

The purpose of the plagues 7:17 “ By this you will know that I am the Lord.”

Introduction

We are going to see the interesting conflict between the Lord and Satan. The Lord uses Moses as His mouthpiece and Satan uses Pharaoh as his mouthpiece. There is really a spiritual battle going on here. We are seeing the tactics of Satan; "I'll let you go from Egypt. Just call off this plague of.....I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD."“

He makes the big promise, the big lie, and he has no intention of keeping that promise. Moses calls him on this deceit later one. But Satan will make any kind of a promise to you in order to keep you in bondage. Notice he doesn't say to the Jew here, "You have to worship my gods in Egypt. No, worship your own god, but just stay in Egypt will be enough, or just you go, leave the rest of the family, or leave but leave your worldly possessions behind.”

Any compromise rather than 100% obedience to God, is bondage to Satan.

1 Blood

God skips the leprosy and moves right on into the juggler vein of the occult. The Nile was the juggler vein of Egypt. It ran all the way down through Egypt. It was the overflow of the Nile that made Egypt fertile. So the Nile was THE lifeblood of Egypt. In fact in their mythology the Nile was the actual blood stream of the god Osiris who was perhaps their greatest god. The Egyptians sang hymns to the Nile. Here is one of the phrases in a Hymn to the Nile. "Bringer of food, rich in provisions, creator of all good, Lord of majesty, sweet of fragrance."

The Egyptians were preoccupied with death. God (Yahweh), now, is going to destroy the life stream, the blood stream, of this god who is in charge of death, the one who kept them in bondage.

Back to the river and Pharaoh has another chance before Moses strikes the Nile and turns it to blood.

But now the blood stream of Osiris is full of fish belly up. The Nile stinks and the water is totally unpalatable, totally undrinkable. No fish, no water, no showers for those who had just been for a dip.

Here come all these magicians who can do all these wonderful things, and they make just what the Egyptians do not need, more dead fish and more stinking water from water dug out from a well (7:24). Isn't that wonderful? You have more cisterns full of belly up fish and stinking water.

But it satisfies Pharaoh. Notice that? It satisfies Pharaoh! He doesn't care what happens to Egypt as long as his ego is intact. And he will grab at any straw to keep it that way.

All is not lost, God in his mercy turns all stored water into blood but fresh water is available with effort. It is necessary to dig in the sand far out from the Nile in order to get any pure water. God has devastated the Nile.

So off goes Pharaoh to his palace completely unconcerned. Why not? He's got slaves to dig around the Nile and bring the water to him. He's got meat and wine in the palace.

God is not exempting the Israelites from the first three plagues that deal essentially with the comforts of Egypt? Do the Israelites want to leave Egypt? No! They just want to stay in Egypt in bondage, but they want an easy bondage. Why not if you've got a good slave master? There's no responsibility. You get up in the morning, do your thing, get your three squares a day, and even according to one Pharaoh, he "provided all bread and beer for all the slaves." The Israelites didn't want out. They were quite satisfied with their bondage until it got nasty. They were in bondage for many, many years but the Pharaoh of the oppression and the Pharaoh of the exodus got mean, and that is when they cried out. They didn't cry out to God for 430 years, my friends.

God won't harden your heart because you stumble and fall from ignorance or because of some besetting sin that has gripped you and from which you long to be free but can't.

You try and you fail. Yes, it is lack of faith, but you really want out. We're not talking about that. Pharaoh doesn't want out. For Pharaoh to want out, he would have to acknowledge there is a God greater than he is, and Pharaoh won't do that. He is deliberately defying God, and the sin that hardens us is rebellious defiance. You will eventually be free because you made a choice to want to be free.

