

## **There Is Only One God**

Exodus 9:1-35

The Jews were all taught plainly and clearly, there is only one God.

Deut. 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!”

That fundamental idea is equally plain and clear in the New Testament.

Eph. 4:4 “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

In the language of our Shorter Catechism we also have this question, “Are there more gods than one?” With the straightforward answer, “There is but one only, the living and true God.”

One God. And who is he? Is he Allah? Is he Buddha? Is he the god of Mormonism, or the unitary god of the Jehovah’s Witnesses? Is he an unidentified higher power? Or is he simply mankind? Or maybe the earth, with a capital “e”? How about mother nature? Or perhaps he is nothing at all, just a figment of your imagination, a creation of your own mind.

Those questions abound in our day, because the common view is that god is whoever you want him to be, whoever you think him to be.

So when you read Exodus, when you read about these mighty and terrible plagues which God inflicted upon the land and the people of Egypt, we see God’s great purpose, which is to reveal and proclaim himself. I want that to stand out for you this

afternoon, for as we studied last week from the three previous plagues, my goal is not simply for you to list and identify these ten plagues. The purpose of these sermons is not simply so that you can come to appreciate the rather disgusting nature of what it was that Egypt actually endured. It is not simply a lesson in history.

But rather a revelation of God. And so,

### **I. GOD’S GREAT PURPOSE IS TO REVEAL THE UNIQUENESS OF HIS OWN GLORY.**

A lot of this may become repetitive as we study these plagues, but note the emphasis of,

v.13-14

We saw that also in,

Ex. 8:10 “Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.”

There is no one like him.

#### **A. There is only one God.**

This is to be a theme of our worship, for example David’s prayer in,

2 Sam. 7:22 “Therefore you are great, O Lord God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.”

And the song of Moses in,

Ex. 15:11 “Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?”

This is a crucial point and an absolutely fundamental aspect of our Christian faith. It might not be something which any of you

doubt, but it is something against which you all have to be on guard within the world in which we live. There is only one God, the living and true God. And all the other false gods are just that, false!

God himself emphasizes this repeatedly in Scripture. Just consider,

Is. 45:4 “For Jacob My servant’s sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name;

I have named you, though you have not known Me. 5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; 7 I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things.”

Is. 45:18 “For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: “I am the LORD, and there is no other. 19 I have not spoken in secret, In a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, ‘Seek Me in vain’; I, the LORD, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right. 20 “Assemble yourselves and come; Draw near together, You who have escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, Who carry the wood of their carved image, And pray to a god that cannot save. 21 Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me. 22 “Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”

There is only one God, and...

### **B. To this God belongs the whole earth.**

Go back now to our text.

v.29

That’s why God sent hail, such as the land of Egypt had never seen. That is why fire was mingled with hail. To show forth God’s ownership of all the earth, for just as he sent that plague he removed it. “That you may know that the earth is the LORD’S.”

It is to that whole earth that God is revealing himself. We see here that,

### **C. God declares his glory to the whole earth.**

God declares the glory of his name to the whole earth.

v.16

So in this sense, these ten plagues are evangelistic. And that is God’s purpose. Worldwide evangelism. The declaration of God’s glory to the whole earth is the hallmark of what this age is all about! Consider the optimistic promise of the great commission given now to the church,

Mat. 28:18 “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

So we are to make disciples of all the nations. We are to proclaim the glory of God to the whole earth. Just as God himself did with these plagues. These evangelistic plagues! Through these plagues, God accomplishes his purpose. His name is

declared in all the earth. Beginning in Egypt! Look at,

v.19-21

Even some of the Egyptians had learned their lesson by this time. Even some of them learned to fear the word of the Lord!

So there is still hope for today, isn't there? For our own country! God is still about the business of revealing himself and the uniqueness of his own glory.

Thus we now go to all the nations. We go to the ends of the earth, beginning in our own community. We proclaim the glory of the one true and living God, in whom alone there is the promise of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

And so I proclaim the glory of that name to you. The name of the one true God, who exists and has eternally existed in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. So it is that "No one comes to the Father except through [the Son, Jesus]." And

Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1 John 5:11 "And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

All of that from verse 16 in our text, "But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.."

