

Who is the Lord that I should Obey Him

Jeff k / General

Exodus 9:1-35

Discussion Questions:

- **Understanding God's Purpose in Plagues:** In Exodus 9, God sends various plagues upon Egypt. What do these plagues reveal about God's character and His relationship with His people? How does understanding God's purpose in these events affect our view of His sovereignty and justice today?
 - **The Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart:** Throughout Exodus 9, we see Pharaoh's heart continually hardened against God's commands. What lessons can we learn from Pharaoh's response to God's warnings and judgments? How does this narrative challenge us to examine our own hearts in relation to God's will?
 - **The Difference Between Serving and Sacrificing:** In Exodus 9:1, God instructs Pharaoh to let His people go so they may serve Him. How does this differ from Pharaoh's offer to let them go only to sacrifice to God? What does this distinction teach us about the nature of true worship and obedience?
 - **God's Grace in Judgment:** Despite Pharaoh's stubbornness, God shows grace and mercy in the midst of judgment, particularly towards the Israelites. How does God's grace manifest in Exodus 9, and what does this teach us about His character? How can we experience and respond to God's grace in our lives today?
 - **Responding to God's Warnings:** In Exodus 9:20-21, some Egyptians heed Moses' warnings and shelter their livestock, while others do not. How does this contrast illustrate the importance of responding to God's warnings and commands? How can we cultivate a heart that is receptive to God's guidance and obedient to His word in our daily lives?
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- This is the question that Pharaoh asked in [Exodus 5:2](#) after Moses asked for the Hebrew people to be let go from captivity.
 - This is a question that many of us have asked at one point in our life prior to surrendering to Him
 - We find ourselves in captivity or bondage willingly to the things of this world, but yet we ask, “Why should I surrender, trust and Obey the Lord”
- › My Prayer for our time tonight is that as we walk through [Exodus 9](#) we will more clearly see why we should obey him...

[Exodus 9:1-7](#) “1 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh and tell him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 2 For if you refuse to let them go, and still hold them, 3 behold, the hand of the Lord will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the oxen, and on the sheep—a very severe pestilence. 4 And the Lord will make a difference between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel.” ’ ” 5 Then the Lord appointed a set time, saying, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.” 6 So the Lord did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the children of

Israel, not one died. 7 Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one of the livestock of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh became hard, and he did not let the people go.”

1. 5th Plague: Livestock Diseased

a. God Declared It

i. V:1- “Let my people Go, That they may SERVE Me”

1. He declared this desire repeatedly each time when Moses goes to Pharaoh

2. But, it is a different phrase than what Pharaoh says each time in response to the aftermath of the plagues.

a. [Exodus 8:28](#)- I will let you go that you may SACRIFICE

i. “To Sacrifice” is a singular act

1. The act of making sacrifice to God

2. The Act of doing something for someone

ii. “To Serve” is a single focus

1. To Love the Lord with **ALL YOUR:** Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength.
 2. **Server at a Restaurant**- Has a sole focus to ensure that the needs and desires of their patrons are pleased
 3. **To Serve the Lord**- Have a sole focus to worship and honor in all that we do.
3. He Desires that His People Serve HIM...Because He is worthy of our Worship and Works.
- ii. V:2-3 God Declared IT: There will be a consequence for our unrepentant hardening of our hearts
1. This is a direct attack on the Egyptian god
 - a. **Hapis:** The “Bull god” of fertility
 - i. They would worship and pray to Hapis for their lands and crops to be fertile and fruitful...
 1. Hapis would make them Happy
 - a. As an agrarian society then their finances would be in good spot if the crops were fruitful

2. Good thing we don't serve the god's of a "Bull market"...right?...
 - a. That our happiness isn't dependent on the rise of a stock ticker, balance of an account or equity in a property
- iii. V:4-5 God Declared his Graciousness
 1. He was going to be gracious to the Hebrew people
 2. He also gave Pharaoh time to consider the consequence of further disobedience
 - a. [2 Peter 3:9](#) "9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."
 - i. How often do we see this in our own lives...
 1. The Lord warns His people and graciously gives time to us to repent and be made right with him....
 - b. V:6-7 God Did it...Just as He Said...
 - i. He took out the Livestock of Egypt but spared that of the Israelites.

