

Exodus 7-10 The Showdown in Egypt

Tonight we are picking up our through the Bible study in the book of Exodus

A)When it comes to the book of Exodus – a major theme of the book is that of Rescue

B)Recall – The book of Genesis ends with Jacob and his family moving into Egypt to be with his son Joseph – 7 yrs of famine

C)They come as a group of 70 people residing in Goshen – a suburb of Egypt

The Jewish people will spend the next 400 years living in Egypt. – They become slaves – the workforce of Egypt

A)But they also grow from 70 people to a nation of people numbering around 2 million

B)The Book of Exodus is about how God raises up a leader in Moses to Rescue his people from the Bondage and Slavery of Egypt.

C)But the Book of Exodus is also a picture an illustration of a greater Rescue that God will do –

1)through a greater deliverer than Moses –

D)His Son Jesus will come to Rescue mankind from the Slavery and Bondage of sin and Satan

So the themes of Redemption and Rescue are prevalent in the book of Exodus – see them over and over again.

Today we are going to cover chapters 8-10 – see plagues 2-9 that God brought upon the nation of Egypt.

A)As we unpack these chapters tonight we are going to see 4

Transformational truths about who God is – He reveals about himself

B) Give them to you now: Point them out as we move through the chapters

#1 We will see the Transcendence of God – His uniqueness –

A) His Transcendence is his Holy otherness –

B) None like him

“To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?” says the Holy One. Isaiah 40:25

#2 We will see his Sovereignty – He does what he wants, when he wants and how He wants.

A) He is not beholden to the laws of the Universe – Because he is the maker of the Universe

#3 We will see His patience

#4 We will see Grace – Undeserved favor

Start with his Transcendence – His Uniqueness – His Holy Otherness

A) Concerning his reason for bringing the plagues God will repeat this phrase 6 times in the 10 plagues

B) The First time we see it is in Chapter 7:17 – in conjunction with the first plague Exodus 7:17 Thus says the LORD: “By this you shall know that I am the LORD.

C) Know = Yada (cat) means to perceive – but also know in experience

God is saying through all of these plagues I want all of Egypt to Know me – to experience me. Relational -

A) Yada is the Hebrew equivalent of the Greek word ginosko – Know by experience and know in relationship

B) We will see at times that God will say – I want them to know by experience I am different than their gods – above their gods

C)Important to understand the Plagues were not Random: **On their gods the LORD had executed judgments. Numbers 33:4**

See the Egyptians were what we called pantheist

A)The idea of a of a pantheist is that they see deities or they see god's in creation

B)Now Romans chapter 1 says creation is supposed to be a means to point us to the Creator

C)But Paul says in Romans chapter 1 the problem is this (still today) instead of using creation as a means to point you to Creator God

1) and worship of God

D)People stop at creation and worship creation rather than the creator

1)Make their own gods out of created things

That was the Egyptians – they had gods for everything – they deified everything.

A)So through the plagues in order that they might come to know Him – Yahweh God is going to take on all of their supposed deities

B)He starts in Chapter 7 with the Nile River – The Egyptians deified the Nile through the god – Hapi

C)They literally said that the Nile was the life blood of Egypt – the very source of life

D)God says I am going to take your life source and literally turn it into blood – see how useful that is to you.

E)The Point was: So you can know me – experience me – I am the one true God - Revealing His TRANSCENDENCE

Tonight the 2nd plague: The Plague of the Frogs CH. 8:1

And the Lord spoke to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 2 But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. 3 So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls 4 And the frogs shall come up on you, on your people, and on all your servants.” ’ ”

A)Frogs usually came with the flooding of the Nile, and were a symbol of prosperity.

B)The Egyptian goddess, *Heqet*, (HE/KET) was personified as a frog.

C)She had a human body, but the head of a frog. PIC

D)In Egypt, the frog was a fertility symbol;

1) and HE/KET was considered the goddess of fertility, and childbirth

HeKet was so revered that to step on a frog was a considered a crime punishable by death

A)So God says – you like to worship the frog woman – you think she is the source behind bringing you kids

B)I will give you more frogs than you know what do with – houses – bedrooms – frogs everywhere

1)Open Pantry – Frogs – Bedroom Frogs -

C)Imagine climbing into bed – frogs between the sheets!

