

April 23rd, 2023
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Delivered; Rescued From Bondage
Sermon #14 Title: Same Song; Last Verse
Sermon #14 Text: (Exodus 11:1-10)

Intro: One of the admonitions given in the book of Hebrews to those who might be facing the temptation to take pride in their faithfulness is the reminder – **“Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.”** – There are multiplied millions of people who have not resisted sin to the point of death... but they readily resist God that far...

This morning we come to the last warning about the last plague that highlights the fact that Pharaoh would resist God unto death!

The first three verses of chapter 11, are parenthetical message to Moses that had been delivered to him some time prior to the 9th and 10th plague.

It is sort of a “flash back” to a moment when God showed Moses what the Egyptian response would be to Israel, once the Word was given.

- There is a reason that this is important. It removes any confusion an alert reader might have over 10:29, and 11:8.
 - In 10:29 – Moses told Pharaoh, “I will see thy face again no more.” – Yet in 11:8, Moses is found in the presence of Pharaoh.

- Now note this. When you come to 11:8, Moses is not in Pharaoh’s presence AGAIN – He is in Pharaoh’s presence STILL. – This tenth plague is not promised some days later, it is pronounced and explained before Moses even leaves the room at the end of plague number 9.

- A parenthetical statement is a “thought” that has interrupted a “chain of thought.”

- We are doing no violence to the history in the text, if we read 10:29 right into 11:4 to get the right picture of timing.

10:29 – **“And Moses said, Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more. 11:4 And Moses said, “Thus saith the Lord, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die...”**

In other words, Moses tells him in 10:29, You will see my face no more, BUT before I leave, this is what God is about to do to you, this is how your Egyptians will respond to me, and then I will leave, ... **“and he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.”**

Now with all of that being said, Moses gives Pharaoh the final Word on this Egyptian saga.

(Our story is about to change. Thus far the focus has been on God’s destruction of Egypt. The messages have been from God to Pharaoh; from God to the Egyptians. They have been messages of warning, and doom, and instruction.

- After this moment in time, Moses attention will be turned to Israel.

- The focus of the events will change from Destruction to Deliverance.
- From Egypt to Israel.
- But before the turn is made, the final word is given.)

2 Primary things to see, with a third thing to notice.

Moses speaks to Pharaoh face to face here, the last time.

I. The Details are Foretold – vs 4-5 – This is not announcement of possibility, rather it a decree of certainty.

- **“And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die...”**

*Note – One of the most important things to note here is the fact that the judgment is not just that people will die; but rather that they will be killed!

*Note – Everyone is going to die. – That is the original judgment upon all humanity. That is the curse we all live under. – This final judgment upon Egypt, is not the announcement that some will die; the final judgment here upon Egypt is the removal of the mystery, as to how and when some will die.

- It is not merely the execution of a kingdom criminal. It is the knowledge beforehand that it is going to happen.

*Note – I can tell you today, that you are going to die! – And everyone will nod in sad agreement, say you’re right, and go home today and live like it was never even said.

- But if I told you today, and you knew it to be true, that Tuesday about 3 o’clock in the afternoon something is going to take your life, you probably wouldn’t eat another meal.

*Note – The reality is that we do not know how this warning landed in the heart of Pharaoh; but it would not be unreasonable to think it caused him all kinds of trepidation due to the fact that he could not deny all of Moses previous announcements happened like clockwork.

- I don’t know how these things affected Pharaoh, but I know the Lord God wanted him to know it before hand, and so He poured out the deadly details of what was about to come.

Notice four details the Lord spells out to Pharaoh:

A. When Death Will Come – “About midnight”

*Note – Now here is some heaviness upon heaviness...

1.) Moses said, “midnight” but he does not say “Which Midnight.”

- It wasn’t **that** midnight because the children of Israel had yet to receive their instructions in preparation for their departure.
- quite a few things would happen between the time Moses left Pharaoh’s room, and the midnight that

the Angel of the Lord would come into the land.

- most particularly choosing a lamb on the 10th day of the month.
- sacrificing and eating the lamb on the 14th day of the month.

*Note – We know that this “midnight” would come 14 days from the point in time disclosed in chapter 12:1

*Note -Now notice this. The LORD showed us in Egypt a small, but blunt sample of the reality that all men live under.

- 1.) the unknown day of death. (He gave them the moment, but not the day)
 - He told Israel, but He did not tell Egypt -and if the Egyptians were going to be prepared, they were going to have to get God’s Word from the Jews.
 - Or can we say – “If the Gentiles are going to have God’s Word, they are going to have to hear it, from the Jews.”

*Note – If chapter 12:1 happened the very instant, chapter 11 ends, at the very minimum, every night for two weeks, Pharaoh and the Egyptians had to have some pretty sleepless nights.

