

— Exodus 8.20 – 9.12 —
Exodus Series 12
The Second Cycle of Plagues

Ex 8 ²⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning 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. 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.” ‘ ‘ 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. ²⁵ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God 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.” 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.” 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.” 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. ³² But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go. 9 ¹ 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.”

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

► **God’s ten plagues** upon Egypt consist of three _____ of three, with the tenth plague standing alone.

- Each of the cycles begins with God sending Moses and Aaron to meet Pharaoh _____ in the morning as he comes to the _____ (7.15; 8.20; 9.13). This was a religious ritual for Pharaoh, who was viewed as the human

vessel of the _____ and the priest-king between the gods and the people. The two greatest symbols of the gods were the _____ and the _____, which explain Pharaoh’s sunrise ritual at the river, and God’s commands to Moses.

- With each cycle, the plagues get _____, moving from nuisance to damage or death to animals, crops, and people.

- With the second cycle, God begins making a difference (lit., a _____) between Egypt and Israel so that Pharaoh will know that God is “the LORD in the midst of the land” (8.22-23; 9.4, 26; 10.23).

- With the first two plagues of each cycle, God commands Pharaoh, “Let My people _____ that they may serve Me,” but brings the third plague without _____ due to Pharaoh’s hardness of heart and/or his breaking of his word (8.8, 15-16; 9.7; 10.8-12).

- Before the plagues, Aaron’s serpent/rod swallows up the serpent/rods of the magicians; With the third plague, the magicians cannot bring forth lice/gnats and testify, “This is the finger of God”; With the sixth plague, the magicians cannot even stand before Moses (7.12; 8.19; 9.11).

► **Application:** When Christ shakes the nations today, including our nation, it is to establish his _____ which cannot be shaken, while bringing to nothing everything that can be shaken, i.e., everything not built on the _____ of Christ and his word.

Heb 12 ²² [Y]ou have come to ... the heavenly Jerusalem, ...

²³ to the ... church of the firstborn ... ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant ... ²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who speaks ..., ²⁶ whose voice then shook the earth [at Mt Sinai]; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven” [Hag 2.6]. ²⁷ Now this ... indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, ... that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Mat 7 ²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

► **In this process**, there are certain things we must remember:

- 1) The battle at its core is always spiritual.

- Gn 3 – Garden of Eden
- Ex 7 – Pharaoh and his magicians
- Rv 12.3-5 – Herod, the dragon, and the baby boys
- Rv 13.2-4, 7, 11-12 – The dragon giving power to the beasts
- Eph 6.11-12 – We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers of darkness

- 2) Our secret weapon is always worship.

- Josh 6 – Israel and the conquest of Jericho
- Heb 12.28 Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us serve (worship) God with reverence
- Rm 12.1-2 I beseech you ... brethren by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service (worship)
- Col 3.16-17 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns ..., singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

• 3) When Christ is on the move and the ground is shaking, he always calls his people to repentance, reformation, and revival, which always causes offense to many.

- 1Pt 4.17, 19 The time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the

end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ... Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good

- Exo 2.11-21 – At the time of Moses
- Mat 3.1-2, 7-10 – At the time of John the Baptist
- Mat 4.17; 11.20-24; 12.9-14 – At the time of Jesus

• 4) In this way, Christ draws a dividing _____ thru his covenant people, separating those who truly _____ to Christ and his word from those who don't.

- Eze 20.36-38 "Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness ... of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you ... I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me ... Then you will know that I am the LORD."

► **We are living** through the same things, therefore we must _____ to Christ and his word, worshipping and serving faithfully, committing our souls to Christ and doing _____ in the midst of suffering for righteousness sake.

- 1Pt 4.19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good