5 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.’ ” 6 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.

Here is one commentator’s description of the conditions this plague of frogs created in Egypt, “Like a blanket of filth the slimy, wet monstrosities covered the land, until men sickened at the continued squashing crunch they were

forced to walk on. If a man's feet slipped on the greasy mass of crushed bodies, he fell into an indescribably offensive mass of putrid uncleanness, and when he sought water to cleanse himself, the water was so solid with frogs, he got no cleansing there." Harry Rimmer

D)It was horrible! – talk about wanting to Croak ☺

Note V.7 7 And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.

A)As we noted in our study Sunday – the magicians who were the wisemen of Egypt – the Doctors – counselors

B)They were supposed to be empowered by the gods themselves

C)They couldn't remove the plague – but they were able to duplicate it
1)Brought forth more frogs

D)Satan has power too – but his power can only make matters worse
1)He adds to your misery, rather than relieves it.

Jon Courson used to say: Mathematics of sin – Add to your sorrow, subtract your Joy, Multiply your problems and divide your heart.

8 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Entreat the Lord that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the Lord."

9 And Moses said to Pharaoh, "Accept the honor of saying **when I shall intercede for you**, for your servants, and for your people, to destroy the frogs from you and your houses, that they may remain in the river only." **10 So he said, "Tomorrow."**

Why did Moses let Pharaoh select the time for the frogs to leave?

A)To prove to him and the nation that Jehovah was the living God who heard their words and responded to the prayers of His servants.

B)The plague wasn't a freakish accident; God was in control.

C)When do you want deliverance ? Tomorrow – One more night...

Isn't that the way that it often is with Sin!

A)On our Vacation -ate pretty bad. Pizza Ice Cream – junk - now that is not sin – but not good.

B)We said: When we get home – start eating healthy. ☺

C)Every time I start a new diet – always on Monday. – One last weekend of eating what I want!

That is what people do with sin all the time – Saturday night – last party

**A)Last time I do that – tomorrow at church turning over a new leaf
GET THINGS RIGHT**

B)That is not true repentance – RARELY EVER LAST!

C)Pharaoh should have said RIGHT NOW - that is how we deal with sin in our lives – (NOT LINGER- NOW!)

D)So Pharaoh says tomorrow will be fine

And he said, “Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the Lord our God. 11 And the frogs shall depart from you, from your houses, from your servants, and from your people. They shall remain in the river only.”

12 Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh. And Moses cried out to the Lord concerning the frogs which He had brought against Pharaoh. 13 So the Lord did according to the word of Moses. And the frogs died out of the houses, out of the courtyards, and out of the fields. 14 They gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank.

Now this is interesting the Lord doesn't make the frogs disappear or return to the rivers – no they died – dead frogs everywhere – they stank.

A)Reminder that there are always consequences to sin and rebellion – there can be forgiveness or there can be reprieve –

B)But there will be a stench. – there will be scars - Beauty from ashes – start with ashes

15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the Lord had said.

A)Pharaoh gets the relief he is looking for and he changes his mind –

B)He hardened his heart: What does that mean ?

C)It means to see clear evidence of the hand of God at work and still refuse to accept His Word and submit to His will.

D)It means to resist Him by showing ingratitude and disobedience and not having any fear of the Lord or of His judgments.

E)Hardhearted people say with Pharaoh, “Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice?” (5:2)

Now in the course of the 10 plagues we will read the phrase 8 times that Pharaoh hardened his heart or his heart grew hard.

A)And there are two Hebrew words used to describe what is happening

B)One Hebrew word is the word Kabad (Kaved) means to make heavy or dull – become indifferent

C)That is the word used here – Pharaoh gets relief – oh well – not so desperate any more – heart becomes dull indifferent to the Lord

But there is another word used as well: That is the word Hazaq = to fortify or to strengthen

A)We will see that word used in V.19 – What these two words show is a progression that is happening in Pharaoh’s heart

B)He moves from being dull and indifferent to Stubbornly digging in his heels and not budging

C)We see this happening after the 3rd plague of Lice – looked at on Sunday.

