

SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Exodus: Set Free to Live Free

TITLE: The Plagues: Part 2

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 7-12

DATE: October 30, 2016

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We are in a series on the Book of Exodus from the Old Testament. Why study this book? Exodus is the Old Testament story of the salvation of God's people that points forward to the great salvation that comes to us by faith in Jesus. Exodus helps us better understand what it means for God to *set us free* from our broken, messy lives so we can *live free* in loving, personal relationship with God.

God's great desire for your life is that you come to know who he is, what he's really like, and what it means to live with him in a life-giving, personal relationship.

John 17:3 says, "And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

Two main problems:

1. There are all kinds of religions that try to tell us who God is and what he is like.
2. People don't like hearing about God being a God of judgment. They don't understand how a God of mercy can also be a God of justice.

God's great desire for you is that you come to know who he is, what he's really like, and what it means to live in a personal relationship with him, but that means, knowing him as a God of love and mercy *and* as a God of justice and judgment.

The *big idea* of the story of the Ten Plagues: To show the sovereignty of God over Egypt and Pharaoh and to show the world who God is through how he saves his people through judgment.

This is what God wanted Israel to know as they watched God deliver them:

I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you will know that I am Yahweh, your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
(Exodus 6:7)

This is what God wanted the Egyptians to know as they experienced God sending wave after wave of plagues:

Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt *by great acts of judgment*. The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them. (*Exodus 7:4-5*)

This is what God wanted Pharaoh to know:

For this time I will send all my plagues on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth... for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed *in all the earth*. (*Exodus 9:14,16*)

But God is not a God of judgment for judgment's sake. God sends the 10 plagues of judgment in order to save. Pastor Tim Keller puts it this way:

“In the Exodus story, God’s approach to judgment is not salvation *or* judgment, but salvation *through* judgment.”

God uses the plagues to be a part of a story for millions and millions of people to be looking at for centuries. Through this revelation of who God is and what he is like, God is saying, “The world will know who I am and what I am really like.” God wants the whole world to understand what sin is and what salvation is, and so they will know that he is a God of love and mercy, but also a God of justice and judgement, specifically, a God who *saves* through judgment.

3 Take-Aways:

1. You want a God who loves people enough to judge evil and wrong doing in the world.
2. But in wanting a God who loves us enough to judge evil and wrongdoing in the world, that same judgment has to fall on us as well, and that’s a problem.
3. The solution is found in the Gospel of Jesus.

Jesus Christ is the judge of all the earth. That’s what he claimed to be, but he was the judge who came to *bear* judgment, not *bring* judgment. That makes Christianity unique from every other religion in the world. Every other religion has a different approach to judgment. They say, “Here are the standards. Do them or else you’ll be judged.” The Gospel offers you salvation through Jesus taking that judgment for you.

On the Cross, Jesus bore in his body God's judgment so he wouldn't have to judge you.

John 5:24 says, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent has eternal life. That person will not be judged, but has crossed over from death to life."

Jesus *wants* to be your Savior, not your Judge. **If you trust Christ as your Savior, you never have to worry about standing before him as the Judge of your eternal destiny.**

For Discussion:

1. When you think of God, do you think of him as a God of mercy or a God of judgment?
2. How has God revealed his true nature to you, helping you to know who he is, what he's really like, and what it means to live with him in a life-giving, personal relationship?