

## EXODUS: The Person, Promise, and Power of God

### Exodus 11: The Dreadful Wonders of God

*11 The Lord said to Moses, "Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely. <sup>2</sup> Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry."*

*<sup>3</sup> And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.*

*<sup>4</sup> So Moses said, "Thus says the Lord: 'About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, <sup>5</sup> and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. <sup>6</sup> There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again. <sup>7</sup> But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.' <sup>8</sup> And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Get out, you and all the people who follow you.' And after that I will go out."*

*And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger.*

*<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not listen to you, that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."*

*<sup>10</sup> Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land.*

#### **"Yet one more plague ..."**

Chapter 11 is the place where the Bible finally uses the actual Hebrew word for "plague" (*nega*), meaning "strike" or "blow": "The Lord said to Moses, "Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt ..." (v. 1a).

These plagues have so far demonstrated:

God's MIGHT ...

God's JEALOUSY ...

God's JUSTICE ...

God's MERCY ...

God's SOVEREIGNTY ...

Some important **observations**:

Verses 1-3 are past-tense. The NIV gets it right when it says, "The Lord had said ...". These words refer conceptually to what God had told Moses in 3:19-22 and 7:3-5. Moses now knows that the final plague was at hand; and the long series of announcements/warnings, plagues, refusals by Pharaoh, was coming to an end.

God intends Moses to speak not just o Pharoah but "in the hearing of the people". Pharoah might still be somewhat removed from the pains and losses, but the people were not. Also, it was to more than just Moses/Aaron and Pharoah that God intended to DISPLAY HIS GLORY.

God's judgment effects EVERY Egyptian family from the King in his palace to the slave at the mill. No one is excused.

The suffering will be UNPRECEDENTED and never again EQUALED.

God's people (who are so by FAITH in His PROMISE) will be utterly UNTOUCHED by this judgment. ("not a dog shall growl")

**5 key differences** between the first nine 'blows' and this final one:

- Its SUCCESS was assured beforehand. God in His sovereign OMNISCIENCE knew that the other plagues would *not* result in freedom for his people (see: 3:19). This time is different.
- It was a work of GOD EXCLUSIVELY. In each of the previous plagues, the rod of God was lifted (7:19) or a symbolic act was performed (9:8). This time, Moses and Aaron will be spectators like everyone else.
- All other plagues were acts of God INDIRECTLY. In the 10<sup>th</sup> plague, Pharaoh and Egypt will encounter GOD HIMSELF.  
*"The word of God cannot be refused endlessly. There always has to be an end, a meeting with the God whom our refusals have offended to the point of finality."*<sup>1</sup>
- It has no 'NATURAL' EXPLANATION. It is inarguably miraculous and supernatural.
- Previously, God had separated the Israelites from the effects of certain plagues. This time they will have to choose the OBEDIENCE OF FAITH in order to be separated from the judgment coming to the Egyptians.

**3 Questions:**

1) Was God fair to kill the firstborn of families all over Egypt when by this time it was mainly the Egyptian king who was still resisting God's demands on behalf of Israel?

(2) Why kill the firstborn of cattle as well?

(3) Would families with only girls escape the devastation of this plague since the NIV translation says explicitly "firstborn son"?

**Next week:** Passover to Exodus

*"Faith is action taken on evidence, driven by conviction. The evidence was the demonstrated trustworthiness of the Lord's word, verified in the course of the nine acts, and the resulting conviction was the holding fast to that trustworthiness and believing that the Lord was able to do what he said he would, that his promises would stand. The essence of faith is the trust that obeys, and this was the point to which Israel came in Exodus 12"*<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Alec Motyer, *The Message of Exodus: The Days of Our Pilgrimage*, 126.

<sup>2</sup> Alec Motyer, 128-129.