

JUNE 26th  
**THE FINAL BLOW TO EGYPT'S GOD**

*“So Moses said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.”* **EXODUS 11:4-6**

Anyone interested in earth science? Usually, it's a required course that's taken in seventh or eighth grade. One point of interest within the curriculum would be the relationship between the sun, moon, and stars. There are distinct moments in time when the moon passes directly in front of the sun. Our last total solar eclipse that we could see in PA was on April 8<sup>th</sup> of 2024. In our area we had about three and a half minutes of shade. Can you imagine for a moment not three minutes of sunblock, but three days? That's exactly what happened to Egypt...well except for Goshen, where Israel lived. God has much to teach us as we near the end of our travel log through Egypt.

God's judgment on the sun god Ra is a significant statement by Yahweh. You see, according to James Boice, the Egyptian sun god Ra was the greatest of all the gods of Egypt. Even further, Pharaoh was seen as the sun god Ra incarnate. God's judgment here in Exodus 11 and 12 over Ra and Pharaoh drops the death blow on any pride that is left in the land. The supposed gods of Ra and Pharaoh are completely annihilated by God. This time there was no warning from God. God simply brings the darkness. And it is chilling darkness. This isn't your usual relief from the height of the sun at noon. There are no clouds that come to give shade. This isn't about shade. It's about complete darkness...so complete that you can't see in front of your face and you can't move. The darkness is paralyzing. The people don't move for three days. But God. God hardens Pharaoh's heart and he still doesn't let the people go. The stage is set for the ultimate punch in the gut. The ultimate agony. Death of all the firstborn from Egypt...including all the animals.

Death comes at midnight. Death for all the firstborn in Egypt. There's no warning. There's no mercy. Moses summarizes the death toll in verse 30: “there was not a house where someone was not dead.” The judgment is total. It is final. And the agonizing stench and cries of death are heard throughout the entire nation. God has exacted justice on the nation of Egypt. You see, it's not just a judgment of Egypt's gods. It's also against 430 years of slavery. It's also against the murder of innocent Hebrew babies. God brings justice in His perfect time. No nation or person escapes the righteous wrath of God.

Men, these events can be humbling and encouraging. They humble us because God will not be trifled with. Without God's mercy and grace on us, we would also die and face separation from God forever. Thank God for His grace and mercy over us! They also offer encouragement for your soul. Life can become hard. We can lose our focus. We can lose our energy and drive. We can suffer and have disappointing moments. But the same God who overpowered (easily) the mighty Egyptians fights your battles for you. Do you think that a nation of slaves could have fought against Egypt? They would have lost so many to battle! But God. They don't take up a sword or shield to win against Egypt. They simply watch how much their God fights for them. It doesn't mean they are inactive (more on this for Exodus 12), but it does mean they find their security in someone who fights for them. This is your God! Find your hope in Him!

**Spend some looking back to remember how God has won victories for you. Ask Him for a renewed confidence in His strength.**

**For Further Reading: Exodus 10:29-50**

