



EXODUS - WEEK 7

No Other God

Opening prayer

Prayer for the persecuted church:

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Ricardo Mercado who started a church in El Valle De Guadalupe.

Closing prayer

Sometimes people object when it is even hinted at that you believe your God is thee God, because it's thought that, "Well, how could you possibly know that? I mean, if I

don't know it — and I'm smarter than anyone I know — then how could you know it?"

But the issue is not what anyone claims. The issue is what kind of God does Christianity reveal. In the Bible, God is revealed as the only true God. This would by definition rule out room for any other god. That's just a basic understanding of the Christian view of the world. The God of the Bible is unlike any other is that... He is completely sovereign.

BIG IDEA: The God of the Bible is completely sovereign.

Today, we're going to look at three ways God's sovereignty makes Him unlike any other god.

1. God is sovereign over people.

Exodus 7:1-5

7 And the Lord said to Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. ² You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land.

In what sense was Moses like God to Pharaoh? In the sense that Moses gave Pharaoh a message that came from God.

Now, people snicker at this idea today, but it's never unreasonable to say — if there is a God in this universe who is personable, then He can reveal Himself to whoever He likes. And He can also reveal Himself by whatever means He likes. In this case, He has revealed Himself through the writings of this book called the Bible.

When Moses spoke to Pharaoh, in his hand he held the staff or rod, the symbol of divine authority. Today, we do the same thing with

this book, which speaks with the authority of God.

This is something that people often object to when you share the gospel with them. They will say something along the lines of, “I can’t trust what the Bible says because it was written by man.”

The assumption here is that human beings are fallible and therefore cannot be trusted. Christianity agrees that human beings are fallible, imperfect because we are all sinful.

“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” Humanity no longer reflects the image of God. We’re not separated from God because of what we do. We’re separated from God because of who we are — we are sinners.

And we’re not just a little sinful, we’re sinful in a very troubling way. And if you haven’t been troubled by your own sinfulness, then you probably haven’t understood the gospel yet. And let me be clear here. If you don’t understand the gospel, you are not yet a Christian.

Because when we see the gospel, when we say to ourselves, “There is no hope for me to be right with God, to be forgiven for who I am, other than Christ’s death in my place. And there is no hope for me to change my own heart. I need God to give me a new heart. I need to be born again by the Spirit of God.” That’s when you understand the gospel.

So, the question is — can we trust anything fallible human beings come up with? Well, I should hope so. Fallible humans created all

the technology that we use today. It's interesting that when it comes to science, suddenly we think human beings are really smart and can be trusted. But when it comes to another human being telling you something they claim is true of God, suddenly we're very skeptical.

If God exists and He is sovereign over all things, meaning He is truly and really in control, then it is not difficult to believe that He could guide fallible human beings in writing Scripture in exactly the way He

wanted, saying exactly what He wanted to communicate to humanity. Why? Because He is sovereign.

As a matter of fact, the next verse teaches us just how sovereign God is.

³ But I will harden Pharaoh's heart,

Now, because God hardens Pharaoh's heart, does this absolve Pharaoh of moral responsibility in doing God's will? No, it doesn't. It just tells us something about God

— that He is truly sovereign over all things, including people, and can use even the most rebellious and sinful person for His own good purposes, which is what He does here.

and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, ⁴ Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. ⁵ The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out my hand

against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them.”

What's the end result of God using Pharaoh for His own good purposes? “The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.” God was not just judging the Egyptians, but He was also judging the gods of the Egyptians. It is reported that there were over 80 different Egyptian gods, but they all revolved around natural forces of Egyptian life: The Nile River, the land and the sky. As we will see, the first two plagues are against the gods of the Nile,

the next four against the gods of the land and the final four against the gods of the sky. By judging these false gods, God shows that He is the only true God.

It is no different today. God judges our false gods based upon His revelation of Himself. He can be know. He has left us an incident that has reverberated throughout history — the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

John 17:3

³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

So, we see that God is sovereign over people, but we also see that...

2. God is sovereign over all circumstances.

God uses these circumstances to show His glory to believers and unbelievers alike.

Another example of this is the crucifixion. Look at the circumstances surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus. From Judas to Pilate to the rowdy crowd yelling for his death to the high priest, etc. It was all according to the definitive plan of God. God wasn't navigating these circumstances. He planned them.

Acts 2:23

²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you

crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Acts 1:16

16 “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

This verse says that God planned what Judas would do beforehand. God rules

circumstances for His own glory and purposes and this is something we just cannot fathom.

This would only be troubling if God was not good and holy. Since He is perfect in all His ways we can trust His wisdom in whatever circumstance we find ourselves in.

When we really trust that God is sovereign over all circumstances, we can have peace. We can rest knowing that...

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Exodus 7:6-13

⁶ Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the Lord commanded them. ⁷ Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.

That's how sovereign God is — He can even use... middle-age people.

**8 Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron,
9 “When Pharaoh says to you, ‘Prove yourselves by working a miracle,’ then you shall say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and cast it down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent.’” 10 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron cast down his staff before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. 11 Then**

Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they, the magicians of Egypt, also did the same by their secret arts.

