought, we will not love man as we ought

Egypt did not love the true God

Pharaoh admitted he did not even know Him

All that Pharaoh and Egypt knew were pagan gods, the invention of evil minds

They did not know the One True God and, therefore, did not love Him

Hence, they were cruel to their neighbors, to their fellow man, and dealt most evilly with Israel

God does not think kindly of that sort of behavior and punishes it in due time

As we will see happening here

As a result, Egypt was smitten by God with these ten plagues

**B. Mistreatment of the ‘Hebrews’**

God gave a special promise to Abraham and his descendants in Genesis 12:3

“I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee”

It is a promise that as proven true through out the ages

Attack the Jews and you are doomed

Egypt found out that the hard way

They had for years persecuted God's chosen people,

But in God’s time His wrath fell upon them and smote them with the judgment of the ten plagues

Egypt became a by word among the nations

The most notable attack on the Jews in our time was by the Nazi’s under Adolph Hitler

When the persecution began, Germany was rising to great power under Hitler

But within a decade or so, Germany lay in utter ruins and has never risen to much power since

Germany and Egypt are not alone in experiencing this curse,

For many other nations over the centuries have also experienced destruction because they attacked the Jews

Russia & Iran are setting themselves up for trouble, big time

Don’t mistreat Israel

Anti-Semitism is growing at an alarming rate today

I’m thankful for Trumps stand with Israel

**THE “GLORIFICATION OF GOD”**

**THE “MORTIFICATION OF EGYPT”**

**III. THE “EMANCIPATION OF ISRAEL”**

When God promised Moses that He would ***“smite Egypt”*** in **Exodus 3:20**

He said - ***“After that he [Pharaoh] will let you go”***

So here we learn of another Aim of the Plagues

Namely, the Emancipation of Israel from their Egyptian bondage

There are two lessons here in the fact that Judgment provided Freedom for the Israelites

**A. A ‘Warning about Stubbornness’**

The message to Pharaoh was ***“Let my people go”***

But the response of Pharaoh was a stubborn refusal to let them go

He would not grant them freedom

This, of course, did not go well with God

Therefore, God smote Egypt with the great plagues that brought untold destruction upon the land of Egypt

This caused Pharaoh to let Israel go

Just as God promised it would

**Exodus 3:20 –** ***“And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go”***

God still deals in like manner with stubbornness to His Commands

Refusal to submit to His will eventually results in great loss

Learn from the lesson of King Saul

**I Samuel 15:23 –** ***“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king”***

You never gain by resisting God's way

Sooner or later He will stretch out His hand and deal with you

Let us learn from this sinful stubbornness of Pharaoh

Let us Not resist God's will

Resisting God's will is a costly experience

**B. The ‘Way of Salvation’**

Judgment coming upon sin before Israel could be free certainly reminds us of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Before the sinner who is bound in the bondage of sin can be free, judgment must come upon it

Man’s sin penalty was paid at the cross

And like Israel in Egypt, the sinner does not experience the judgment

Egypt bore the judgment in Israel's case and Jesus Christ bears the judgment in the sinners' case

Christ bore our sins on Calvary that we might be free from the penalty of sin

Without that judgment upon sin, the sinner would never have been freed

God must bring judgment upon sin or He is not a holy God

But in grace He provided His Son Jesus Christ to die on Calvary in our place

**CONCLUSION**