¹⁶ So the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.’ ”

¹⁷ And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

¹⁸ Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast. ¹⁹ Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “**This is the finger of God.**” (This is truly Divine) 4th time - But Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said.

Pharaoh’s heart grew Hard – Hazaq - fortified established – not budging -

A)We see the Progression - Dull to like a rock – to fortified in his rebellion Not budging – digging in his heels

²⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, **4th plague** “Rise early in the morning (next day) and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 21 Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand.

The Septuagint, the Greek translation of the OT, renders “flies” as “dog-flies.”

A)The dog-fly was a bloodsucker that carried vile disease and caused blindness

22 And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the land. 23 I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be.” ’ ”

B)Now here we see the 2nd Transformational truth about who God is He is Sovereign – All powerful

C)The Lord added a new feature to this plague by announcing that the Jews in the land of Goshen would escape the plague completely.

D)God in his Sovereign power literally controls the flight pattern of these flies to keep them from landing in Goshen

E)Goshen literally becomes a NO FLY ZONE

24 And the Lord did so. Thick swarms of flies came into the house of Pharaoh, into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt. The land was corrupted because of the swarms of flies.

The Hebrew word translated “*swarms*” is also provocative.

A)It means “*mixture*,” and it could imply that different types of insects were involved in this plague.

Charles Swindoll paints this picture, “Big flying beetles. Spiders dropping off the ceiling. Fleas hopping all over you. Ticks burrowing into your skin. Tiny chiggers crawling under your clothes. Bees stinging you.”

B)Egypt was home to trillions of insects. It all was creepy. Everybody ended up *bugged* by this fourth plague!

25 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.”

C)Finally we say: About time! – but not so fast – what we have here is the first of several compromises that Pharaoh will try to make

1)With Moses and ultimately with God

“Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.”

D)Go sacrifice – go worship your God just stay in the borders of Egypt

Satan does that with us

A)You can serve God without really leaving the culture.

B)You don't have to let go of your Egyptian friends, and surroundings, and practices.

C)The problem with so many believers today – why never have victory – still concerned with how much of the World – need to give up

1)Saved but – how much like the World can we be

**¹⁷ Therefore, come out from among them
and be separate, says the Lord;
do not touch any unclean thing,
and I will welcome you.'**

**¹⁸ And I will be a Father to you,
and you will be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.' 2 Corinthians 6:17-18**

Not suggesting that we become like the Amish –Jesus didn't do that – He looked like everyone else

**A)But he was also other worldly – He was about another Kingdom –
Your kingdom come your will be done on earth in me Heaven**

B)Not earthly – Heavenly

C)Dual Citizenship – In the World but not of the World

**D)Different priorities – mindsets - Values – Worldview that realizes this
World is not my home**

1)Not building a kingdom here -

E)Everything is in light of His Kingdom

So Pharaoh says Ok go sacrifice just stay in the land -

26 And Moses said, "It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God. If we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, then will they not stone us? 27 We will go three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God as He will command us."

Moses realizes that is not going to work

A)Egypt considered their livestock as sacred.

B)So for Israel to sacrifice bulls and lambs in Egypt they'd be sacrificing what Egyptians worshipped. Cause a Riot

C)Leads to a 2nd compromise from Pharaoh - 28 So Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for me."

The enemy loved to say similar things to us.

A)Ok you want to follow the Lord – ok becoming popular again – don't go to far away. –

B)Don't get too radical – Don't become a Fanatic

²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this:.....to keep oneself unstained from the world. James 1:27

So whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God. James 4:4

C)Moses is not going to play this game –

29 Then Moses said, "Indeed I am going out from you, and I will entreat the Lord, that the swarms of flies may depart tomorrow from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. But let **Pharaoh not deal deceitfully anymore** in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the Lord." **this is not up for negotiation – not compromising**

30 So Moses went out from Pharaoh and entreated the Lord. 31 And the Lord did according to the word of Moses; He removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. Not one remained.

D)Once again Pharaoh gets the relief – he wanted 32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.

E)Now this is the 5th time we see Pharaoh hardened his heart – would not let the people go.