- Will it be tonight? Well, it wasn’t last night, will it be tonight? – What can we do about? Is there something the Hebrews know they aren’t telling us? . . . and on and on.

(OR – after 10 days or so, the Egyptians relax and say, “Well, finally, it looks like ol Moses God has run out of juice!” – “Moses finally wrote a check, his God couldn’t cash.”)

Whatever the case, the reality is “Midnight was coming!”

- 2.) the unknown day of the arrival of the Lord in Judgment.
 - the death angel passing through Egypt, is a whiff of an aroma, of the second coming Jesus Christ to the world in full judgment.

*Note – What God did in Egypt on a national and minimal scale, the Apostle Paul wrote about on the cosmic scale of judgment to come in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 – **“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”**

- As the angel of the Lord executed judgment upon Egypt, the Son of God will come and execute judgment upon the world.

B. How It Will Come – “Will I go out”

*Note – This is the first plague that God will not use some preexisting thing in nature as His weapon of choice.

- He will not send frogs.
- He will not send locusts.

- There will be no hail, or flies, or lice, or murrain?
 - “Just Him!”
 - it will have no natural explanation; and will not be the secondary consequence of different type of plague.
- The bottom line, is that the Lord said, “I am coming to kill.”

As the Sovereign God, He alone has the moral right, and divine ability to kill sheerly by the discretion of His will.

Preacher, I don’t think the Lord ever “kills people” – He may “let them die” or He may set forth some chain of events that happens to lead to their death, but I’m not so sure the Lord ever just “kills” someone.

Genesis 38:7 – “And Er, Judah’s firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD slew him.”

Luke 12:5 – “But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear Him.”

Revelation 2:23 the Lord said to the church at Thyatira speaking of a rebellious, and treacherous woman running theologically roughshod through the church – “And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am He which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.”

Never forget this. God is not subject to some higher standard of right and wrong – what makes something right or wrong, is always in subjection to God!

*Note – God had just put out their “Creator” before their very eyes, when He covered all of their light. Now God will remind the world that not only does He govern the “laws of light” but He also governs the “privilege of life.”

- He announces when death will come. He foretells how death will come, and now he details “where death will begin”

C. Where it Will Begin – “into the midst of Egypt”

*Note – Preacher, don’t you think this is just his way of saying, He is going to come into the entire country of Egypt. – Yep – I sure do.

- But there is a reason, I believe, He states His coming this way:
- Egypt was divided into two parts. Upper and Lower. -Lower was in the North, and Upper was in the South. It was divided by the “elevation of the land” and not the “compass on the map.”

*Note - Pharaoh, and the Israelites were located in Lower Egypt. Having no idea how well communications were then, it would not be hard to think that there were people in Upper Egypt at their wits end not being privy to all of the details in the northern part of the land.

*Note – In other words it is not a stretch to think that there were people in southern Egypt still ignorant of the divine judgment being poured out on their land....

- But even for them.... “Midnight was coming.”

D. Who Will Receive it – “and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die.”

*Note – The first thing to understand here, is exactly who this is going to hurt, and hurt the most...

1.) Will it be those who died? Or those who had to live with these deaths?

a.) Those Egyptians who were beyond the stage of accountability, who had rejected the God of Creation, the God of the Hebrews; were sent to their holding cell in Hades, to await their final casting into hell.

b.) Those Egyptian children who had not yet reached the stage of accountability, received a divine mercy, and entered into what the New Testament would call later, “paradise.”

c.) Those Egyptians left alive, would suffer all of the pain, and sorrow, and anguish that comes from losing someone to death.

- National Egypt was judged! – But the judgment landed differently, on different people.

2.) Why the “firstborn?” (Why not the head of household? – Why not the wealthiest in each family? Why not the youngest of each home? Wouldn’t that have been the most merciful thing to do for those who would die?)

4:22-23 – When God was instructing Moses in his call, He explained it to him, as He directed him to speak to Pharaoh – “And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn: And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.”

Pharaoh – you have abused and oppressed “My firstborn” and Pharaoh, I have created a law; it is called the law of the harvest. “**Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap!**” And furthermore Pharaoh, along with that law is another principle of justice: (Matthew 7:2) – “**For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.**”

Now whatever else may be said, one thing stands for sure, and that is the Lord gave Pharaoh and living, breathing, dose of the reality of earned judgment!

(Now all of that happened historically, yes – but there is a parallel that we cannot ignore. This entire epic in Israel’s history is intended to show us that God does deliver. – This is a historic picture that points to the cross

- In the grand story of redemption – Dr. Wiersbe points out that God has fully rejected our “first birth” in the matter of righteousness.

- Our first birth, is just as good as death, when it comes to the judgment of God – lest we forget.)

