

Final Warning  
Exodus 11:1-10

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HDBC

**Somewhere along** the way in my seminary experience I came across a simple little outline for preparing sermons.

Tell them what you are going to say.

Say it.

Tell them what you said.

**It may sound** redundant, but there is great benefit to repetition, done in the right way. We see some of that in Exodus 11. This is the **final warning** before the last plague is unleashed on Pharaoh and his people. In it we find some review of what has already been said and done. Then there is an announcement of what was about to happen. So, before we get to the final plague, let's dive into this final warning.

### Read Exodus 11:1-10

**Keep in mind** that everything from chapter 1 to this point has been about the people being set free from slavery in Egypt. The protection of Moses as an infant. The preparation of Moses in the household of Pharaoh as a child and young man. The call of Moses at the burning bush in Midian. The plagues that have already happened, demonstrating the power of God over Pharaoh and all the gods of the Egyptians.

**A lot** has happened but the people are still in Egypt and still in slavery. They have not been allowed to go out. That's about to change, with one more plague. We'll get into the details of that in chapter 12. But chapter 11 is important, too. In this chapter we learn that four things are going to happen. Number one . . .

#### 1. **The people are going out (1)**

On the surface that may seem too simple, but it was important to be reaffirmed at this point in the process. Moses had announced to the people that they were going to be set free. This happened when Moses first returned to Egypt and met with the Hebrew leaders.

**He has** had multiple meetings with Pharaoh seeking permission for the people to go out. Nine times God has demonstrated His power and sovereignty over Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt. But the people have not been released by Pharaoh to go out. They are still in bondage. No one is free. They are still suffering the oppression of a people who are not free.

**So, at this point** it was important for God to reaffirm that His plans have not been stopped. It might have appeared to Moses and the Hebrews that Pharaoh was winning a war of attrition, but God was in complete control. He is very specific, in that there would be one more plague and then Pharaoh would let the people go out. All the previous acts of God have led to this great event which would cause Pharaoh to release the people. In fact God uses interesting language to describe what will happen.

*He (Pharaoh) will surely drive you out from here completely.*

**This would** not be a passive release of the people but a forceful exodus. The phrase means to **expel** or to **drive out by force**. **The idea is of a landlord evicting a tenant**. Through nine plagues he remained resolute in his refusal to let them go. That was about to drastically change. The final plague would not only break his heart but break his will.

The people are going out . . . and soon! But second . . .

## 2. **The people are going out wealthy (2-3)**

Before I get into the particulars of these this statement, let me offer this. Charles Swindoll points out something that might not be immediately apparent with a casual reading of the text. Verses 1-3 are a retelling of something God has already said to Moses. In writing his journal, Moses understood that this was a perfect place to remind the ready of these things.

**Look back** at 10:29. Moses indicated that Pharaoh would never see his face again. But notice that there is no mention at that point that the meeting was over. Many scholars believe that encounter was not over until verse 8 when it clearly states that Moses went out of Pharaoh's presence. So, think of it like this. Verses 1-3 are simply notes that Moses includes at this point, as he writes about this meeting. Then, in verse 4, he continues to write about his meeting with Pharaoh.

**Now back** to the statement that comes out of verses 2-3. The people would go out wealthy. Previously, in Exodus 3:21-22 God had revealed this very thing to Moses. The people would ask the Egyptians to give them things, and they would. They would go out not as paupers but with great wealth. J. **Vernon McGee points out that this was simply backpay for all the generations that the Hebrews had worked for free.**

**This was not simply** about sending them out with stuff. Much of what they would collect and carry with them would be instrumental in construction of the Tabernacle that would come later. At this point God did not tell them what it would be used for. He simply instructed them to ask and take it from them.

**The text** makes it clear that God was at work in the hearts of the Egyptians. Not only did he cause them to look with favor upon the people and bless them with wealth, but he also caused them to look with favor upon Moses. This **had to be** a God-thing, for Moses had been the instrument of much suffering throughout the land.

### 3. **The people are going out through a sea of tears (4-8)**

They will hear weeping in every Egyptian home they pass. They will see every family preparing for a burial. In verses 4-8 Moses lays out for Pharaoh exactly how things were going to happen. There are **five hard truths** that Pharaoh needed to be confronted with and Moses shared each one.

