THE FINAL PLAGUE

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

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**DATE: 11/18/2018 pm**

**TEXT: Exodus 11:1-10**

**INTRODUCTION**

Have you ever had days where you woke up feeling like a failure?

Perhaps you failed an assignment, at a job, in a relationship, or spiritually you suffered a defeat

What causes failure? How do we overcome it?

Hopefully we will be able to answer some of those questions from this chapter

Pharaoh continues to wake up a failure

He has not learned from his failure

Let’s not be like him!

The body of this chapter deals with what happens just before the night of the Passover discussed in **Exodus 12**

Bible scholars contend that **vs. 1-3** took place before Moses’ last meeting with Pharaoh

Let me explain what this means

**v. 1** here is speaking in the past tense

Basically, it is saying – ***“The Lord had said to Moses”***

The 9th Plague would be followed by another and was revealed to Moses before his last meeting with Pharaoh recorded in **Exodus 10**

And **vs. 4-10** of this chapter (11) are a continuation of the last conversation between Moses and Pharaoh that was not presented in **chapter 10**,

But here, and would have fallen somewhere between **vs. 24-27** of **chapter 10**

I’m not sure why that plays out that way

But none-the-less, **chapter 11** has a lot to teach us

Let’s stand and read **vs. 1-10** and then pray and look at these Great Truths and this thought …

**“THE BEGINNING OF THE END”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “LAST PLAGUE” – v. 1**

***“And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether”***

God says, *“One more plague to go! He will not only let you go Moses, but he is also going to thrust you out!”*

The word ***“thrust”*** is from a Hebrew word which means *to drive out or expel with force*

He, who didn’t want to let Israel go at all, won’t be able to get rid of them fast enough now

God has a plan, and that plan won’t be frustrated

The Plagues have accomplished what He set out to do

God is again showing the incompetence and impotence of Pharaoh’s gods

This battle with Pharaoh is almost over

Pharaoh has Strategized, Organized, and Energized his efforts against God, only to be Humiliated and Defeated

The Bible tells us that …

**Proverbs 19:21 – *“There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand”***

**Isaiah 14:27 – *“For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and His hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?”***

Weapons can’t provide protection

Worldly Wisdom will not Win out

The Egyptian gods were impotent

The same truth still holds true today

Wealth, Weapons, Wiles, and someone’s Will cannot keep them out of Hell

Christ is the only means of escape!

When the locusts plagued the Egyptians, Pharaoh asked Moses to pray for their removal

And the Bible tells us that …

**Exodus 10:19 – *“… the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt”***

Every bug was removed and cast into the sea

What a beautiful picture of what Jesus Christ has done with our sins when we seek His forgiveness and cleansing

**Micah 7:19 – “*He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea”***

Everyone has to come to grips with the issue of their sin

We can try to deal with them and Die, or let the Lord deal with them and Live

Sin is like a quiet river that begins as a brook, but ends in a turbulent sea

The sweetness of sin soon sours

The fun of foolishness leads to the funeral

Sin is like the desert sun that drinks up all the dew

It drains the life out of people

Sin is Folly, Devastation, Disorder, and Death

It causes madness in the brain, poison to the heart, frenzy to the imagination, and darkness to the soul

It is the Moth and Rust that consumes the Mind

But God’s Word says …

**Jeremiah 33:8 – “*And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against Me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against Me”***

All of the Plagues, Problems, and Punishments in Egypt are a result of the Pride, Rebellion, and Stubbornness of Pharaoh

It was now time to pay the piper

It was time to reap what he had sown and pay the total bill for his disobedience

Because he would not humble himself and receive the Forgiveness of God

**THE “FINAL PLAGUE”**

**II. THE “FEE FOR THEIR LABOR” – v. 2**

***“Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold”***

God says, ***“Let every man borrow of his neighbor”***

The word ***“borrow”*** is used 157 times in the Old Testament and 99% of the time it means *to ask, to demand or require*

The word ***“jewels”*** includes things of gold and silver, like drinking cups, vessels, ornaments and jewelry

Why would the Hebrews ask the Egyptians for anything?