1. “All the Livestock of Egypt”
 - a. All-
 - i. Either Hyperbole; meaning A GREAT NUMBER
 - ii. or (V:3) All that are in the field
2. V:7- Pharaoh sent someone to check out the damage done to the Israelites livestock...
 - a. There was none dead...
 - b. **Checking out the neighborhood after earthquake 5 years ago...**
 - i. **Checked on my kids....**
 - ii. **Then went outside to see...did anyone else just experience that or was it just me :P**
2. 6th Plague: Boils on Humans and Animals
 - a. V:8-9 God Declared It: That there will be boils on man and beasts all throughout Egypt
 - i. This plague was physically impactful
 1. Made the the judgement or consequence more tangible as the other plagues didn't directly impact people

2. Previous plagues were annoyances and frustrations, whereas this is physically painful.
- ii. This plague was psychologically and spiritually impactful
 1. The Egyptians had a FEAR of epidemics and being sick. They highly valued health and wellness
 - a. They worship 3 gods that were made to look powerless because of this plague.
 - i. Sekhmet- Lion headed goddess over disease
 - ii. Sunu- god over pestilence
 - iii. Isis- goddess of healing
- iii. This Plague was personally impactful
 1. It was in the furnaces that the Israelites had to take the dirt and dust of the ground and put it together and bake bricks for the grand structures of the Egyptians
 - a. Now the ash from the very same furnaces that the Israelites were slave to would be used to cause catastrophic calamity in Egypt
 - b. V:10-12- God Did it...Just as He said

- i. Not only did he do it just as He said, but with immediacy
 - 1. Some Scholars believe that the boils were a form of Anthrax
 - ii. V:11- This is the last plague that the Magicians are mentioned
 - 1. They had some minor success “Imitating” the first 2 plagues, but could not replicate the third
 - a. God took them out of commission at this point
 - i. If we harden our heart, our sin will take us out.
 - 1. It will blind us, bind us
 - a. [John 10:10](#) “10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”
3. 7th Plague: Boils on Humans and Animals
 - a. V:13 God Declared it- Let MY People Go...That They may Serve ME

- i. We who are His have no business entertaining the things of the world and the world should have no power or hold on us
 - 1. REMINDER- our purpose in life is to serve Him With ALL we are:
 - a. Our Time
 - b. Our Thoughts
 - c. Our Things
 - 2. Not just an “ACT” of Sacrifice
- b. V:14- **God Declared-** I have done all this “That you may know there is none like me in all the earth”
 - i. His aim is to be magnified
 - 1. He is not a dominating dictator that puts people through pain for no reason.
 - a. He wants you to KNOW Him.
- c. V:15-17- God Declared- He has the power to raise up and put down leaders...
 - i. He has raised Egypt up to be great so he can be shown to be greater

1. If I were to arm wrestle my 7 year old son timothy and win and declare my victory...you would think I'm pathetic...
 - a. But If I call Barry up and have an arm wrestling contest easily beat him...
 - i. It shows that I am a formidable and strong!
2. God Made Egypt Big, so he could show the world that He is bigger...
 - a. You might have BIG Problems...but do you let the Lord step in and show that those problems are no match for him?
 - i. Or do we try to fight the battle on your own?
- d. V:18-24 **God Declared-** This is a big one, be warned
 - i. Listen up...Hear and do something about it...
 1. V:20- Some were moved to action because of their faith/belief
 - a. They had seen the signs of the plagues before and could not doubt any longer
 - b. Just like the magicians said in Ch8- "This is the finger of God"

2. V:21- But some heard and did not believe....
 - a. *Do you know what happened for those that didn't listen?*
 - i. "ALL Hail broke loose"
 1. They were pounded by the hail
 - b. They didn't take serious the grace filled warning of the Lord
 - e. V: 25-26- **God did Just as He said...**
 - i. Nothing Left uncovered was spared
 1. Hail damaged and Destroyed plants, animals and people
 - a. Fire Consumed all that was left
 2. Those things that were covered in FAITH an Belief were spared.
 - a. Those that Saw and believed were moved to action and spared
 - i. God Is Glorified by their faith
 - b. The Israelites were spared because they were coved by the grace of God that He gives to His people

- i. He is glorified by being their protective father...
 - f. V:27-30- God brought Pharaoh through this so He would Glorify the His Name
 - i. I have sinned, I am wicked
 - 1. Confession, but not surrender and obedience
 - a. Pharaoh was considered to be a deity
 - i. This is a huge admission...but it doesn't lead to Life with God
 - ii. [2 Corinthians 7:10](#) "10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."
 - g. V31-35-
 - i. V:31-32 (Parenthetical Reference)
 - 1. Not all was destroyed....
 - a. So Pharaoh thought he could hold out...
4. Do we have ears to hear like some of the Egyptians or do we tune it out like Pharaoh because we think we can make it on our own?

- a. Mathew 11 - Jesus is speaking and reminds the people that all of History and the prophets have pointed to His coming....
 - i. But yet they do not receive him
- b. Are we like the Pharisees in [Matthew 11](#) or Pharaoh and don't listen to the patient proddings of the Spirit to get our attention?
 - i. Whether it is a circumstance that He is walking you through so that you will surrender and serve him with all of your heart
 - ii. Or we maybe have been living a life of Denial of His existence and doing our life on our own...
- c. God's desire for us tonight is that we would Submit and obey Him and bring our lives fully under HIS COVERING!