FORGING PHARAOH’S FUTURE

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**TEXT: Exodus 9:8-12**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Book of Exodus is the Book of Deliverance

The key verse in this great book is found in **3:8**

***“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; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites”***

We have been watching as God is using Moses and Aaron to confront the Egyptian King to let His people Go!

He has been using supernatural Plagues or Calamities to get Egypt’s attention

We have seen so far …

-- 1The Nile River turned to Blood

-- 2The inundation of Frogs

-- 3The infestation of Lice

-- 4The swarms of Flies

-- 5The Disease of the Cattle

We now come to the 6th Plague

God is about to send Boils or as the Bible calls them Blains

A Blain is *an inflamed swelling or sore on the skin*

Throughout this whole process God has been trying to get Pharaoh’s attention

But Pharaoh as made it a Competition

God tells Pharaoh to Let His People Go, Pharaoh says No!

God pushes ahead, Pharaoh pushes back

**“Pharaoh is Forging his Future”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “PLAGUE” - vs. 8, 9 …**

Moses is to take handfuls of ashes of a furnace and sprinkle it toward Heaven in the sight of Pharaoh

The dust would become boils upon the king and the Egyptians

The ashes or soot is significant

Judgment has come from all directions to get Pharaoh's attention

It has come from water, land, air, and now ashes which represent fire

Ashes came from the furnace which was a place of fire

The tool that was used to afflict the Hebrews is now the source of affliction for the Egyptians

The tables have been turned

The disease that afflicted the Egyptians was inflammation, a burning of infection in the tissues of men

These boils progressed into pussy, ulcerous sores

These Boils were on Everything Egyptian

The beasts, the babies, and the little boys and girls too

They suffered terrible pain and fever

They were boiling in boils

**A. The Start of the Plague – v. 8**

The plague commenced from the ***“furnace”***

The ashes or soot from the Furnace was to be thrown in the air to start the plague

The Hebrew word translated furnace, means *brick-kiln*

Those furnaces were part of Israel's agony as slaves, one of their jobs in making bricks

They were working with the furnaces when Pharaoh is evidently out checking on things

We are told that the ashes were to be thrown in the air in his presence

This site of the plague's beginning is a lesson in Sowing and Reaping

The Egyptians had used these furnaces to make the Israelites suffer

Now God will use these same furnaces to make the Egyptians suffer

This lesson on Sowing and Reaping is repeated again and again throughout the Plagues

Most of the Bible was originally written to those living in an agrarian society, people familiar with working the land, managing livestock, and raising crops

Many of Jesus’ parables involve the farming life

Not surprisingly, then, the Bible contains many references to Sowing and Reaping, and here are some of the principles we can learn:

1. Sowing and Reaping is a Natural Law

On the third day of creation, God commanded the earth to bring forth living plants

**Genesis 1:12 – *“And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good”***

These plants were then given to man for food

**Genesis 1:29 – *“And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat”***

Ever since the beginning, man has understood the process of Sowing and Reaping and has applied it to his benefit

**2.** God uses the Law of Sowing and Reaping to bestow His Blessing and His Curse

God’s blessing comes generally to the whole world as He sends the sun and rain on the just and the unjust

**Matthew 5:45 – *“That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust”***

In some cases, His blessing comes more specifically to those of His choosing, as in the case of Isaac

**Genesis 26:12** says that Isaac sowed a crop and received a hundredfold in one season because the Lord targeted him for blessing

Israel’s gratefulness for God’s yearly blessing was expressed in, what is known as, the Feast of First-fruits

This was when the first of the harvest was brought to the Lord as an offering

**Exodus 23:19 a – *“The first of the first fruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God”***

**Leviticus 23:10 – *“Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest unto the priest:”***
God warned Israel that, if they forsook Him and pursued idols, that the Law of Sowing and Reaping would become a Curse and not a Blessing, and their crops would fail

**Leviticus 26:16 b – *“and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it”***

This happened to disobedient Judah

**Jeremiah 12:13 – *“They have sown wheat, but shall reap thorns: they have put themselves to pain, but shall not profit: and they shall be ashamed of your revenues because of the fierce anger of the LORD”***

