

## EXODUS 11:1-10 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 10TH PLAGUE

We magnify God and His power and control as we continue on with the account of the plagues. We exalt His great majesty and sovereignty. We have come to the last plague. Death deals the final blow as all the firstborn sons of Egypt will be killed. Only then, did Pharaoh let God's people go. This would start the national feast of Passover for the Jews. The plagues were all bad, but they kept increasing in intensity. This one is the worst, as all the other ones kept building up to this. This plague is the mighty act of God to bring His purpose to conclusion. This plague was the final attack on all that Egypt worshipped. What the Egyptians really worshipped was life itself. They were given life by the only true God, but they did not give thanks to Him. They made up their own gods and worshipped them, as in Romans 1. Their worship of life is seen in their elaborate preparations of dead bodies. Life to them was found in their mild climate, the sun, the Nile, and fertile soil. What they saw in their worship was continuation of life and their gods would sustain them into the next world. They believed they had the secret of life, but this very belief resulted in death, for they did not give to God the glory. God attacked life itself in this last plague, to show that He is the sole Creator of life.

The climax of the story has now arrived.

### 1. HEARING GOD'S WORD 11:1-3

#### A. THE LORD HAD SAID 1

We can see that God is constantly giving directions on how His plan is going to go. All Moses has to do is just obey. This is what could be a parenthetical paragraph, a narrative recorded that which God had already said to Moses during the three days of darkness, getting him ready for the summons of Pharaoh. He made other statements like this before, also.

Ex 4:21-23, 6:1

It fits into the flow of thoughts as we move into the Passover. Pharaoh is to drive them out finally.

#### B. THE FAVOR ON THE ISRAELITES 2-3

The word, borrowed or ask, means to collect back wages owed.

Gen 15:14, Ex 3:21-22

This was only a meager pay-off for 400 years slavery in Egypt. It was kind of like making a withdrawal from an ATM just before

leaving town as they collected the silver and gold. They would be able to use that later as they were out in the desert building the tabernacle. God gives His grace at the proper time to His sufferers.

Proverbs 16:7

### C. THE FAVOR ON MOSES 3

The slaves and their leader had become great and Pharaoh had become almost isolated from His people in refusing to admit what had taken place.

God had graced Moses all through this, and it is very apparent at this time, for all of Egypt had great respect for him. God made it that way. How ironic this is. What a change that had occurred since the first visit to Pharaoh. Moses had become quite a witness for the Lord.

This reminds us of the example of Paul. He was a prisoner but all in the guard were respecting him. Phil 1:13

## 2. SPEAKING GOD'S WORD 11:4-8

Moses is now to take the Word spoken to Him by God and tell it to Pharaoh. This is the final address to Pharaoh, who rejected it just like all the other warnings. He didn't take God's Word seriously. He had no fear of God.

### A. SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN AT MIDNIGHT 4

The time is told when it will happen. God is perfectly accurate in His timing. The next midnight all the first born would sleep the sleep of death and all the families would be roused at midnight and see them die. It wouldn't be that they would be discovered in the morning but at that time.

This is retribution on Egypt killing Israelite baby boys which were God's children.

### B. ALL OF EGYPT'S FIRSTBORN WILL DIE 5

The firstborn belonged to Yahweh, not the Egyptian gods. He demonstrates this by claiming the firstfruits of the Egyptian gods. This might be an implicit attack on Osiris, the Egyptian god of the dead. Yahweh is the one true God who has power over life and death. Even the cattle were to be affected since they were objects of Egyptian worship. Also, Pharaoh was considered a son of the sun god Re in Egyptian religion.

Ex 4:22-23 Jere 31:9 Hosea 11:1

Significance of the firstborn Gen 49:3

In most cultures the firstborn sons are considered special, and in Egypt they were considered sacred.

Abel, Seth, Shem, Isaac, Jacob---second born favored

But what was the popular thing to do by man is not always the way God works. God often rejected the first born and chose the next son to carry on the family line. These kind of choices magnify God's sovereign grace.

It also tells us that God does not accept the first birth. There must be a second birth, the new birth.

Moses warned Pharaoh that the way he treated God's firstborn would determine how God treated Egypt's first born.

God simply paid the Pharaohs back with His own currency.

There was nothing left for Pharaoh but to lose his first born son in retribution.

#### C. THERE WILL BE NATIONAL DISTRESS 6

Because of what Pharaoh had done, the suffering in the land would extend from the king's throne to the lowliest servant girl.

The cries are a reminder of the cries of the Israelites in their oppression Ex 3:7

Never would there be such a shockwave like this again.

Was this just to bring on punishment to them even though it was Pharaoh who had hardened his heart?

Ps 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

Gen 18:25 Shall not the Judge of the earth do right?

#### D. ISRAEL WILL BE PROTECTED 7

Tranquility was given to Israel. Once again we see the distinction that is made by God between His chosen people and the ones who are not. This shows without a doubt that Israel's Yahweh has no contest from the Egyptian gods.

#### E. HUMBLE SUBMISSION OF THE SERVANTS 8

The proud enemies of God's people will be made to fall under and be humbled. It would be the Egyptian officials on the behalf of Pharaoh begging the Israelites to go. It is no longer the Pharaoh they need to bow and worship, but Yahweh.

#### F. ANGER OF MOSES 8

Pharaoh was angry at the end of his summons, but Moses' anger more than matched his. Moses turned and strode out of the room.

There was no need to apologize for the authority of the message

It was God's message. Moses had a righteous anger because of the hardness of heart and the sinful stubbornness of a foolish man.

Moses actually was the meekest of all men of the earth but he had the anger of God and it need to be showed because the holiness of God had been spurned. This reminds one of Jesus and His anger

when the Pharisees argued about Him healing on the Sabbath.

He healed a man with a withered hand at that time.

“To be angry at nothing but sin is the way not to sin in anger.”

Note: “It is a great vexation to the spirits of good ministers to see people deaf to all the fair warnings given them, and running headlong upon ruin, notwithstanding all the kind methods taken to prevent it.”

Matthew Henry

### 3. THE HARDENING FOR GOD’S PURPOSE 11:9-10

#### A. COMPLETENESS OF GOD’S CONTROL 9

One miracle after another had been displayed which revealed the amazing power of God over all the earth. The God who revealed Himself in so many ways is bringing this ordeal to a dramatic climax. Everything that was to be said was now said.

#### B. YAHWEH HARDENS PHARAOH’S HEART 10

Pharaoh’s heart had been hardened by God for the very purpose, that the Lord’s wonders be multiplied in Egypt.

At the same time Pharaoh sinned against a flood of light. The Lord endured with much patience a vessel prepared for destruction. Rom 9:22 John 12:37-40 Rom 10:16 There was a judicial hardening of Israel to stress the sovereign plan of God.

Eccl 8:11 The delay of God’s judgment leads to further disobedience.

Pharaoh had been a very prideful man and he represents the natural hardened hearts of all men, for we are all prideful and if it were not for the mercy and grace of God, we would meet the same destruction.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.

What is about to happen will fulfill God’s plan on a level much deeper than simply retribution for the king’s actions.

Pharaoh was being used by God. His actions were scripted so that God can execute His plan. Peter Enns