



EXODUS - WEEK 10

True and False Repentance

Opening prayer

Prayer for the persecuted church:

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Daniel Garcia and Emmaus Church San Bernadino.

Closing prayer

Introduction:

- Nebraska Slides

“Yahweh declares to Pharaoh that he intends to be known, to be glorified in his salvation of Israel through the judgment of Egypt.”

(James Hamilton)

Exodus 9:30

³⁰ But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the Lord God.”

In other words, I know that your repentance is false. We don't want our repentance to be like Pharaoh's.

Big Idea: Both true repentance and false repentance are seen in the heart attitude toward Christ.

Exodus 9:34

³⁴ But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet again and hardened his heart, he and his servants.

When circumstances change, you go right back to what you know is wrong. That's a sign of false repentance.

So, what does true repentance look like? No matter the circumstances, we look to the Lord.

Isaiah 43:2

**2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not**

**overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be
burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.**

So, that's the idea today. We'll look at six signs of false repentance and contrast them with true repentance as we begin chapter ten.

Exodus 10:1-3

10 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the

heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them, ² and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord.”

So, God hardens the heart of Pharaoh and his servants so that He can show these signs so that the people who witness these signs may proclaim them with conviction to the next two

generations, to their sons and their grandsons.

God has His own purposes for hardening someone's heart.

First, we have the Lord's declaration: I will harden Pharaoh's heart (twice).

Exodus 4:21

²¹ And the Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before

Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.

Exodus 7:3

3 But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt,

Then we have four references back to the Lord's declaration that Pharaoh's heart was hardened just as He said.

Exodus 7:13

13 Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Exodus 7:22

22 But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Exodus 8:15

15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, he hardened his heart and would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Exodus 8:19

19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Then we have seven verses just telling us that Pharaoh's heart was hardened.

Exodus 7:13

13 Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Exodus 7:14

14 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go.

Exodus 7:22

22 But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained

hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Exodus 8:19

19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Exodus 9:7

7 And Pharaoh sent, and behold, not one of the livestock of Israel was dead. But the heart

of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

Exodus 9:35

35 So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people of Israel go, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses.

Exodus 14:5

5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and

they said, “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?”

Three verses referring to Pharaoh hardening his heart.

Exodus 8:15

15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, he hardened his heart and would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Exodus 8:32

32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and did not let the people go.

Exodus 9:34

34 But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet again and hardened his heart, he and his servants.

Ten verses saying that the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart.

Exodus 4:21

21 And the Lord said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.

Exodus 7:3

3 But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt,

Exodus 9:12

12 But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had spoken to Moses.

Exodus 10:1

10 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them,

Exodus 10:20

20 But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go.

Exodus 10:27

27 But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go.

Exodus 11:10

10 Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land.

Exodus 14:4

4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over

Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.” And they did so.

Exodus 14:8

8 And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the people of Israel while the people of Israel were going out defiantly.

Exodus 14:17

17 And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them,

and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen.

³ So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and said to him, “Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Now, here we have the issue regarding Pharaoh hardening his own heart — pride.

But let's forget Pharaoh for a second. What about you? Charles Spurgeon put it this way: "Let the Lord Jesus Christ himself, with the thorn-crowned head and the pierced hand, stand by your chair, looking right down into your soul, saying to you, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me?'"

1. When someone exhibits consistent pride.

A proud heart is an unrepentant heart.

True repentance:

1 Peter 5:6

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,

Then Moses tells Pharaoh that locusts will devour what's left of their vegetation (verses 4-6). He tells them that it's going to decimate

the rest of Egypt's agriculture. And it does. This plague is so severe that...

Exodus 10:7

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 understand that Egypt is ruined?"

And now we come to a bit of interesting archeology. There is a remarkable document

called the Papyrus Leiden 344 which has the title “Admonitions of an Egyptian Sage,” which gives an independent account of the biblical plagues, if taken at face value.

So, first we have the biblical account of events.

Exodus 10:15

15 They covered the face of the whole land, so that the land was darkened, and they ate all the plants in the land and all the fruit of the

trees that the hail had left. Not a green thing remained, neither tree nor plant of the field, through all the land of Egypt.

And this is what the Egyptian sage named Ipuwer wrote: “Gone is the grain of abundance. Food supplies are running short. The nobles hunger and suffer. Upper Egypt has become a wasteland. Grain is lacking on every side. The storehouse is bare. Women say, ‘Oh, that we had something to eat!’”

This also corresponds with...

Exodus 9:31

³¹ (The flax and the barley were struck down, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud.

But then we also have...

Exodus 10:22

22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days.

Ipuwer wrote: “Those who had shelter are now in the dark of the storm. The whole of the delta cannot be seen.”

Now, I'll be sharing more from this document in others sermon in this series, but when this document is examined along side the biblical plagues, there is astounding similarity.

But let's go back to Pharaoh's response to this catastrophe, because it gives us another sign of false repentance.

2. When someone doesn't turn to the Lord even as circumstances grow worse.

We all see this in people we care about. How low does someone have to go before they turn to the Lord?

But a sign of false repentance for the professing Christian is that when circumstances grow worse, instead of running to the Lord in prayer, the false convert becomes embittered and angry toward God.

