

Exodus 11 - Thursday, October 2nd, 2008.

- Last week, in chapter 10, we ended the ninth plague of the darkness that could actually be felt for three days, and no one could rise.
- We'll begin chapter 11, which is a short chapter, with the tenth and final plague. This is where all the firstborn in Egypt die.

11:1 And the LORD said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether.

- The Lord is telling Moses that this tenth and final plague will be such that Pharaoh will not only let you go, but he will drive you out.
- I'm quite certain that Moses knows what's coming. The Lord had told him that there would be death to the firstborn in Exodus 4:21-23.
- It's thought that Moses didn't know there would be ten plagues, but he did know that the death to the firstborn would be the last one.

"This was the last and heaviest blow, and the proud king and nation staggered under it. When one arrow does not suffice, the Lord has others in his quiver, and one way or another He will hit the mark."

Charles Spurgeon

2 Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her neighbor, articles of silver and articles of gold." 3 And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

- It's interesting that the Lord would tell Moses to speak to the people and have them ask their Egyptian neighbors for silver and gold.
- One thought is that this is their pay for 430 years of labor. God is giving the Israelites favor in the sight of the Egyptians for that reason.
- One commentator suggests that God wanted the Israelites to have the gold and silver for the building of the tabernacle, and temple.
- Also, it appears that all the Egyptians, and even Pharaoh's servants, finally realize that the God of Israel is greater than all their gods.

4 Then Moses said, "Thus says the LORD: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; 5 and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals. 6 Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. 7 But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the LORD does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.'

- Moses, though for the last time is still in the presence of Pharaoh, tells him that the firstborn of Egypt will die, even his very own.
- Moses tells Pharaoh that even the animal's firstborn will die, and there will be a great cry like never before, or like will ever be again.
- Then, to sort of add insult to injury, he tells him that God will make a distinction between the Egypt and Israel in that no Israelite will die.

8 And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Get out, and all the people who follow you!' After that I will go out." Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

- Notice that Moses tells Pharaoh that his people will bow down to him and beg him to get out, and say that they want to get out as well.
- What's so interesting about this is that it seems the Egyptians are actually blaming Pharaoh, and rightfully so, for all that has happened.
- After this Moses then leaves Pharaoh in "great anger." This is a righteous anger. He is right and Pharaoh is wrong but he won't admit it.

9 But the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not heed you, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt." 10 So Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh; and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

- You would think that after nine horrific plagues coming to pass, as God said, that Pharaoh would finally heed the warning and repent.
- This is how it ends for Pharaoh's in this life. The pride of their sin hardened heart will ultimately lead to their fall and total destruction.
- Sadly, this is common even in our own Christian experience. How many of God's wonders and warnings have we ignored to our peril?

Lessons I can learn from Exodus chapter 11:

1. Like with the Lord giving the Israelites favor in the eyes of Egypt, so too can the Lord give us favor in the eyes of an unbelieving world.
2. Like with the Israelites asking the Egyptians for silver and gold, so too may the Lord pay us fairly when we have been treated unfairly.
3. Like with God providing the Israelites with silver and gold for later, so too may the Lord provide us what we need for His purpose.
4. Like with Pharaoh never admitting that he was to blame for the plagues, so too are we prone to point the blame away from ourselves.
5. Like with Pharaoh not heeding the warning of the final plague, so too will many refuse to heed God's many warnings and not repent.

- Before we move on to chapter twelve, I feel that it's incumbent upon me to attempt to answer a very serious and important question.
- Here's the question: "Do you believe that God's judgment on Pharaoh and the complicit Egyptians is too severe and harsh?"
- Perhaps this question is answered with a question: "would we have a Savior now, if God hadn't judged Egypt and delivered Israel then?"