

The Plagues continue! Exodus

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

Introduction

We have seen the opening conflicts between the Lord and Satan. The Lord using Moses as His mouthpiece and Satan using Pharaoh as his mouthpiece. There really is a spiritual battle going on here.

Satan will make any kind of a promise in order to keep one in bondage.

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

We saw some of the significance of the plagues of blood, frogs, gnats, and finally insects (vicious blood sucking dog flies) which led to two compromises being offered by Pharaoh. To worship in Egypt, and when that was rejected, not to go too far (from Egypt and her armies).

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.

5. Livestock

Exodus 9:1-5 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God

of the Hebrews says, "Let My people go, that they may worship Me. [This is typical formula. He is emphasising that He is the God of the slaves, and now He gives Pharaoh some choices] " If you refuse to let *them go, and continue to hold them back, the hand of the LORD will bring* a terrible plague on your livestock [Remember they were sacred to the Egyptians] in the field, [At this time of year, about January to April, the Egyptians kept their animals out in the field because it was good weather. About the end of April the weather became so hot they had to put them under cover to protect them? So the animals are out in the field about this time of year. So this plague is only going to affect those animals which are in the field - wise Egyptians will bring their livestock inside when they hear of the latest plague] on your horses, and donkeys, and camels, and on your cattle and sheep and goats. But the LORD will make a distinction

#1 because first of all it is only going to happen to the animals that are in the field and not under cover and

#2 the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.

#3 And the LORD set a definite time, saying, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land." So the LORD did this thing on the morrow, and all the livestock of Egypt died; [in the context "in the field"] but of the livestock of the sons of Israel, not one died And Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

God took only Egyptian animals. And only Egyptian animals that were in the field. Those that were in the barns were not touched.

Pride is the deepest bondage to sin in our lives. So here is a highly intelligent man capable of ruling all of Egypt, having been trained from his youth in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. He is not a fool. He has been given evidence, after evidence, after evidence of who God is, so what is the problem? What does Pharaoh have to do in order to save the livestock, his horses, sheep, oxen, cattle, goats, etc.? He has to humble himself. Obey Yahweh, and Yahweh is the God of His slaves. He has to admit that every one of Egypt's gods including the Pharaoh himself can do nothing.

The common Egyptian is struck not because he likes having slaves, but more importantly the common Egyptian did what the Hebrew midwives wouldn't do and throw male Hebrew babies into the Nile.

Unyielding Pharaoh confirms Goshen is not struck by this plague and yet still hardens his own heart and refuses to yield to Yahweh.

6. Boils

No warning again for plague 6.

The Egyptian priests emphasised Physical purity! They shaved off all their hair even all the hair on the body was shaved off. They were circumcised. They bathed all the time. They wore these beautiful linen garments to prevent sweating. Physical purity was the prime thrust of the theology of Egypt, which would include, of course, a god like Pharaoh. So here is a man out there doing his ablutions, doing the sacred vow, getting all nice and pure when up walks a fellow with a hand full of soot, throws it up in the air, and whoosh, it's all over Pharaoh.

The soot was probably from the brick kilns of Hebrew slavery and turned to bring an affliction on the enslavers. The now “unclean” Magicians are unable to stand before Moses.

Up to now Pharaoh has been hardening his own heart, but here God hardens Pharaoh's heart. Pharaoh was been given many chances to repent but continued to harden his heart. This does not say that Pharaoh can no longer make choices. You can never ever blame God for your sin. If Pharaoh could not repent, Pharaoh could then blame God, "I couldn't repent because You wouldn't let me." We can never pass the buck that way!

Hardened Pharaoh does – nothing. Moses has to take the initiative and come to Pharaoh, just in time to announce plague number 7. And give an opportunity for people to make for cover.

7. Hail

Exodus 9:13-35 The flax used to make the linen cloth and the barley to feed the cattle was ruined. But nothing in Goshen or the main crop wheat and spelt (poor mans wheat) This makes it is about January or February in Egypt. See how patient God is, how much time these plagues are over. God's grace does not mean ruin for Egypt.

Pharaoh says I have sinned but this is repentance without fruit. (Matthew 3:8) He can admit his sin but still refuse the only remedy for that sin!

Moses rightly does not believe him but gives him the benefit of the doubt even though he has none and calls off the hail in Gods name.

So Pharaoh and his officials harden their own hearts, sin and still do not fear the Lord. (9:34) Choice. It required a great effort of their wills to harden their hearts; they sinned even more by doing so.

The fish were probably back in the Nile. Pharaoh still had the cattle the Egyptians had put in the barns. He still had all the crops and the cattle of Israel, which he is going to demand later on. He still had the cash crops. He still had the food to feed the poor. God didn't wipe him out.

Slavery continued.

The mercy of God continues to allow them another chance.

8. Locusts

Locusts for 2 reasons,

#1 was to make the Egyptians realise their gods really were no good, and

#2 was to make the Israelites realise the Egyptian gods were no good, that idolatry just didn't work.

Pharaoh still could repent and submit to Yahweh. Even the once hardened officials now begged Pharaoh to concede defeat before the plague came. That's repentance. 10:7 It says God hardened not only Pharaoh's heart but also the hearts of his courtiers. So both were hardened by God, and yet here the courtiers repent. They say, "Hey, let them go or we're goners, we're dead." Well, now, Pharaoh is forced to do something about it.

He makes another offer, knowing Moses wants out with everybody forever, but calls his bluff. Only men worship, so take the men, go and worship but leave the women and children. No deal.

Compromise 3 Serve God but leave women & children behind. – Don't force anything on others, especially your children, let them choose for themselves from ignorance, let Satan harden their hearts before they even start.

Moses calls for the wind not from the South where locusts usually come from on the wind but the East. It blew all day and night, grace again, more time to repent and spare the land. But Pharaoh didn't.

When the locusts came, he called back Moses and asked for forgiveness. 10:16-17. Again this is repentance without fruit. (Matthew 3:8) Even so God immediately blew a west wind and blew them into the Red Sea.

9. Darkness or sandstorm.

No warning for plague 9. Goshen still free 10:23

Pharaoh a really scared man. This was a God even greater than Ra the sun god.

Pharaoh makes another offer. OK take men, women and children. Just leave the flocks behind, with a devastated land he needs them for food for the Egyptians. Seems like a good offer that Moses turns down.

Compromise 4 10:24 Go but leave property behind – don't give God everything. Control the parts of your life that god not might want you to control.

Moses says he wants all the animals for sacrifice! However small a piece of your life you leave behind, Satan knows one day you will come back for it, and he's got you. 10:28 get out of my sight (easy in darkness) but actually closing the door of salvation. Moses final departure from Pharaoh.

Conclusion

Beware of compromise

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

Compromise 3 Serve god but leave women & children behind. – Don't force anything on others, especially you children, let them choose for themselves from ignorance, let Satan harden their hearts before they even start.

Compromise 4 Go but leave property behind – don't give God everything. Control the parts of your life that god not might want you to control.

And remember

All Pharaohs courtiers, the ones Moses was afraid of making a fool of himself before. Also all the people of Egypt fear him. 10:7; 11:2-3;

Now what has Moses used to make them fearful? What weaponry? What mighty display of his strength did he use? None. It was all the power of God. Moses was obedient to God and because he was obedient the power of God could be activated through him. He didn't come back with his sword and his spear and his javelin and in his own personal strength. If he had he would have been killed. But one shepherd accompanied by one slave, Aaron, walked back into Egypt with only a staff, and in 7 to 10 months by the power of God, the Egyptians fear him more than Pharaoh.

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)