

God vs. Pharaoh



Day 1

Sermon Sentence: We can't embrace God's Grace until we submit to God's Authority.

Exodus 7:1-24

As we learned last week Moses has become discouraged by the rejection of Pharaoh and the Israelites. Moses turns and accuses God of allowing evil to befall the people that He swore to deliver from slavery. Exodus seven opens with Moses returning to Pharaoh at God's command to once again demand that he set His people free but this time things are about to get interesting!

- Aaron casts his staff down before Pharaoh and it becomes a living snake, however Pharaoh is able to get his own sorcerers to duplicate this miracle through trickery. What is the significance of Aaron's staff (snake) devouring the staffs of the Pharaoh's sorcerers?
- This would seem to be in of itself pretty convincing of God's power but how does Pharaoh respond and why?
- The first plague was a plague of blood. What was the Pharaoh's reaction to this plague and why?
- Consider the magnitude of this plague, what would your life be like if every bit of water that you could access suddenly turned to blood? Notice that God allows the Egyptians to find water by digging, why do you think God allowed this?
- Once again the sorcerers were able to duplicate this plague and causes the Pharaoh's heart to harden. What is the purpose that God is trying to accomplish by doing this?

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Day 2

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Exodus 7:1-25 - 8:32

Each plague is intended to be tormenting on a large scale in a specific way. In the above scriptures we see the next three plagues that were sent upon Egypt by the hand of God. Most people would agree that any one of these might be considered bad enough to give in and just let the Israelites go but that is not what God has in mind at least not yet.

- Consider the second plague (frogs). Imagine frogs were literally infesting every aspect of your life even within your home. How would you cope with this type of disaster? How devastating do you think these creatures would be to the various aspects of your life?
- Once again we see the Pharaoh's sorcerers duplicate this through their trickery but what does it say that they only brought on more frogs but could not make them go away?
- Consider the third plague (gnats). Again how would you cope with this plague? How devastating would it be?
- Notice for the first time that the Sorcerers could not duplicate this plague. Take note that God literally creates life from the dust of Egypt. What other life did God form from the dust of the Earth and what significance does it have that these sorcerers could not do the same?
- Consider the fourth plague (flies). Again what do you think the effect of this plague would be on your life? What is significantly different about this plague compared to the others so far?

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Day 3

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Exodus 9:1-35

The next three plagues are more intense and personal to the Egyptians than any of the previous with far more disastrous results. God is moving in incredible ways and it seems silly that the Pharaoh would continue to play this game by not allowing them to leave but don't forget that God is using Pharaoh (by hardening his heart) in His plan to show more glory to His people.

- Do you think that God is being fair in His treatment of Egypt considering He is also hardening the Pharaoh's heart preventing him from letting the Israelites go free? Why or why not?
- Consider the fifth plague (death of livestock). Placing this in modern terms consider this in terms of resources crucial to your livelihood such as a business you run. What would happen to you if those resources were suddenly destroyed? What would happen if the resources of your competitors were not?
- Consider the sixth plague (boils). This one directly affects the health of the Egyptians. What do you think about this plague and how it crippled the Egyptians from even standing?
- Consider the seventh plague (lightening and hail). We see a lot of extreme weather these days, what would be the effects on a community if this intense amount of damage was concentrated in one place? What do you think the condition of Egypt is at this point compared to the land of Goshen (Israelites)?

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Day 4

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Exodus 10:1-11:10

As you can see each plague builds upon and increases in intensity compared to the previous plague, so it is no surprise that the last three plagues are the most terrifying with the last being truly horrifying!

- Consider the eighth plague (locust). Consider a voracious swarm of insects so thick that every surface is literally 100% covered with them including the ground! What do you think would happen if this swarm ate every piece of vegetation in a region? What effect would it have on the environment, people and the economy?
- Consider the ninth plague (darkness). Have you ever been through several hours of a power outage? How does it feel when you have no light during those periods of time? Now consider that no light will work at all not even flashlights and candles and you can understand the terror of this plague. What do you think would be the effect on the mental state of people during this plague?
- Consider the tenth and final plague (death of the firstborn). Consider if every firstborn male were to die instantly in the United States both human and animal! What would be the effect to a society to use so many people instantly in this manner? What devastating effects would this have to future generations as well and to the strength of the nation?

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Day 5

Sermon Sentence: We can't embrace God's Grace until we submit to God's Authority.

Application: In life we are often more like Pharaoh than Moses.

What are the hindrances to us submitting to God's authority?

- **Pride?**
 - Is our pride keeping us from submitting to God's Authority?
 - Unwillingness to be submissive
 - fear of being seen as weak
 - fear of being seen as inadequate
 - fear of being seen as incapable
 - fear of being seen as a dependent person, not self made, not a self starter not self driven (I don't need someone I can't see telling me how to live my life)
- **Selfishness?** (Philippians 3:1-11)
 - What will I have to give up to submit to God's Authority
 - We want what we want more than what God wants
- **Procrastination?**
 - Waiting until we have lived our life our way
 - Banking on the grace of God to bail us out

Submitting to God's authority isn't to enslave us, it is to set us free and truly know Him so we can live for Him and be used in His story for our lives. (Matthew 28:18-20) When we submit to the authority for our lives we realize that we are called to be used in His story to bring others into that personal relationship with Christ. It isn't until we fully submit to God's Authority over our lives that we fully understand God's Grace for our lives. If we are wanting to understand the true grace of God, are we submitting God's Authority over our lives, or are we still living our life based upon our own understanding.