#### 1) **God was coming at midnight (4)**

Moses has made it clear through this entire experience with the plagues that God was the one who initiated each one. God was demonstrating that He alone was God, that the Hebrews were His people and that He was going to set them free. He was the unseen cause of each one.

But now, **He Is Coming**, personally. God is coming and He is coming around midnight. This should have been a chilling warning to Pharaoh that God was about to personally take charge and bring it to a conclusion. Then a shocking declaration.

#### 2) **The firstborn in each family would die (5)**

God was coming and He would bring death to every family. The firstborn of each family, from the powerful and wealthy to the poor and insignificant. The cattle. Even **Pharaoh's own family.**

### 3) **This would be a national crisis (6)**

The grief & mourning that would be felt & expressed would be nationwide. It would be unprecedented. There had been wars where families lost sons and husbands and fathers in battle. There had been famines where families experienced starvation. There had been natural disasters. But they've never seen anything like this. There would be a shockwave of grief that would race across the nation.

### 4) **The Hebrews would be protected (7)**

God would spare His people. There would be no death in the Hebrew homes. There would be no grief, no crying, no anguish. Once again, God would make a clear distinction between His people and Egypt. There are times when it is vital to be on the right side. This was one.

### 5) **There would be an exodus (8)**

The people WILL leave. You think you have halted God's plan, but you have been fooled by your own arrogance. This has been God's plan from the beginning; to bring them out only after the tenth plague. What you have desperately tried to prevent, will indeed happen.

The people are going out

The people are going out wealthy

The people are going out through a sea of grief

And finally . . .

### 4. **The people are going out in God's time and in God's way (9-10)**

The last two verses remind us that this entire drama has been orchestrated by God, controlled by God and is being brought to its completion by God. In other words, it is a reminder that the people would go out in God's time and God's way. God is in charge. He has a purpose for what He does and for how He does it. Subtle reminder that even when Pharaoh ***drives them out*** he is still not in charge. He is simply bowing to the will of God. Pharaoh has never been in charge through this entire drama.

## **Some Takeaways:**

### 1. **God is a planner**

The plagues narrative is a great reminder that God does not act without thought, without a purpose, without a plan. It may appear at times that God

is simply reacting to the most recent situation with an immediate response. But this reminds us that God has a plan and He carries it out.

**This has** enormous implications for us. God has a plan for your life. He is not sitting back and waiting to see what we do next, then reacting to it. No, He is weaving His plan in and through our lives to accomplish His purposes in us. This does not violate your freedom in making decisions. You can do what you like. But your choices will not frustrate God's plans or purposes.

## 2. **God is a judge**

There is a time for judgement. That time is about to come for Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Why? Because he and they have hardened their hearts. They have refused to repent and get right with God. They would rather die in their sin than humbly seek the forgiveness of God. Pharaoh reminds me of

Timothy McVeigh. He was the terrorist who bombed the Alfred P. Murry federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995. He was defiant to the end. Shortly before his execution on June 11, 2001, he said, *If I go to hell, I'm gonna have a lot of company.* He was right in that he would not be the only one in hell. But he was so wrong in thinking that the presence of others in hell would somehow bring comfort or ease the pain and suffering of that place. To that kind of defiance, God can only serve as judge.

## 3. **God is a rescuer**

God is more multifaceted in his nature, actions and purpose than we could ever grasp. But one thing seems clear. God reveals Himself through the pages of the Bible & through the history of the world as a **God who rescues.**

**The story** of the Bible is the story of God rescuing sinful people from the condemnation of their own sins. We see it in the Garden of Eden right after **Adam and Eve** first sinned, we see it in the rescue of the **Hebrews from Egypt**, we see it in **coming of Jesus to enter into humanity** that He might rescue us from our eternal condemnation. God allowed His firstborn to be nailed to a cross. And there, on that cross, God poured out the punishment that is due to us on His son, so that we might be rescued from that judgment through faith in Christ.

**God is a rescuer.** You may not think you need a rescuer. Right now, you may not. But there will come a time when you will.