

— Exodus 10 —
Exodus Series 14
The Eighth and Ninth Plagues

Ex 10¹ 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, ²and 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. 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?” 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. 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. ¹⁶ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, “I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. 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. ²⁰ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go. 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.” 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. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. 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.” 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.” 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.”

► The 8th & 9th plagues cap off the group of nine, drawing together themes, not only of the nine, but of Egyptian history going back to _____. Throughout, God shows:

1) He is the one true God, creator of all, ruler of all, and the only savior and giver of life and light, who alone is to be _____ and served; 2) While the gods of Egypt are genuine demonic powers, they are malicious pretenders who cannot save, and who seek to usurp the glory, worship, and authority that belong to _____ alone.

• The seven years of plenty and famine, and plagues 1, 7, and 8, concern, Who is the giver of _____, and what are the consequences of turning to him or away from him?

Deut 30 ¹⁹ “I have set before you life and death ... therefore choose life ... ²⁰ ... love the LORD your God, ... obey His voice, and ... cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days ... that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers.” (Note: Canaan was a picture of the world, and its conquest a picture of the fulfillment of the great commission; see Rm 4.13 “[T]he promise that [Abraham and his seed] would be heir of the world was ... through the righteousness of faith”).

Col 3 ⁴ Christ ... is our life.

Prov 8 ³⁵ [The Son speaking as wisdom personified:] “[W]hoever find me finds life ... ³⁶ But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death.”

• God’s words thru Joseph and Moses, and the 9th plague, concern, Who is the giver of _____, and what are the consequences of turning to him or away from him?

Prov 4 ¹⁸ [T]he path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. ¹⁹ The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.

John 3 ¹⁹ “[T]his is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

Eph 4 ¹⁷ [Those who] walk as ... the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ hav[e] their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God ... because of the blindness [lit., hardness] of their heart

Amos 8 ⁹ “[I]n that day, ... [due to the wickedness of Israel] I will make the sun go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in broad daylight ... ¹¹ ... I will send a famine ... of hearing the words of the LORD.”

- All the plagues and events surrounding Joseph and Moses, but especially plagues 1, 8, and 9, concern, Who is to be _____ and served, and how?

Deut 6 ⁵ “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength [lit., muchness]” (cf. Mt 22.37-38).

Gen 2.8-25; 3.8-9 God’s planting of the garden of Eden and placing Adam, and later Eve, in it; Then meeting regularly with them there. Even in a sinless world, nothing regarding communion with and worship of God was left to man’s devising.

Gen 3.1-7 The fall involved idolatry – substituting another word as ultimate authority, and serving and obeying that word, all of which amounts to worship of a false god.

Gen 4.3-7 Worshipping God contrary to his word is false worship, which provides neither communion nor right standing with God.

► Thru the biblical history of Israel, and later the church, within the context of the ancient empires of Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome, God gives us a broad biblical backdrop against which we are to understand the true _____ of life and how to honor God and build his kingdom, no matter when or where we live. From that broad biblical backdrop, we see that:

- 1) The fundamental issue is always worshiping and serving the one true God as ultimate authority, as our supreme object of love, loyalty, and devotion, and as the one whose kingdom must come and cover the earth so that his will is done on earth as it is in heaven. This requires that we be experts at detecting and rejecting false _____.

- 2) Anything placed on _____ with God is a false god.

This can be done overtly or covertly by ascribing or rendering to anything else that which rightly belongs to God alone. False gods include not only overt idols, but anyone who displays the attitudes or takes the kind of actions we see with Pharaoh in Exodus, with Nebuchadnezzar (pre-conversion) and Belshazzar in Daniel, and with the leaders of Rome and Israel in Acts and early church history.

- 3) False gods include modern _____ gods, such as “the People” or “History.”

- 4) False gods always go after _____, and therefore marriage and family.