But one more thing about that power. It is a sovereign power.

## **II. GOD'S GREAT PURPOSE IS TO REVEAL THE SOVEREIGNTY OF HIS OWN POWER.**

Look again at,

v.16

That's the verse quoted in Romans 9. God is speaking to Pharaoh. The context is of God hardening Pharaoh's heart, and of Pharaoh hardening his own heart. The context is of these multiplied plagues, and we're up to the 7th plague today. God is doing all of this according to his own sovereign purpose. God raised up Pharaoh for this very purpose of showing his own power in him.

In Romans 9, the example Paul used couldn't be any clearer. Paul writes with reference to his great burden and anguish for the people of Israel who were rejecting Jesus as the Christ. Yet, Paul writes that God loved Jacob and hated Esau, "that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls."

The immediate question then becomes, "That's not fair!"

Rom. 9:14 "What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! 15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." 16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy."

Then there is the quotation from Exodus 9. And Paul continues to apply it.

Rom. 9:17 "For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." 18 Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens."

So with ten plagues inflicted upon Egypt in the book of Exodus, we see the revelation of this sovereign power of God.

He is accomplishing his own purposes in everything he does. And what is he doing? As we saw before with the fourth plague of flies in chapter 8,

**A. God sets apart his people for himself.**

His is distinguishing between his people and those who are not. He is setting them apart as holy, according to his own purpose and choice. To review that, look at the fifth plague of pestilence upon all the livestock,

v.4

So it was also with the plague of hail.

v.18

Then skip to,

v.22-26

Amazing, isn't it! The Lord makes a difference between his people and those who are not his people. He distinguishes one from the other. He discriminates, in that he chooses one and not the other on the basis of his own sovereign purpose. He calls them his people, his own special and treasured possession.

So it is still today. God sets apart his people to be holy, to be distinct. He identifies them with a visible sign and seal, namely the water of baptism. But back to Moses and Pharaoh. God's purpose is to reveal the sovereignty of his power. And with that,

**B. God sovereignly reveals his grace.**

Even in the exercise of his power, that grace is evident. Look at,

v.15

We might call that common grace, that is, the common

operations of God's mercy upon all mankind, in this case, the Egyptians. God had their cattle killed with the pestilence. The people, however, he allowed to remain alive. Ultimately, that they might be saved! And so the invitation of the gospel ought to have that sense of urgency,

2 Cor. 6:2 "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

With that invitation of the gospel comes this great warning, that,

**C. God humbles his creatures.**

Actually, that's what salvation really is. Do you listen to those questions I asked of our new members when they profess their faith the last two weeks? The fourth question especially. "Do you confess that because of your sinfulness you abhor and humble yourself before God, and that you trust for salvation not in yourself but in Jesus Christ alone?"

Two things joined together of such absolute necessity. Trust for salvation in Jesus Christ alone. And abhor and humble yourself. You can't have the first without the second. You can't trust in Christ for your salvation if your sense of human pride and accomplishments is still intact. There can be no sense of worth or merit in your own works or deeds. For the universal sentence of the gospel must fall heavily upon us all,

Rom. 3:23 "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Rom. 3:10 "As it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God."

So we must be humbled. As we read in Exodus. Notice how

he humbled the Egyptians.

v.8-12

And notice how he humbled Pharaoh, even humiliated him.

As we would put it, he made Pharaoh say “uncle.” Over and over again, God made Pharaoh grovel in the dust before his own sovereign power.

v.27-28

The context obviously shows that this is not a sincere and genuine profession of faith, for just as soon as the plague was removed, Pharaoh would change his tune. But what a pathetic creature he became before the hand of God! He is begging Moses to help. “It is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer.”

But then God knows his heart.

v.30, 35

So it is, people of God, that God shows his power and declares the glory of his name. His name is Yahweh. His name is God, as revealed in the Bible. He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, all one God.

Deut. 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

It is that God whom I proclaim to you this afternoon. He is the God whom I call you to worship. So come and sing his praise, and declare his glory among the nations. “To God be the glory, great things has done.”