So, in contrast to this false repentance, what does true repentance look like?

True repentance: You take everything to the Lord even in the good times.

Psalm 62:8

**⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.**

Exodus 10:8-11

8 So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. And he said to them, “Go, serve the Lord your God. But which ones are to go?”

Pharaoh promises six times that he'll let the people go and six times he reneges on his promises. And now his repentance is also conditional, but we'll come back to that point later.

9 Moses said, “We will go with our young and our old. We will go with our sons and daughters and with our flocks and herds, for we must hold a feast to the Lord.”¹⁰ But he said to them, “The Lord be with you, if ever I let you and your little ones go! Look, you have some evil purpose in mind.¹¹ No! Go, the men among you, and serve the Lord, for that is what you are asking.” And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

3. When someone attributes evil motives to people who are trying to do God's will.

“I liked attending church and worshipping the Lord, until you did that sermon on tithing. You guys just want my money.”

“The only reason they care for the poor is to build up their own egos.”

And on and on the false accusations go.

True repentance:

Luke 9:50

⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.”

We have to have charity in how we deal with other believers. All too often we judge the motives of our fellow believers, especially if they do not fall in line with our theological perspective.

Now, you know how important I think theology and rightly dividing the Word of God is, but the primary thing is “do they get the gospel right?” I mean, you don’t have to know all the nuances of theology to get the gospel right. And all Christians don’t have to be in our theological camp to be useful to the glory of God.

Then (verses 12-14) God uses natural means to bring about His supernatural purpose. An

east wind brings in the locusts who come and devour everything green.

There are even reports in our age of locusts devouring entire areas that sound like this plague in some respects.

What false god is the Lord humiliating this time? Well, several gods again. The Egyptians never have just one god who can get the job done.

- **Min, the patron of crops. There might have been a festival to this god at the time of this plague.**
- **Nepri, the god of grain.**
- **Anubis, the guardian of the fields.**
- **Senehem, the divine protector against pests. Wow. Was he embarrassed after this.**

They depended upon all these gods to preserve their food supply. But God made it abundantly clear: “These false gods cannot

give you want you need. You insult Me by worshipping them.”

Exodus 10:16-17

¹⁶ Then Pharaoh hastily called Moses and Aaron and said, “I have sinned against the Lord your God, and against you. ¹⁷ Now therefore, forgive my sin, please, only this once, and plead with the Lord your God only to remove this death from me.”

4. When someone doesn't understand their sin to be a condition of their soul, but only a deviation from their own goodness.

We're going to see that Pharaoh, himself, was seen as a god. Whenever we think we're more wonderful than we actually are, we have a hard time admitting our sinfulness.

True Repentance: You come to that place where you know because of your sinfulness there is no hope for you apart from Jesus Christ.

Luke 5:8

8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

Again, the issue is recognizing your sinfulness, not how bad you feel.

Exodus 10:20-21

²⁰ But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people 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, a darkness to be felt.”

The sun held an important place in Egyptian society, because their supreme deity in the pantheon of all their gods was Amon-Re who said, “I am the great god who came into being by himself.” And even that description shows this god to be inferior to the God the Bible. Why? Our God has no beginning and no end. He is uncreated. He just is. He didn’t have to create Himself. He already was and always will be.

Pharaoh was identified with the gods of the sun. Pharaoh himself was worshipped by the people as a god and they saw Re as his father. They prayed to Pharaoh. But what was Pharaoh really? He was an anti-Christ. He wasn't like Christ. He was against God, against Christ... anti-Christ.

Exodus 10:23-24

²³ They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days,

but all the people of Israel had light where they lived.

Darkness might not seem like much a plague, but again the point of all these plagues was to show the Egyptians that their gods were false gods and to show the Israelites that their God was the One true God who could be trusted with everything in their lives.

The darkness was an utter humiliation to their sun god Amon-Re, but also to Pharaoh

himself. All they could do was sit in darkness for three days seeing that their gods were helpless.

24 Then Pharaoh called Moses and said, “Go, serve the Lord; your little ones also may go with you; only let your flocks and your herds remain behind.”

5. When there is only partial repentance.

“I will do this for the Lord. Oh, but not that. That’s where I draw the line.”

- Quote from commentary (page 309)**

Here’s the thing about true repentance. The Christian wants to discover God’s will so they can do God’s will. This Word will tell you if you’re true or false in your heart toward God by how you submit to it.

For the true Christian, “sooner or later God will destroy every last trace of self-confidence in order to prove that he alone is God.”

True Repentance: the Christian submits to the Word.

Exodus 10:27-29

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 care

never to see my face again, for on the day you see my face you shall die.”²⁹ Moses said, “As you say! I will not see your face again.”

6. Finally, when the person wants nothing to do with God.

The situation has come to the point where the bitterness of this person is at its breaking point and this person walks away. “I’m done

with God. I'm done with Christianity. I'm done.”

True Repentance: The Christian want more and more to do with Jesus.

John 6:67-68

⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered

**him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You
have the words of eternal life,**

**Some relationships will just ruin everything
else for you, and that’s what it’s like knowing
Jesus Christ.**