**Micah 6:15 – *“Thou shalt sow, but thou shalt not reap; thou shalt tread the olives, but thou shalt not anoint thee with oil; and sweet wine, but shalt not drink wine”***

So, Sowing and Reaping can be a Blessing or a Curse

**3.** Sowing and Reaping is also a Spiritual Law

It’s more than just an agricultural principle

It’s a Principle of life that we Reap what we Sow

**Galatians 6:7** says – ***“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”***

There are Consequences to our actions

The world operates under the Law of Cause and Effect

There is no way around it

Every time we choose an action, we also choose the consequences of that action

Therefore, I suggest that you Choose wisely

4. Sowing and Reaping implies a Wait

Nothing good grows overnight

The farmer must be patient in order to see the fruit of his labors

When the Bible likens Ministry to planting, watering and reaping …

As in **I Corinthians 3:6 – *“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase”***

… it suggests a length of time

God will bring forth fruit to His glory in His time

Until then, we faithfully labor in His field

**Matthew 9:38 – *“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest”***

**Galatians 6:9 - *“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”***

**Psalm 126:5 – *“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy”***

**5.** We Reap *in kind* to what we Sow

Let me Explain

Those who plant apple seeds should expect to harvest apples

Those who sow anger should expect to receive what anger naturally produces

**Galatians 6:8 says – *“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting”***

Living a life of carnality and sin and expecting to inherit blessings is akin to planting crabgrass and waiting for roses

Again, this principle works both positively and negatively

**Proverbs 11:18 – *“The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward”*
Proverbs 22:8 – *“He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail”***

We always Reap what we Sow

**6.** We Reap *proportionately* to what we Sow

The Natural rule is, the more seed planted, the more fruit harvested

The Bible applies this law to our giving

Those who show generosity will be blessed more

than those who don’t

**II Corinthians 9:6 – *“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully”***

This principle is not concerned with the *amount* of the gift but with the spirit in which it is given

**II Corinthians 9:7 – *“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver”***

**Luke 21:2,3 – *“And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites” “And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:”***

We will Reap Proportionally to how much we Sow

**7.** We Reap *more* than what we Sow

In other words, the Law of Sowing and Reaping is related to the Law of multiplication

Jesus spoke of seed that brought forth ***“a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown”*** in **Matthew 13:8**

One grain of wheat produces a whole head of grain

In the same way, one little fib can produce an out-of-control frenzy of falsehoods, fallacies, and fiction

**Hosea 8:7 says – *“Sow the wind and reap***

***the whirlwind”***

Positively, one kind deed can result in a blessing of a lifetime

**8.** Sowing and Reaping is used as a metaphor for death and resurrection

When Paul discusses the doctrine of the resurrection

of the body, he uses the analogy of planting a seed to illustrate physical death

**I Corinthians 15:42-44 – *“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:” “It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:” “It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body”***

**John 12:24 – *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit”***

Found throughout Scripture, the idea of Sowing and Reaping is an important Principle imparting wisdom

for both this world and the next

Let the emphasis in the plagues on this important truth prompt us to live better lives

**The ‘Start’ of the Plague**

**B. The ‘Effect’ of the Plague – v. 9**

***“And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains (ulcerous sores) upon man, and upon beast throughout all the land of Egypt”***

There was no warning with this plague

Like the 3rd Plague, the 6th Plague happened without Pharaoh having any warning of it coming

Thus, no opportunity to escape

The lesson here is the same as it was in the 3rd Plague;

That is, God will Not always show grace

Continue to reject Grace, and you will be hit with sudden judgment with no chance of escape

This plague especially attacked the bodies of the Egyptians

The Egyptians were very concerned about the purity of their body but not about the purity of their soul

This inconsistency is very evident today as well

We fight earnestly the germs that can harm us physically,

But we allow all sorts of germs to exist that can harm us morally and spiritually

We are much more concerned about physical sickness than moral or spiritual sickness

While all physical problems are not punishment from God for some sin,

It is very evident that a great many of our physical problems would be eliminated if we put more emphasis on our moral and spiritual health

**THE “PLAGUE”**

**II. THE “PURPOSE” – vs. 10, 11**

**III. THE “RESPONSE” – v. 12**

**CONCLUSION**