The answer is … Pay Back

The Hebrews were entitled to these items in repayment for their past services and labor

Remember, they did not come to Egypt as slaves, but as free people

Whatever service God requires of His people,

He will see they are properly equipped and their needs are abundantly supplied

**Philippians 4:19 – “*But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus”***

For years there were no indications that the Hebrews would ever leave Egypt or have any kind of substance

The lesson again is we are to walk by faith, not by sight

God promised He would care for His people and that they would leave Egypt with the spoils of victory

**Genesis 15:14 – *“And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance”***

**Exodus 3:22 – “*But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians”***

Beloved, when God makes a promise, He keeps it!

**THE “FINAL PLAGUE”**

**THE “FEE FOR THEIR LABOR”**

How did God's people get all these things from the Egyptians?

The answer is found here in **v. 3**

**III. THE “FAVOR OF THE EGYPTIANS” – v. 3**

***“And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people”***

God's power worked in the heart of the Egyptians to favor the Hebrews and Moses

God’s Word tells us that when we walk with Him, He will Bless our Relationships with Others

**Proverbs 16:7 – *“When a man's ways please the LORD, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him”***

**Proverbs 21:1 – “*The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever He will”***

**Genesis 39:3 – *“And his (Joseph’s) master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand”***

**Daniel 1:9 – “*Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs”***

**Genesis 39:21 – “*But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison”***

**A. The Pressure of the Plagues**

After the 9 Plagues the Egyptians were a broken people

The Bible says that God breaks those who are proud and rebellious

Pharaoh has set himself against God, but God is going to brake him and free His people from bondage and shame

**Leviticus 26:13 – *“I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright”***

God deals with those who proudly resist Him

**Isaiah 65:14 – *“Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit”***

In our world today, broken things are despised and thrown out

Anything we no longer need, we throw away

Damaged goods are rejected, and that includes people

In marriage, when relationships break down, …

The tendency is to walk away and find someone new rather than work at reconciliation

The world is full of people with broken hearts, broken spirits and broken relationships

**Psalm 34:18 – *“The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit”***

Pressures of life will bring out what is already there

The Pressures of the Plagues simply brought out what was already in Pharaoh heart

As the crisis continued, Pharaoh sank in the estimation of his subjects and Moses rose

**B. Crisis can also bring out the best in good men too**

God promised in **Exodus 7:1** to make Moses a god to Pharaoh

***“And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet”***

His greatness was received without seeking it or expecting it,

And by doing God's work and having God's power rest upon Him the Egyptians willingly gave their wealth to the Hebrews,

Here are a couple of reasons …

-- Possibly out of gratitude for past benefits or to be in good standing with the people favored by the true God of Heaven

-- They may have also surrendered their wealth from the fear of God and the desire to get rid of these people as quickly and peaceably as possible

The Moses in **Exodus 10 & 11** was different from the Moses we read about in **Exodus 3**

In **chapters 10 & 11**, Moses is firm, self-reliant, confident, and even eloquent

He has watched God work time and again and keep His Word

He has baffled the magicians and withstood the Pharaoh … without wavering

He has never blown up or lost control

Moses has consistently and persistently made the same demand of Pharaoh, ***“Let my people go!”***

**C. Our Trials Will Test our Character and Faith**

The flames of fiery conflicts bring out the Dross or Purity in your character

They reveal who & what you are

The next time trouble seems to overwhelm you, remember the tea kettle

*Although it's up to its neck in hot water, it continues to whistle*

Our Lord gives us a song in our heart, ***“Rejoice in the Lord always”***

How you handle your problems during the day will determine how you will sleep at night

We can look at our struggles negatively or positively

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**THE “FAVOR OF THE EGYPTIANS”**

