

Sermon Notes – November 3, 2024

Review

- ⇒ In his book, “How to Read Exodus,” Dr. Tremper Longman III says that “literary genres are like language,” and each genre has rules on how it should be read & understood. Exodus includes several genres: narrative (history), law, and song. Watch for the change of genres as you read Exodus!
- ⇒ Last week in **Exodus 5:1-6:30** we saw the initial optimism of **4:30-31** crushed into the dust of reality as Pharaoh rejects the initial call from Moses & Aaron to set God’s people free. The despair in chapter five is palpable, but those dark moments are followed (gratefully) by words of fresh hope and promise. God’s seven “I Will” statements ground future deliverance in God alone, not in any human ability.

Today’s Text: READ 7:1-8:19

One of the best-known sections of Exodus is this section about the “Ten Plagues.” Rivers of blood, piles of dead frogs, and swarms of endless gnats always grab our attention. God is clearly at work in the narrative to deliver His people from bondage in Egypt. But is there more going on? Why these ten Signs? And why take so long to get the point across? In today’s text, the mighty contest starts!

The LORD makes himself known (7:1-6)

- ⇒ Looking back (5:2) how did Pharaoh respond when first introduced to the LORD?
 - A question: “Who is the Lord?”
 - A statement: “I do not know the Lord...”
 - A defiant response: “I will not let Israel go.”
- ⇒ In response to Pharaoh’s heart, we see the LORD say, “The Egyptians shall _____ that I am the LORD” and respond with signs and wonders that repeatedly emphasize his purpose. (7:17, 8:10, 22, 9:14, 16, 29, 10:2, 9).
- ⇒ God will make himself known to Pharaoh, yet Moses is told “Pharaoh will not listen to you.” (7:4). Likewise we know that God _____ himself to all and all are without excuse (Rom. 1:18-21) but not all follow him.

The LORD Dismantles False gods (7:7 – 8:19)

- ⇒ Was this a battle between the LORD and the gods of Egypt? In a sense it was. The Egyptians worshiped many gods, in particular gods related to the Nile, the land and the sky, each of which would be controlled by God's hand.
- ⇒ Who were the wise men, the sorcerers and magicians of Egypt? Magicians were likely _____ of the many gods of Egypt and likewise their partners (wisemen, sorcerers) followers of the occult and evil spirits.
- ⇒ **The staff turning into a snake (7:7-13):** Moses and Aaron threw down the staff before Pharaoh and it became a snake. Although the wisemen, sorcerers and magicians did the same, God's snake _____ the others. Note: Pharaoh's heart was hardened. He would not listen to them.
- ⇒ **The first plague: Nile turns to blood (7:14-25).** The waters of the Nile provided life to Egypt. The river turned to blood (or was contaminated) – a direct strike against the gods of the Nile by the one who holds life in His hands. The wise men, sorcerers and magicians replicated the sign in some way. Note: Pharaoh "did not even take this to heart."
- ⇒ **The second plague: frogs! (8:1-15)** Frogs came up from the Nile and occupied bedrooms, kneading bowls and ovens. There is evidence that frogs were _____ in Egypt. But it isn't sacred to have a frog in your dough!
- ⇒ Even though the wisemen, sorcerers and magicians could replicate frogs, they could not make them go away. Pharaoh asked for Moses to plea to God that the frogs be removed. Note the request for a day of removal (8:9).
- ⇒ **The third plague: gnats (8:16-19).** This sign comes from "the dust of the earth" and produces "gnats on man and beast." This time, the wisemen, sorcerers and magicians could not _____ the sign. They said, "**this is the finger of God.**" Note: "Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them."

Responding in Faith And Obedience

- ⇒ False gods are things we trust to help us, things we put our hope in, things that give order and purpose to our lives – OTHER than God Himself. What gives YOU life?
- ⇒ Our title today is, "God patiently dismantles our false gods." Have you ever seen God dismantle yours? What might that look like?
- ⇒ Moses used the term "**swallowed up**" in referring to God's staff devouring the other snakes (7:12) In 1 Cor. 15:54 we see that "Death is **swallowed up** in victory." This ultimate victory over death and all things is in Christ alone. Who are you trusting for eternal life today?

Community Group Notes

Getting Started

Did you have a favorite “Fantasy Fiction” story growing up? What was it about the story that was appealing to you? Did it involve any magic? If so, did the magic work for evil or for good?

Looking Back and Taking it Home (Review)

1. Read Exodus 7:1–8:19 together as a group. Read slowly enough to mark the following two phrases:

that you may know

that they may serve

⇒ Why might these two phrases be critical to understanding the entire account of the plagues? Do the two phrases have anything in common.

2. Look back over the account of *The Staffs & The Serpents* (Ex 7:8-13). Is there anything about this event that is similar to the plagues that follow? Are similar words or phrases used? Are the same people involved? Is the end result similar? How is this event different than the events that follow.

3. How do you think the magicians were able to **do the same**? Was it real magic or illusion? Are there any specific statements in the text or indirect hints that address this question?

4. Choose one verse from this section (Exodus 7:1 – 8:19) that you would like to commit to memory. Share your choice with the group and explain why you chose that verse. Possible criteria: (1) It summarizes the chapter, (2) It addresses an important biblical issue, (3) It is convicting, (4) It is comforting.

Exodus __: __ Why? _____

Preparing for Next Week’s Sermon

5. Read Exodus 8:20 – 9:35 together as a group. Read slowly enough to mark the following two phrases:

that you may know

that they may serve

⇒ Did this section provide any further insight on these two phrases?

6. Look back at each of the following sections and write a title for the plague in the margin of your Scripture Journal. In the blanks provided: identify any new “features” not present in previous events, indicate which features or elements are the same, any similar phrases, and anything significant about Pharaoh’s response.

⇒ **Exodus 8:20-32** New feature(s) Land of Goshen set apart

Similarities _____

Pharaoh’s response? Go, but not very far

⇒ **Exodus 9:1-7** New feature(s) _____

Similarities _____

Pharaoh’s response? _____

⇒ **Exodus 9:8-12** New feature(s) _____

Similarities _____

Pharaoh’s response? _____

⇒ **Exodus 9:13-35** New feature(s) _____

Similarities _____

Pharaoh’s response? _____

7. On a scale of 1 to 10 how serious are these signs, wonders, and miracles so far? (1 = merely annoying, 10 = life-threatening). Base your answer mostly on the responses of the people rather than the scientific description of the event.

Prologue _____ Sign 1 _____ Sign 2 _____ Sign 3 _____

Sign 4 _____ Sign 5 _____ Sign 6 _____ Sign 7 _____

8. At this point in your study of Exodus 8:20 – 9:35, what burning questions do you have that you hope might be answered in the sermon this Sunday?

Time to PRAY (Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group & PRAY for them!



Worship Next Sunday: November 10, 2024

“God is Relentless in Judgment and Mercy”

(Exodus 8:19 – 9:35) Pastor Daniel Bingham

Answer Key: • know • reveals • priests • swallowed up • sacred • replicate • irritating