

JUNE 24th  
**GOD IS SUPREME**

*“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, “Let my people go, that they may serve me. For if you refuse to let them go and still hold them, behold, the hand of the LORD will fall with a very severe plague upon your livestock that are in the field, the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herds, and the flocks. But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing of all that belongs to the people of Israel shall die.” EXODUS 9:1-4*

FFA...The Future Farmers of America. High school ag class. These two options for high school students have been used to help them become familiar with the science and practice of farming. I wonder if an ag class or a local chapter of our FFA has ever had a discussion on the plagues of Egypt against grain and cattle? That would be quite the conversation! When we read these chapters on the plagues, God consistently brings judgment against the gods of Egypt. What does this teach us as believers today?

James Montgomery Boice describes ancient Egypt as bull-worshippers. According to Boice, the bull was the most worshiped creature in Egypt. The bull symbolized power. According to legend, Egyptians believed that the bull-god Apis was conceived when sunlight came down and somehow impregnated a cow. Sounds quite ridiculous to us as we read this! However, Satan has always drawn people away from worshiping the true God. This misguided and misdirected worship sounds like what God describes somewhere else: For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Did you catch the last sentence there? They exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling...animals. God's not messing around here. God is supreme in all the earth. Always has been and always will be!

God continues to show His supremacy by not striking one of Israel's livestock. There is a distinction made here...and that distinction shows that God controls all events and is Lord over all. These supposed gods that Egypt served could not stop the judgment of Yahweh. Yahweh preserved Israel's land in Goshen. There was a clear dividing line between Goshen and Egypt. While we don't have exact measurements for Goshen, we are certain that it was quite large since it would hold over a million people. It's key to remember what God said when He brought flies as the fourth plague: that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth, or that you may know that I the Lord am in the land. These plagues judge the gods of Egypt and show all the people that there is no one like the God of Israel!

Men, I wonder how big our God is today. No, I don't mean that God has somehow shrunk in size since His mighty defeat of Egypt. But has the idea of who God is shrunk in our minds? Do our problems, worries, and defeats become much bigger to us than our God? You see, these events aren't written simply as historical record. They are given to instruct us. To humble us. To guide us into places of worship. Truth reforms us. Just like a pair of prescription glasses or contacts that correct foggy vision, God's Word sharpens our view of God. We see more clearly and crisply His glory. Sometimes we need to ask God to clear our vision so we can see Him more clearly.

**Spend some time thinking when you've allowed discouragements and disappointments to cloud your view of God. Ask Him to forgive you and to have a renewed vision of His glory.**

**For Further Reading: I Corinthians 10:1-23**