

The Plague of the Death of the First Born

Study of the Book of Exodus
Mrs. Caroline Turyatamba
Prayer & Intercession Ministry
ASCK
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Context - Recap on the Plagues

- The ancient Egyptians served many false gods.
 - The Plagues that were set upon the people of Egypt were relative to the gods of the land demonstrating that God was the true God and that their gods were weak, ineffective, and false.
1. Plague of Turning the Nile to blood, Exodus 7:14-25. Isis was the Egyptian god of the Nile. Khnum was the guardian of the Nile.
 2. Plague of Frogs, Exodus 8:1-5. Heget was the goddess of birth and had the head of a frog.
 3. Plague of Gnats, Exodus 8:16-19. Set was the god of the desert.
 4. Flies, Exodus 8:20-32. Re was the sun god. Uatchit was a god possibly represented by the fly.

Context - Recap on the Plagues

5. Death of Livestock, Exodus 9:1-7. Hathor, goddess with a cow's head. Apis was the bull god.
6. Boils, Exodus 9:8-12. Sekmet goddess that had power over disease. Sunu, the god of pestilence.
7. Hail, Exodus 9:13-35. Nut, the goddess of the sky. Set god of storms.
8. Locusts, Exodus 10:1-20. Osiris, god of crops.
9. Darkness, Exodus 10:21-29. Re, the sun god. Horus, a sun god. Hathor, sky goddess.
10. Death of firstborn, Exodus 11:1 - 12:30. Min, god of reproduction. Isis, goddess who protected children. Pharaoh, considered a god.¹

1. The Egyptians were Not innocent

- Pharaoh had murdered all of the infant Hebrew boys by drowning them in the Nile River (Ex. 1:22).
- Egypt had grown rich by enslaving the Jewish people for 400 years (Gen. 15:13).
- While Pharaoh carried out this plot, the Egyptian people benefited from his decision to enslave the Jews.
- Now, the Egyptian people were being held culpable for standing idly by, while this was happening.
- God had promised to curse those who cursed Israel (Gen. 12:3). If God did not act, he would have been reneging on his promise to Abraham.

2. Pharaoh killed every Hebrew infant boy

- God only judged the firstborn of Egypt.
- God's judgment was mild in comparison to Pharaoh's judgment.
- Moreover, Pharaoh's edict (to kill the Hebrew infants) was ever rescinded.
- It's possible that the Pharaoh was *currently* killing the Hebrew boys at the time of the plagues.
- The death of the firstborn (Exodus 12:29) was the final blow to Pharaoh and all of Egypt
- Demonstrated the powerlessness of Pharaoh
- Demonstrated the truth of God's word for those who bless or curse Abraham Gen 12:3-Uganda Vs Israel 1976

3. Some Egyptians escaped from judgment with the Hebrews.

- God was arranging history to bear witness of the greatest act of love: the crucifixion.
- In the account of the death of the firstborn, all who had the blood of a lamb placed on their door posts in Egypt would escape the judgment of God on the households.
- This blood on the doorpost was representative of the actual blood of Christ who is called the Lamb of God.
- Therefore, God allowed the firstborn to be killed as a judgment upon Pharaoh, as a proof of God's superiority, and as a prophetic representation of the death of His Son, Jesus.
- It was a representation of the gospel message that the true first born of God who would later die for the sins of the world and that all who are covered by the blood of Christ will be saved from their bondage to sin.

4· The 10th plague was last on the list.

- Pharaoh had been warned by God for nine straight plagues.
- God had given Pharaoh multiple opportunities to change his mind and avoid judgment.
- Pharaoh, on the other hand, did not give the Jews any “ways out,” when he killed the Hebrew boys.
- These boys were not given the opportunity to serve and worship God
- While God waited patiently and gave many chances for repentance, Pharaoh gave none.

5. God was acting in perfect justice

- Every season of redemption for the righteous is also time for retribution for the wicked.
- The Egyptians had selfishly mistreated the Israelites for decades,
- Used people created in God's image as their slaves.
- Enforced a barbarous system of infanticide that must have brought untold suffering to the families of Israel.
- Pharaoh decreed that every newborn Israeli boy was to be cast alive into the Nile River.

