



# EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

## BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 11:1-10

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**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. **2** 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." **3** 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.

**4** 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. **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."

**10** 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.

## DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 11:1-10

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In Exodus chapters 7-10, God used Moses to confront and order Pharaoh to let the people of Israel leave Egypt so that they can worship and serve their God fully. Through chapter 10, nine plagues had been released into Egypt that affected nearly every aspect of Egyptian life and Pharaoh continued to harden his heart toward God. In chapter 11,



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Pharaoh is told by God (through Moses) that a tenth plague, the killing of all firstborn children from every Egyptian and every animal, shall fall upon Egypt without escape and will be a calamity that will bring a "great cry throughout all land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again." - (Exodus 11:6).

Preceding each plague, Pharaoh had the opportunity to do what God commanded him to do. He also had the opportunity to abandon his Egyptian gods and acknowledge the God of Israel as the one true sovereign God of the universe. Pharaoh rejected God nine times and each subsequent plague was worse than the one before it. In His infinite love for us, God will try many times to get our attention and turn us toward Him to do what He commands us to do because it glorifies Him (Exodus 7:5,17; 8:22; 9:16).

How many times in our own lives does God try to warn us to return to Him and we continue to ignore or reject his calls? I know that when I have ignored God's call to repent and change my direction (which He does out of love for me) that I too will eventually suffer a great calamity. I have also realized, much like Pharaoh, that in such times the amount of pain I experience is directly proportional to how much I have hardened my own heart toward Him and insisted on my own path of destruction. It can also result in the destruction of others (Proverbs 10:17).

Exodus 11 reminds us that God does not desire suffering for us, but instead wants us to experience joy through Him and in Him. We, as sinners, have a tendency to know He's near but choose to pretend He isn't so that we can be our own god (Romans 7:15). To avoid self-inflicted calamity in our lives, we must turn to Him through prayer, immerse ourselves daily in the Word, and learn to have a heart like that of Jesus. Jesus offers us grace and guidance to navigate through any calamity; however, it is incumbent upon us to avail ourselves to His truth, His Spirit and His people in order to be transformed into His image, which He desires for all of us (Romans 12:2).

## Questions:

1. Read Philippians 4:6-7 and 2 Corinthians 4:16. God tells us not to be anxious and not lose heart. What steps can you take to trust God in all situations so that you can more closely align your heart with His and become obedient to avoid self-inflicted calamity in your life?
2. Read Jeremiah 29:13. What can you do to recognize and become more aware of God's presence?
3. Read John 15:5. What do you need to consider giving up in your life that might cause you not to be connected to the Vine?