

Out of Bondage onto Promise

Exodus 9:1-35

- Moses is locked in a battle with the forces of evil, and this is a battle that he didn't choose for himself but one that God deemed necessary in order to teach him the invaluable lesson that "**He is the Lord**" and no matter who and what he'll face as long as God is on his side he will be victorious. When you think about it God has also taken us through some situations that if given the choice we wouldn't have chosen for ourselves as well, but in looking back without it we also wouldn't have come to know the Lord as intimately as we know Him now either.

V1-35

- **V1-4** God has used **blood in the waters, frogs and flies on the land, and lice on the body**, to get Pharaoh's and the people attention, and show them also that He alone is "**Jehovah God**" the creator of the universe. But despite these judgments all Pharaoh has done is offer back compromise and a hard heart instead of repentance and surrender.
- You can tell more about people's hearts and where they are in the Lord in **hardships** and **need** than in **comfort** and **plenty**, for it will show itself in the decisions that they make whether it draws them closer to the Lord or further away from the Lord, and time will surely prove the fruit of it. Now God tells Pharaoh that He will put His hand upon the animals and cause a pestilence to be upon the land that will only affect Egypt's livestock and not Israel's.
- Just as before God sends a discriminating judgment that cannot be explained by natural occurrences, thus showing both Israel and Egypt that those who surrender and worship Him will be supernaturally protected, but them who resist and reject Him will suffer anguish and pain. If you tell people this today immediately they'll judge you as unloving and hateful, when in fact it's the opposite, there is nothing better you can do for a person then to warn them of the judgment to come if they continue to refuse to give their life to Jesus and serve Him.
- **V5-7** just as God promised it happens, all the livestock of Egypt is stricken and none of the livestock of Israel is touched. Also God is aiming His judgments at the false deities of Egypt, remember they worshipped the false goddess of fertility that had the head of a frog so He sent them frogs that would plague the land not bless it, and instead of bringing life it signifies death.
- Now He kills the livestock and specifically the cows whom the Egyptians worshipped the false god "**hathor**" who was thought to be a mother goddess in the form of a cow. So the Egyptians considered cattle sacred and a symbol of fertility, so God shows Pharaoh and all of Egypt that He is mightier than this imagined pagan god. Two points I want to make > **1st** whatever we hold sacred above the Lord He will also show that He is mightier, **2nd** people today place animals God's creation above Him the creator and will place their worship on them instead of to Him.

- Despite all that is happening around him Pharaoh still refuses to let Israel go as he hardens his heart even more > **Prov 28:14-** “**how blessed is the man who fears always, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity**”. Notice it doesn’t say may or might, but will fall into (**calamity**- which means disaster, distress, or great damage), which I don’t know about you, but I want to avoid if at all possible. You see the opposite of a “**hard heart**” is “**a heart that fears the Lord**” and that reverential fear motivates us to obey the Lord’s commands.
- What I love about this is Moses told Pharaoh that Israel would be spared and that all their livestock would be just fine, and afterward Pharaoh sent a messenger to check to see if what Moses said was true and it was. Nevertheless he did not change his heart when it was proven that Moses and his God were exactly right, he still refused to let Israel go wow!
- **V8-10** unlike man God doesn’t get tired of spanking man’s butt, so here comes a sixth plague, and instead of Aaron and Moses going to Pharaoh and announcing it giving him a chance to repent He just sends it to them. Now it gets personal as this plague is in the form of boils that break out in sores upon the flesh of man and beast, and for the first time the lives of humans are directly attacked and endangered. The Hebrew word for “**boil**” is to burn” it has the idea of swelling, painful skin irritation and inflammation, and they were all over their bodies (whew).
- Not only did this affect man but also beast, so you can believe how irritated they we’re and I’m sure it caused an uproar as they couldn’t use animals for transportation, food, or drink, for they were just as sick and impaired as the Egyptians were, all the while Israel and its animals are walking around just fine as if nothing is happening. **V11-12** this is funny scripture says the magicians even if they wanted to try and imitate this couldn’t because they were unable to stand because of the pain from the boils on their bodies, and still Pharaoh didn’t yield.
- **V12** it says that “**The Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart**” but in **8:32** we read “**Pharaoh hardened his own heart**”, what this tells us is the Lord knows how we’ll respond, so if we are open to repent and surrender God opens our hearts but if we reject and resist God gives us what we want and it leads to us making choices that hurt and harm not only us but those around us.
- **V13-17** here is the mercy of God, He gives Pharaoh an extended warning explaining to Pharaoh Who it is that is in control and its not him. God tells Pharaoh that in His grace-mercy that He hasn’t killed him and destroyed Egypt from the earth, but in His power that He had raised him up so that Moses could come against him and prevail showing the world how great God is. So the battles we’re in people are not only for our sanctification but for God’s glory as it shows the world how He protects His people and glorifies His Name by making us overcomers.
- **V18-21** in the seventh plague God tells Pharaoh and Egypt that they could spare the servants, the livestock, and that which they deemed important by removing them out of the fields as he tells them exactly when the hail and lightning bringing fire from heaven would come. Those who feared the Word of the Lord did so and was spared but those who didn’t being just as stubborn as Pharaoh left his servants and animals in the field to be killed, it doesn’t say the owners stayed

- **V22-26** just as the Lord said it happened, and all of Egypt was struck with hail and fire from heaven, only Goshen where Israel dwelled wasn't hit. Again this was God attacking Egypt's false gods as they worshipped "nut" the sky goddess, so God brought judgment from the skies. **V27-30** here is Pharaoh showing once again that he knew exactly what he was supposed to do and so he gives this false repentance and acts as if he will let Israel go but Moses is alert to his deception this time, and yet the Lord in His grace stops the hail and fire.
- **V31-35** proving that he only wanted relief and not repentance as soon as the hail and fire stops Pharaoh reneges on his promise to let the people go and likewise so was the hearts of his servants. By our fruit will our hearts be made known, the way to tell if someone truly wants to follow the Lord is their actions, words mean very little it's what they do that really matter.