2. Frogs

Deified sign of fruitfulness, blessedness & a good harvest. Gods of fertility who get into bed with the Egyptians 8:3. Their "frog goddess" was goddess of both fertility and resurrection. You could not, by the way, kill a frog. They were sacred. So at the end of a long hard day at the pyramids, very tired you slip into bed to cuddle up to your wife and find the bed slimy and a bright green frog smiling up at you! And you have to be nice to it! You can kind of get the impact of what God is doing. He has a delightful sense of humour except, of course, when He aims it at me.

What can the magicians do – make the situation worse. But they can't make the frogs go away. Stalemate from Pharaoh's point of view. Pharaoh asks for help and sets the time scale. Tomorrow. And it was so.

And how many of the rotting pile of frogs were resurrected? None! First promise to let the people go – reneged on. (8:8)

3. Gnats

No warning this time. This one the magicians can't duplicate. They admit failure to the finger of God. 8:19 Moses confronts Pharaoh again as he goes for his morning dip. If you think these are bad, just you wait! Not immediately, but "on that day". Pharaoh always has time to repent in. Oh and by the way, from now on Goshen is exempt from any plagues. And so came the plague of insects (flies NIV)

4. Insects.

Dog flies –vicious, blood suckers attack around the eyes, effectively bringing blindness, then in ears up noses etc. painful! But relief for Goshen! He obviously is the God of Goshen! But not till tomorrow. Just as Pharaoh had said, and also to give him 24 hours to repent in. No deal.

As a result of this plague Pharaoh offers his first compromise – worship your God, but here in Egypt. This is unreal repentance, no fruit. (Matthew 3:8) He can admit his sin but still refuse the only remedy for that sin! Then in verse 26, chapter 8, Moses came right back and said, "We can't worship God in Egypt. We sacrifice animals that are sacred to the Egyptians. We do not use the ritual of the Egyptian priests. In Egypt only Egyptian priests are allowed to sacrifice. We will be an abomination to them, and they will stone us." Incidentally, we know from historical records that that is a fact.

Unacceptable, then compromise number 2, just go a little way. Moses does not actually reject this offer. It is withdrawn before Moses can act on it! Pharaoh hardens his own heart still further.

Unfortunately the Jews didn't want to go either. There is a kind of security in slavery. Pharaoh doesn't want the Jews out of range of his army, and the Jews don't want to be out of range of the fleshpots of Egypt, the leeks, the garlic, and the goodies they had. They might be slaves, but they were fat slaves. There is security in having a slave master over you who "...gives us bread and beer," as a big inscription of one of the Pharaohs reads. There is no insecurity in being a slave. The slave master takes care of all your needs. All you have to do is just give him sovereignty over your life. The Jews got up in the morning, did a certain number of bricks and that was their total responsibility. Evening they got a six-pack and a loaf, and they had a party and watched TV. It is scary to step out in faith.

Compromise 1 Serve God but remain part of the world.

Being a Christian needn't change your life

Compromise 2 Serve God but don't go very far – Be a borderline Christian.

Up until now these plagues have been uncomfortable and painful, but they haven't actually cost Pharaoh. Now God is going to lower the boom on Egypt but particularly on Pharaoh. Pharaoh has kept on sinning, so next week God is going to hit him right in wallet.

Conclusion

Beware of compromise, because like Job we are in a spiritual battle not of our making.

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The purpose of the plagues was not only for the Egyptians to learn from, but also Israel. **Exodus 10:1-2**

Our awesome God is the same God, yesterday, today and forever.

Question

See ATG new page 32 - denying evidence of god & will

Also p33 God turns even the hardened.

How are Christians tempted to compromise?

7:9 serpent 8577 = 2528b = tan - dragon

4:3 serpent 5175= 1347a = nahash = serpent, snake

The word used for the miracle of Moses staff in Exodus 4:3 is nahash, translated in AV serpent and NIV as snake. This word means serpent or snake, could well have been a desert viper. The word used for the miracle before Pharaoh (Exodus 7:9) is different – tan, translated again as serpent in AV and snake again in NIV. The best translation for this word is dragon. (Monster or whale)