1)KaVed – Dull – indifferent

Chapter 9 The 5th plague on the Livestock

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.” -**

Here we see the 3rd transformational truth about God – He is patient

A) In so many of the plagues 8 of the ten he gives a warning – If you don’t let my people go another plague is coming

B) I will give you 24 hrs to make up your mind

C) God is so patient – rebellious people – I will wait – I will give you time

24 hrs pass no change! 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.

The time the Lord is targeting one of the Egyptians most sacred gods – The Bull –

In the Memphis temple to Ptah they kept an actual bull, They viewed it as divine. When the Apis bull died a replacement was selected. He was fed delicacies. He had a herd of heifers at his disposal He got the royal treatment. Bull fights were held in the bull’s honor. The goddess, Haphor was also personified as a cow. She was depicted suckling the Pharaoh himself. Yet neither of these so-called gods could withstand the fifth plague.

. The only Egyptians happy after the fifth plague were the Chick-Fil-A owners. Everybody had to eat mor chicken.

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.

6th time we read this the heart of Pharaoh became hard

A)But this time the word hazaq- His heart becomes like a rock – firm – hard – he continues to dig in his heels – not budging – the progression is building

Watch what happens next: 6th plague – A notable shift

⁸ So the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh.

⁹ And it will become fine dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt.” ¹⁰ Then they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered *them* toward heaven. And *they* caused boils that break out in sores on man and beast.

¹¹ And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians.

The Hebrew word “boil**” means “to burn” and referred to some kind of painful, puss-filled inflammation that created a burning and itching.**

A)Imagine a severe sunburn all over your body.

B)The goddess **Sekhmet**, considered god of healing, and this plague was probably directed at her

C)She was of no help to stop the plague - another Egyptian deity trounced by the true God.

“He who is often reprov'd and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy” (Prov. 29:1, NKJV).

Now we see a shift in the Story

¹² But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses.

Now this is the first time that we of the Lord hardening Pharaoh's heart – What is going on here?

A)6 times Pharaoh hardened his heart – 2 more are coming –

B)But here we read: God Hardens Pharaoh's heart

Our Focus this Sunday Answer 5 questions regarding

- #1 What does it mean that God hardened Pharaoh's heart ?**
- #2 How and why did it happen?**
- #3 Does that still happen today?**
- #4 Is that something that believers should be worried about?**
- #5 Can it be avoided ?**

But tonight I will give you the short Answer: God allows Pharaoh to set the course, to make his choices. Then God comes along and confirms the choice that he makes.

Pharaoh makes the choice and God will fortify the choice that he will makes.

A)So God is saying, "Okay pharaoh, make a choice.

B)Whatever choice you make for good or evil, I'm going to fortify or harden or strengthen the resolve that you have.

Here, I see a beautiful example of how God's sovereignty interacts with man's responsibility.

A)God allows us to set the course, to make the choice.

B)Then God comes along and confirms the choice that we make.

C)And through all of it, he'll use both our decision and his confirmation to fulfill his intention ultimately.

D)He's sovereignly in control and within that sovereign control He allows for human decisions to be made

1)but ultimately it is going to fulfill His intentions; and Plans

With the boils of this sixth plague we begin to realize it's no longer the Pharaoh holding the Hebrews in bondage, as it is God holding the Pharaoh in bondage.

E)Is God being unfair – mean – is he taking away Pharaoh's choice? No – watch –

¹³ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me, ¹⁴ for at this time I will send all My plagues to your very heart, and on your servants and on your people, **that you may know that *there is none like Me in all the earth.*** Still desires that they would Know him

This is very similar to what the book of Revelation says the World will experience during the Tribulation time –

A)God sends 144,000 BG’s repent don’t take the mark –

B)Angels flying to the four corners of the earth -

C)the two witnesses – Over and over again – He is giving people time to repent and turn to him – MOST DON’T

THAT IS WHAT GOD IS DOING HERE: YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE – V.15 MAKES THIS EXTRA CLEAR –

4th Transformational truth about God – He is Gracious

¹⁵ Now if I had stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, then you would have been cut off from the earth.

Look God is saying – I could easily just wipe you out – but I am waiting – But he knows the end of the story. – Pharaoh is going to continue to harden his heart and God is going to continue to reaffirm his choice - Here is why: ¹⁶ But indeed for this *purpose* I have raised you up, that I may show My power *in* you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.