5. God was acting in perfect justice

- God's judgment came to the Egyptians on every mountain.
- Mt. of Religion – Judgment on all Egypt's idols
- Mt. of Family – Death in every family
- Mt. of Education – Their false teachings, skills in the military were proved useless.
- Mt. of Governance – Judgment of the entire machinery of government & the military
- Mt. of Celebration & Arts – Dancing turned to mourning
- Mt. of Media – News of the God of Israel filled the airwaves
- Mt. of Economy – Resources of Israel gold & silver articles given to the Israelites

5. God was acting in perfect justice

- Idolatry where the children of Israel were the human sacrifice
- The loving God could not remain passive. The miracles that led to the redemption of Israel from bondage witnessed the judgement of Egypt
- God judged the economy of Egypt by removing a highly skilled, blessed, industrious and no cost workforce
- The Israelites received articles of gold, silver a reward of all the labor of their forefathers.
- This wealth of Egypt for the construction of His Altar and Tabernacle
- Gen 15: 13-14...your descendants enslaved, mistreated but I will punish that nation...they will come out with great possessions

Significance of 10

- The Bible says God hardened Pharaoh's heart ten times.
- The 10 hardenings and 10 plagues demonstrate Jehovah's power over Pharaoh, Egypt and their gods.
- The number 10 revolves around 10 commandments
- Also this number is about 10 Plagues of Egypt and 10 nations.
- number 10 is completed course of time or completeness in divine order
- Referral for ranking or when describing anything that is near to perfection
- Holy Spirit descended on apostles after 10 days of Ascension of Jesus.
- Number 10 is said to be the number of divine perfection / power
- 1/10 of your income is the tithe,
- 10 x 10 silver sockets which formed the foundation of Tabernacle
- 10 "I AM"s which Jesus Spoke in John

6. God Has Certain Moral Rights Over Human Life That We Don't.

- God as the author of our being has unique rights over us that we do not have over our fellow humans.
- A parent has certain rights over their own children, which they do not share
- God as creator / sustainer of all people, decides how long we get to live (Ps. 139:16).
- When we die it is said our life/spirit returns to God its maker.
- We live everyday –not as a right –but by the mercy of God.
- When God took the lives of the firstborn in Egypt, he was acting on prerogatives that rightly belong to him.
- In fact, these Egyptian boys probably died in their sleep (“Now it came about *at midnight...*” Ex. 12:29).
- Of course, the Hebrew infants were given no such mercy, drowning in the Nile River (Ex. 1:22).

7. God who took the firstborn son gave up his own firstborn son.

- We're dealing with the same God who paid this great and terrible price *himself* by giving up his "only begotten son" (Jn. 3:16).
- While God is willing and able to judge, he was also willing to take our place in judgment.
- God was arranging history to bear witness of the greatest act of love: the crucifixion.
- During this plague all who had the blood of a lamb placed on their door posts escaped the judgment of God on the households.
- This blood on the doorpost was representative of the actual blood of Christ who is called the Lamb of God.
- Therefore, God allowed the firstborn to be killed as a judgment upon Pharaoh, as a proof of God's superiority, and as a prophetic representation of the death of His Son, Jesus.
- All who are covered by the blood of Christ will be saved from their bondage to sin.

In Appreciation /

- Thank God for all the women who helped save lives of the hebrew boy children.
- Appreciation of all women care givers
- Appreciation of all women who have stood in intercession, education, health, business, government, homes and everywhere who continue to give glory to God and life.

Repentance

- Repent for abortions, murder, human sacrifice
- Repent for all government individuals and others who are promoting abortion
- Repent for all witchcraft, sorcery and idolatry
- Repent of the use of government machinery or personal position to oppress others
- Repent of sectarianism, tribalism and all things that stigmatize others

Prayer

- May God not find amongst us sin that which can attract His judgments.
- May the God Lord look at us through the lenses of the redeeming blood of Jesus
- May God see us as First born Sons with a blessing from the First Born of creation, Jesus Christ