

# Salvation Through Plagues

*Exodus 8:20 – 11:10*

## Opening Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we have seen and heard how you saw and heard the Israelites' affliction in Egypt. We have seen and heard how you began to deliver them through your plagues. We ask that you would deliver us today from any false gods that we have in our lives. Help us always to trust in You and You alone, for You saw and heard our affliction and sent Jesus to deliver us. In His name we pray. Amen.

## The Purpose of the Plagues

1. Flies, dead livestock, icky boils, hail, locusts, and darkness. According to the following passages, why were the plagues needed for God's act of salvation?

Exodus 3:7-10 Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, (8) and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. (9) And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. (10) Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Exodus 3:19-20 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. (20) So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go.

Exodus 6:6-8 Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. (7) I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. (8) I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'"

2. God used the plagues to show who He is, who His people were, and what was His. According to the following verses, why does God reveal Himself in this way? What does this say about who the Redeemer is? Even as He makes Himself known as judge, in these verses, how does He make Himself known to His people?

Exodus 8:22-23 But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. (23) Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.'"

Exodus 9:4 But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing of all that belongs to the people of Israel shall die.'"

Exodus 10:22-23 So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. (23) They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the people of Israel had light where they lived.

Exodus 11:6-9 There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again. (7) 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.’ (8) 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. (9) Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.”

3. Not only is God one who saves *His* people, whom He sets apart, to whom else does He offer salvation?

Exodus 9:18-21 Behold, about this time tomorrow I will cause very heavy hail to fall, such as never has been in Egypt from the day it was founded until now. (19) Now therefore send, get your livestock and all that you have in the field into safe shelter, for every man and beast that is in the field and is not brought home will die when the hail falls on them.””” (20) Then whoever feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh hurried his slaves and his livestock into the houses, (21) but whoever did not pay attention to the word of the LORD left his slaves and his livestock in the field.

4. How is this a comfort to you? Remember the Israelites were God’s chosen people, but are you?

### **Some “Striking” Connections in Exodus**

5. Notice the repetition of the verb “strike.” God strikes the Egyptians with a plague, but it’s interesting to note that plagues 8 and 9 don’t use the word “strike.” Who else did some striking earlier in Exodus? Do you remember? (Hint: Ex. 2:12).

6. Who is the one really doing the striking?

Exodus 12:1-2 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, (2) “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.

Exodus 12:29 At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock.

What does this say about Moses? What does it say about God?

### **Salvation as Service**

7. In the King James Version, Ex. 1:13 reads: “And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour.” According to the following passages in Exodus, who is to be served?

Exodus 4:23 and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son."

Exodus 7:16 And you shall say to him, "The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, "Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness." But so far, you have not obeyed.

8. Who is the REAL King in Exodus?

9. The following verse is significant. Who do Pharaoh's servants admit ought to be served?

Exodus 10:7 Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not yet understand that Egypt is ruined?"

10. What does service to God involve in the following passages?

Exodus 10:24-26 Then Pharaoh called Moses and said, "Go, serve the LORD; your little ones also may go with you; only let your flocks and your herds remain behind." (25) But Moses said, "You must also let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God. (26) Our livestock also must go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind, for we must take of them to serve the LORD our God, and we do not know with what we must serve the LORD until we arrive there."

11. In Ex. 12:31, what does Pharaoh finally admit? How much of God's signs and wonders did it take to bring Pharaoh to this point?

Exodus 12:31 Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said.

12. How is God's judgment involved in the salvation of the Israelites? How is God's judgment involved in your eternal salvation?

### **Salvation Through Death**

13. What does Pharaoh say about death in the following verses?

Exodus 10:16-17 Then Pharaoh hastily called Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you. (17) Now therefore, forgive my sin, please, only this once, and plead with the LORD your God only to remove this death from me."

Exodus 10:28-29 Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me; take care never to see my face again, for on the day you see my face you shall die." (29) Moses said, "As you say! I will not see your face again."

14. What does God say about death and Pharaoh?

Exodus 11:4-6 So Moses said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, (5) 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. (6) There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.

15. Who gets the last word when it comes to death?

Exodus 12:29-30 At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. (30) And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead.

16. What does this say about Pharaoh and God?

17. Check out the following passages. What other word of God happens, which Pharaoh said would never happen?

Exodus 5:2 But Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go.”

Exodus 11:1 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.

Exodus 12:31-32 Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, “Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said. (32) Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!”

Exodus 12:36 And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

### **A Few Questions to Ponder This Week**

How does God prove that He alone is God – in today’s world and in your own life?

Who is ruling over you? Who or what do you serve? Is it God or is it something else?

How does God’s forgiveness and mercy in Christ lead us to worship and serve Him alone?