Two ways for it to be declared – Humility and conversion and testimony or Judgment

One way or another

¹⁷ As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go.

¹⁸ Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now. **7th plague giant hail**

Another warning – another chance to escape –

¹⁹ Therefore send now *and* gather your livestock and all that you have in the field, for the hail shall come down on every man and every animal which is found in the field and is not brought home; and they shall die.”

²⁰ He **who feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh** Egyptians are becoming believers in Yahweh made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses. ²¹ But he who did **not regard the word of the LORD left his servants and his livestock in the field.**

²² Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt—on man, on beast, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.” ²³ And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt. ²⁴ So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. ²⁵ And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that *was* in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field.

A) Imagine, a hail storm mixed with lightning. Ice balls piercing rooftops - ground fires sparked by fire.

B) In Egypt the goddess *Nut* was ruler of the sky, well here God cracks another *nut so to speak*

C) Note v.26

²⁶ **Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel *were*, there was no hail. His sovereignty once again**

²⁷ And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “**I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I *are* wicked.**

²⁸ Entreat the LORD, that there may be no *more* mighty thundering and hail, for *it is* enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer.”

Godly Sorrow vs worldly sorrow – Difference is change – Repentance – Moses seems to have discernment that this is not real.

²⁹ So Moses said to him, “As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the LORD; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, **that**

you may know that the earth is the LORD's. ³⁰ But as for you and your servants, **I know that you will not yet fear the LORD God."**

³¹ Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley *was* in the head and the flax *was* in bud. ³² But the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they *are* late crops.

³³ So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and spread out his hands to the LORD; then the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain was not poured on the earth.

³⁴ And when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, he and his servants.

³⁵ **So the heart of Pharaoh was hard; neither would he let the children of Israel go, as the LORD had spoken by Moses.**

Moses was right here we see the 7th time that Pharaoh hardened his heart

Hazaq – Fortified – Digging in – not budging

Ch.10 Plagues 8,9

ANOTHER ATTACK ON THE EGYPTIAN gods

The goddess Isis and god Seth were said to protect crops

Now the Lord said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his servants, that I may show these signs of Mine before him, 2 and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and your son's son the mighty things I have done in Egypt, **and My signs which I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord."**

3 So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 4 Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory. 5 And they shall cover the face of the earth, so that no one will be able to see the earth; and they **shall eat the residue of what is left, which remains to you from the hail**, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field. 6 They shall fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians—which neither your fathers nor your fathers' fathers have seen, since the day that they were on the earth to this day.' " And he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

A)A locust is an insect the size of a grasshopper, about three inches long.

B) They travel in swarms that cover the ground like a blanket - sometimes four to five inches thick.

C) Locust travel at night, and eat every blade of vegetation in sight. A locust eats its own body weight every day.

D) There've been swarms of 100 to 200 million locusts per square mile for 400 square miles.

1) Wings flutter non stop for 17 hrs they can travel 60 miles in a day.

This scares the servants of Pharaoh -

7 Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God. Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?" Uncle enough already **Another compromise leave the women and kids If the women and children go there will be no incentive to return**

8 So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to them, "Go, serve the Lord your God. **Who are the ones that are going?"**

9 And Moses said, "We will go with our young and our old; with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds we will go, for we must hold a feast to the Lord."

10 Then he said to them, "The Lord had better be with you when I let you and your little ones go! Beware, for evil is ahead of you. 11 Not so! Go now, **you who are men, and serve the Lord, for that is what you desired."** And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

Another compromise

A) And Satan tempts us with the same compromise: it's OK for you to go all the way with God, but don't expect the same from your family.

B) Don't try to influence your wife and kids. You can't cram your religion down their throat! Religion is a personal thing.

C) Can't force but you should lead. – Kids see you reading Bible

1) Bed time stories – Stop and pray – Josiah LEAD HIM

¹² Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land—all that the hail has left.” ¹³ So Moses stretched out his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind on the land all that day and all *that* night. When it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. ¹⁴ And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested on all the territory of Egypt. *They were* very severe; previously there had been no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. ¹⁵ For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.

