

SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Exodus: Set Free to Live Free

TITLE: The Plagues: Part 1

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 7-12

DATE: October 23, 2016

PASTOR: Jim Thompson

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.

The English word "EXODUS" is a Greek word for departure. The prefix "EX" means "out of," and the root "ODOS" means way or path. The Exodus is God making a way OUT OF SLAVERY in Egypt.

We are all surrounded by different slaveries: our little Egypts. These are real and their grip on our lives is strong. But more than this, our God is a god of freedom. He is the Great Liberator, stronger than these things that hold us down and keep us captive.

How does God go about breaking our slavery, and opening up a new way of life for us?



The Three-fold Purpose of the Plagues

1. For Yahweh to make his power and name known in all the earth. (See 9:14-16, 14:4, and 14:7-8.)
2. For Egypt to know that Yahweh is the one true God. (See 7:5, 7:17, 8:10, 9:14-16, 9:29-30, and 14:18.)
3. For Israel to be set free to worship and serve Yahweh. (See 4:23, 8:1, 8:20, 9:1, 9:13, 10:3, 10:7, 10:11, and 10:24-26.)

The Mechanics of Freedom

- Your freedom is not all about you.
- True freedom is realizing that you are set free FROM slavery and TO slavery.
 - "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." -Galatians 5:1
 - "You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." -Galatians 5:13
- When God sets people free, he shows them that the oppressor's power is no match for his own.
- Jesus' crucifixion was his Exodus, and it's our's too, if we trust him.

For Discussion:

1. What is enslaving you?
2. How can you fight against that bondage? What, or who, is your Exodus?
3. How can you use your freedom, in Christ, to serve others?