**IV. THE “FIRSTBORN WILL DIE” – vs. 4-10**

God has given Pharaoh the opportunity of yielding to Him under less severe afflictions

The previous plagues gave Pharaoh an opportunity of doing freely what he now is about to be driven to do under severe compulsion

**vs. 4, 5 - *“About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt:” “And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts”***

Again, keep in mind that Moses is telling this to Pharaoh

The Bible tells us that this event would happen at midnight

This time of security would be replaced with insecurity

The deep silence of the night would be shattered by screams of grieving parents, grandparents, and spouses

I’m not quite sure if this was only the firstborn of this generation or all generations

If it was all generations, then a whole lot of people were about to die

The phantom of death has been ignored, …

… un-thought of, unprepared for, and thrust into the background by the king

God will bring all of Egypt to their knees and at the same time, face to face with death

Every home that did not follow God's instructions would be affected and touched by its sting

Every rebellious Egyptian home would be affected whether it was in the palace, prison, or on the poor side of the town

No one would be protected unless they followed God's instructions

Little comfort would come from neighbors or friends

All would grieve from the sting of death as the firstborn would be taken

Why is this happening?

Egypt is reaping what it has sown

Remember what Pharaoh did back in **Exodus 1:22 -**

***“And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive”***

Those were the children of the Hebrews

Whether you were virtuous or violent, smart or stupid, rich or poor, if you were the firstborn, you would die unless you obeyed God's instructions

**A. The Foster Care of God – v. 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”***

As the country would be littered with dead animals and people,

God's people would be preparing for departure

He would protect Israel to show this was a judgment from God on Egypt

Not even the dogs would bother Israel as they departed

The Egyptians would be swallowed up in sorrow, in the blackest grief and bitterest lamentations

The sorrow of each would intensify the heartache of the rest

**Note:** God's people deserved this punishment, as well

But in His Grace, He cared for them and protected them

Israel was idolatrous too, at this time

The Bible makes this clear

**Joshua 24:14 – *“Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD”***

God remembered His covenant with His people

More importantly, Israel followed His instructions as we will see

Because of God's Grace, He gives to us what we don't deserve

Because of His Mercy, we don't receive what we do deserve

**B. The Departure of Moses – v. 8**

***“And all these thy servants shall come down unto me, and bow down themselves unto me, saying, Get thee out, and all the people that follow thee: and after that I will go out. And he went out from Pharaoh in a great anger”***

The servants of Pharaoh would come to Moses and bow down as if he were the king of the land and pay him homage

They would beg Moses to leave

After declaring this to the king, Moses leaves angerly

Why was he angry? Moses had good reasons to be angry

-- He could have been angry at Pharaoh for perpetuating the cruel slavery of the Israelites

-- He could have been angry at Pharaoh for all his past rejections of God's orders to let Israel go

-- He could have been angry at Pharaoh for allowing the Egyptians to suffer so

-- Especially, Moses could also have been angry at Pharaoh for being unmoved by the announcement of this deadly last plague

**C. The Obstinance of Pharaoh – vs. 9, 10**

***“And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you; that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt” “And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go out of his land”***

God warned Moses again that Pharaoh was not going to listen to him

God's wonders were manifested in the land

The 10 Plague (Judgments) made quite an impression on Egypt and the surrounding nations

For three centuries, the Egyptians left Israel alone

**CONCLUSION**

This is the final chapter in this section of the contest with Pharaoh

The death of the firstborn is the final act of judgment upon Egypt before Israel is freed from the yoke of bondage

Pharaoh should have learned by this time that it is futile to enter into conflict with God

God has been longsuffering and forgiving, but He must make Pharaoh understand that it is time for Israel to leave Egypt

All of Egypt was inclined to take Pharaoh's side in this contest with God,

But God is the One to deliver final blow upon Egypt in His attempt to teach them the lessons they needed to learn

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