ONCE again Yahweh proves the gods of Egypt are no match for Him.

¹⁶ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, In other words, he's admitting this hurts. I hate it. Stop it. And Haste in a hurry he said, “I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you.

Okay? This is good. This is confession. He's admitting. I've sinned. That's the first step.

A)Question is, will he take the second step?

B)Confession is the first step. The second step is the willingness to turn away from known sin and follow the Lord's way.

C)IT IS one thing to admit you're wrong but, you could do that everyday. Yeah I'm a sinner. Yeah I'm a sinner.

1)Sinner today, sinner tomorrow.

D)Okay THAT IS good. I'm glad you admitted that and by the way, you're right.

But God provided us solution for that.

A)QUESTION IS ARE you're going to take that solution and turn from sin and let the blood of Christ wash you from it.

B)And let the Holy Spirit work within you TO LIVE a holy life?

C)So he made the right step initially but don't get too excited.

Verse 17. **Now therefore please forgive my sin only this once.** Oops!

Forgive me today: Forgive me this once – this moment

A)The bible says in Corinthians, godly sorrow produces repentance.

B)Godly sorrow produces repentance, he continues not to be regretted but the sorrow of this world produces death.

C)The Problem with Pharaoh is this is not godly sorrow – there is never any repentance – never any change

D)Problem with many people – respond to 100 altar calls – but they never change – sorry – 100 times –

E)Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of direction

1)True godly sorrow produces that

¹⁷ Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the LORD your God, that He may take away from me this death only.” ¹⁸ So he went out from Pharaoh and entreated the LORD. ¹⁹ And the LORD turned a very strong west wind, which took the locusts away and blew them into the Red Sea. **There remained not one locust in all the territory of Egypt. WOW!**

But because this is not real repentance – Pharaoh continues to harden his heart – we read in V.20

²⁰ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go.

Well, the ninth plague is a blight of darkness. God turns out the lights on Egypt.

²¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, **darkness which may even be felt.**”

The most revered of all the Egyptian gods was *Ra* - the sun god. The name *Ramses* comes from Ra. This darkness was an attack on Ra and his power.

²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. ²³ They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days.

According to the Jewish Historian Josephus it was so dark the Egyptians had a hard time breathing. It could be that the humidity was so thick there was no combustion, couldn't light a candle or a fire.

But then we see the Sovereignty of God again – V.23b *But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.*

Leads to Another compromise

²⁴ Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, “Go, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be kept back. Let your little ones also go with you.”

You and your families can go serve the Lord, but your wealth should stay in Egypt.

A) And this is what Satan still says... Even though he's defeated and Jesus is Lord, he still suggests, *“Oh, go serve the Lord, just don't invest your resources. Leave your money in Egypt. Listen your money, resources, your possessions – that is yours that doesn't belong to God*

B) Every good and perfect gift is from the Lord.

C) Satan's middle name is compromise,

D) He is always trying to get us to compromise don't take your faith too far,

1) don't try and influence your family or your friends, don't worry about to your resources

²⁵ But Moses said, “You must also give us sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God. ²⁶ Our livestock also shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind. For we must take some of them to serve the LORD our God, and even we do not know with what we must serve the LORD until we arrive there.”

Here's a vital lesson. God will call us to a place or task, but we won't know what all is involved in serving Him until we get there.

Take all you can – go all in – hold nothing back

²⁷ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go.

²⁸ Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! For in the day you see my face you shall die!"

²⁹ So Moses said, "You have spoken well. I will never see your face again."

Closing

The Plagues were a dismantling of everything that the Egyptians trusted in

Thomas meron writes "people may spend their whole lives climbing the ladder of success only to find once they reach the the top that their ladder is leaning against the wrong wall."

Is there a Wall in your life the Lord is trying to Dismantel – been trying to get your attention – He loves you – He wants you to know Him – trust him – walk with him

Application: How should this Transformational knowledge of God affect our lives?

#1 Increase our Boldness {Moses and Aaron grew bolder

#2 Deepen our Worship - Lets us go serve sacrifice – worship

Problem with worship – never the band – always my heart

#3 Strengthen our Obedience

A)No reason to resist him