This is something that doesn't often occur to us is that just because we can do something that is only a trick, but looks like a miracle, that doesn't mean that God can't do the same thing as an actual miracle. Charlatans have always faked spiritual things, but that doesn't mean there aren't true spiritual things.

¹² For each man cast down his staff, and they became serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.

Now, that's kind of a topper when you're talking magic tricks. I took a rabbit out of a hat. Then you took a rabbit out of a hat. Then my rabbit ate your hat and your rabbit.

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

Even though God swallows up the worldly wisdom of the day, some people will still not listen.

When people claim, “I would believe in God if I saw a miracle,” it’s just not true. I touched on this last week, but Jesus basically says the Bible itself is enough evidence for you to believe.

Luke 16:31

31 He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

Realize this, that many of the people who saw the miracles of Jesus were the same people who shouted for Him to be crucified later. Seeing a miracle is not your issue. That’s not the reason you don’t believe (if you don’t happen to believe yet).

Exodus 7:14-18

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

The reason people don't believe is really just a stubbornness of heart. You do things all the time based on less evidence than what God has provided for you in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

You go to the bank and you just hand a stranger your money. You haven't done a background check. You haven't done anything, except hand over all your money to a stranger based on the simple faith that this person is actually going to put your money somewhere that you can still get to it.

Why did we ever start doing this? Because someone we trusted taught us that we could trust the bank. That's actually less evidence than what it takes to believe in the

resurrection of Jesus Christ. So, let's not pretend evidence is the primary issue.

Now, we look at the third way God is sovereign.

¹⁵ Go to Pharaoh in the morning, as he is going out to the water. Stand on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that turned into a serpent. ¹⁶ And you shall say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, "Let my people go, that they may serve me in the

wilderness.” But so far, you have not obeyed.
¹⁷ Thus says the Lord, “By this you shall know that I am the Lord: behold, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood. ¹⁸ The fish in the Nile shall die, and the Nile will stink, and the Egyptians will grow weary of drinking water from the Nile.”””

What is the importance of the Nile to the Egyptians? Well, it was the source of all of Egypt’s prosperity. It was really the source of their economy. It watered their crops. It

provided transportation to and from the kingdom, etc. It represented the source of their success.

And what do we learn from this particular plague?

3. God is sovereign over nations.

God showed He is sovereign over humans, He is sovereign over circumstances, now He

shows that He is even sovereign over cities and kingdoms and nations.

Exodus 7:19-25

¹⁹ And the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and all their pools of water, so that they may become blood, and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.’”

²⁰ Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood. ²¹ And the fish in the Nile died, and the Nile stank, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

One commentator put it like this: With one single blow he gave them a water and food

shortage, a transportation shutdown, a financial disaster, and a spiritual crisis.

That same commentator asks, “Imagine this happening in the United States? Imagine a stock market crash, the price of gas skyrocketing to forty dollars a gallon, supplies of drinking water contaminated and grocery stores started running out of food...

“One day God will glorify Himself in America the way He glorified Himself in Egypt. He will triumph over every false god in order to prove

that He alone is Creator and Provider, the giver and sustainer of life. If that happens — when it happens — it will show where we have placed our ultimate allegiance.”

Suddenly, missing church for all those Sunday sporting events won't seem so casual.

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. ²³ Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not take even this

to heart. ²⁴ And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile for water to drink, for they could not drink the water of the Nile.

²⁵ Seven full days passed after the Lord had struck the Nile.

They could only duplicate the miracle. They couldn't reverse it. It would have made much more sense to turn the blood back into water. Satan just can't get away from the fact that God is sovereign over him. The crucifixion proves that. As Jesus hung on the cross, Satan thought he had achieved his greatest

victory. But he didn't know that Jesus was paying for all our sins, the very ones Satan will throw in our face and accuse us with. When Jesus rose from the grave, Satan's greatest victory became His greatest defeat.

What about the passage is important for the way God unfolds his plan of salvation in history? This account should give us confidence that the God who created all things, including you, is capable of communicating the truth of Who He is to humanity. This means we can know God. But

it also means that we can only know God on His terms and not ours. And His terms are faith in Jesus Christ. This is why God calls His people to go into all the world and make Christ known — because He can be known.

This is why Christ is sufficient, because He is God in the flesh. This is why Christ is the scandal of the world, because this makes Him the only, the unique, the particular Savior of the world. There is no other God by which you can be saved.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

This passage also calls us to repentance as Christians when we find ourselves filled with

anxiety over the circumstances of life we find ourselves in. If God is sovereign, then He has a handle on your circumstances. You can trust Him in your circumstances.

1 Peter 5:7

⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

What does the passage mean for the corporate life of our local church? If God is

sovereign over nations, He is certainly sovereign over us as His local church.

How does it call the local corporate body to tend to its corporate life together and corporate witness to the unbelieving community around it?

Deuteronomy 4:34-35

³⁴ Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by

wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? ³⁵ To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord is God; there is no other besides him.