

EXODUS 8:16-19

The Finger of God

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CONTROLLING QUESTION: What happens when the work of God can no longer be denied?

GOVERNING TRUTH: When the LORD makes His power unmistakably known, counterfeit powers are exposed, and every heart must decide whether merely to recognize Him or surrender to Him.

LISTEN FOR THE ANSWER

The LORD commands creation, exposes the limits of counterfeit power, and reveals the difference between recognizing His work and surrendering to His rule.

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE REVEAL ABOUT THE LORD?

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE REVEAL ABOUT THE HUMAN HEART?

1. THE LORD COMMANDS WHAT ONLY HE CAN CREATE

Exodus 8:16-17

NO FURTHER WARNING: Pharaoh has heard God's Word, witnessed His power, received mercy, and broken his promise. Judgment now comes without another warning.

God's patience is abundant, but it must never be mistaken for permission to continue resisting Him.

Where might you be treating delayed consequences as though God approves of your choices?

THE DUST ANSWERS ITS CREATOR

The LORD takes the dust beneath Pharaoh's feet and makes it an instrument of judgment. Pharaoh claims authority over Egypt, but he cannot command one speck of its dust.

TRUTH TO REMEMBER: Creation displays God's power, but it cannot redeem us. The Creator has made Himself known personally in Jesus Christ.

What part of creation most often moves you to recognize the wisdom and power of its Creator?

2. THE LORD EXPOSES COUNTERFEIT POWER

Exodus 8:18

"The magicians tried with their secret arts to bring forth gnats, but they could not."

SATAN'S POWER IS REAL: Scripture warns that the powers of darkness deceive, tempt, accuse, oppress, and counterfeit. Occult practices are not harmless entertainment.

If something seeks spiritual knowledge, protection, guidance, or power apart from the LORD and His Word, the believer has no business participating in it.

Are there objects, practices, entertainment, or spiritual influences that need to be brought into the light and removed?

BUT SATAN IS NOT SOVEREIGN

The magicians could imitate some signs, but they could not stop one plague. Their power could add to Egypt's misery, but it could not deliver anyone.

THE BOUNDARY: Satan's power is created, limited, governed, and moving toward final judgment. The LORD's power is original, sovereign, and without limit.

THE VICTORY AND AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST

Luke 11:20; Colossians 2:15; 1 John 4:4

Jesus cast out demons by the finger of God. At the cross He disarmed the rulers and authorities. The powers of darkness still oppose, but they face a victorious Lord and certain judgment.

OUR CONFIDENCE: "Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

HOW BELIEVERS STAND

We submit to God and resist the devil, pray, walk by the Spirit, put on God's armor, and hold firmly to His Word (James 4:7; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 6:10-18).

Where are you tempted either to minimize spiritual darkness or to fear it as though it were sovereign?

IF YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OCCULT PRACTICES

Bring the involvement into the light. Turn from it. Remove associated objects. Confess it to the LORD, and ask mature believers to stand with you in prayer and truth (Acts 19:18-20; 1 John 1:9; James 5:16).

HOPE IN CHRIST: You are not beyond His reach. You do not need to negotiate with darkness. Come under the authority of the Son of God.

3. RECOGNITION IS NOT SURRENDER

Exodus 8:19

"This is the finger of God."

RECOGNITION: The magicians acknowledge divine power, but they do not confess the LORD, leave Pharaoh, or bow in worship.

A person may speak of a higher power, an intelligent designer, or "someone upstairs" while keeping God at a safe distance. The true God has a name, speaks with authority, and has revealed Himself in His Son (Hebrews 1:1-3).

Do you merely recognize that God is at work, or are you listening and surrendering to Him?

AS THE LORD HAD SAID

Pharaoh's resistance is real, but it never surprises God, interrupts His plan, or causes His Word to fail (Exodus 7:13, 22; 8:15, 19).

THE UNBROKEN WORD: Pharaoh's heart is hard, but the LORD's Word remains unbroken. What He warns must be taken seriously; what He promises can be trusted completely.

LOOK AGAIN AT JESUS CHRIST

The Creator and victorious Lord died for our sins and rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). He promises eternal life to everyone who believes in Him (John 6:47).

ONE SENTENCE TO REMEMBER: The finger of God exposes every counterfeit and directs us to the unrivaled authority of Jesus Christ.

MY PRAYER AND ADDITIONAL NOTES

Responding to the LORD whose power has no limit and whose Word cannot fail

PRAY TOWARD THIS: Lord, expose what is counterfeit in my life. Keep me from fearing the powers of darkness. Help me listen to Your Word, trust Your Son, and surrender to Your authority.

MY PRAYER

ADDITIONAL NOTES