The first primary thing to see – The Details are Foretold. The Second – The

II. The Damage is Foreboding – vs 6-8 –

*Note – This last plague is the first time the Lord tells Pharaoh the outcome this plague is going to have. He outlines for him the effect this will have:

- 1.) On the heart of the Egyptians
- 2.) In the lives of the Israelites
- 3.) On the will of his people

*Note – The Lord has calculated the cost, and reads Pharaoh the totals before he begins.

A. Unseen Devastation – vs 6 – “And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more.”

*Note – Like so many of the unprecedented things that had accompanied the previous plagues, this one too would bring an unseen, and indescribable sorrow to the nation.

- There is nothing in history for this kind of national tragedy to ever be compared to.

- In our country, over the last 20 plus years, we have grown accustomed to comparing national tragedies to the events that took place on 911.

- No doubt people in Japan measured their national sorrows against the bombs of Hiroshima, and Nagasaki.

- The Jews, I believe, until the Lord returns, will always measure their national sorrows against the Holocaust.

- Egypt would have nothing to compare this sorrow with:

12:30 when this midnight did come; the Bible says – “And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a

great cry in Egypt; for *there was not a house where there was not one dead.*”

911 was a horrible event – 2,977 families lost someone, according to the official count. The whole nation hurt, but not like those closest to those families.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki, together are estimated as having lost 214,000 together – by some estimates; others have it a little lower, but 10s of thousands would die slowly after the days of impact. - While the whole nation of Japan wept, those connected to those families hurt the worst.

Of course the Holocaust stands as the sorrows of all sorrows; and agonies of all agonies. Six million Jews murdered, with families still tracing their loved ones to those times even today. – There are no human words to describe the pain inflicted upon God’s chosen nation. – But while it affected every single Jew; there were still families that escaped.

When God came to town on that night – there would not be 1 Egyptian family, not 1, that escaped the judgment of God and the immediate and direct pain of that judgment.

Throughout all of histories horrors, there have always been those families, many or few, that had no immediate family member taken from them.

- Not in Egypt, not that night! - **Unseen Devastation**

B. Unfiltered Discrimination – vs 7 – “But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue against man or beast: that ye may

know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.”

*Note – The Lord wanted to underscore this one fact for Pharaoh, lest he try to avoid the tip of the spear. Egypt was being singled out, Israel was separated out.

1.) “That ye may know – the Lord sees Israel different than He sees Egypt!”

- a.) God did not see them the same.
- b.) God did not TREAT them the same.
- c.) God would not Respond to them the same!

*Note – If there is anything at all uncomfortable to the mind in getting to know God it is the reality of His Sovereign CHOOSING between people, as He manages life the way He wants to!

- Israel was God’s covenant people. God had made promises to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, that He didn’t make to every man. He made promises to them, He didn’t make to the Pharaoh’s of Egypt past. He made promises to them, He didn’t make to the Assyrians, or to the Canaanites, or to the Edomites, or the Hittites.

- God made promises to those HE chose to make promises to; and just made prophecies to the rest.

*Note – I have no part in the promises God made to Israel; and unless there is something I don’t know about you; I doubt very seriously that there is anyone here that has any part in the promises that God made to Israel.

*Note – The promises that I have part of, are the ones that come through Jesus!

(God wanted to Pharaoh to know, He wanted the Egyptians to know, and He wanted the world to know, He would not at all see all the nations of the world as “equals” to the nation of people that He had chosen.)

- Unseen Devastation – Unfiltered Discrimination –

C. Unrestrained Desperation – vs 8 – “And all these thy servants shall come down unto me, and bow down themselves unto me, saying, Get thee out, and all the people that follow thee: and after that I will go out...”

*Note – The final straw for Pharaoh would be the response of the nation. They would not wait for Pharaoh to act; they would come to Moses themselves; and beg him to leave.

1.) In one essential way – Pharaoh may have been ruler; but at that moment, he would no longer be Egypt’s leader.

- They all lost a son, or a daughter, the fear of an angry ruler meant nothing to them. They had such a spirit in that nation, that for a moment Pharaoh would be Irrelevant.

The two primary things to see; - The Details Had been Foretold; The Damage would be Foreboding;

- But the third, we have seen before -

III. The Conclusion is Foregone – vs 9-10 – The same song, last verse.

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you; that my wonders may be

multiplied in the land of Egypt. And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go out of his land."

- Midnight would come!

In the museum in Cairo there is a stone about ten feet high by six feet wide ... Of black granite, it has an inscription on one side. It was made in the days of the son of Rameses the Second. That carries us back about fourteen hundred years B.C. On the stone Pharaoh, in a very proud way, and in poetical phrases, relates his victories. The inscription ends with these words. "Israel is annihilated; Israel will have no posterity." Written after later wars with Israel when they settled in the Promised land.... But that proud Pharaoh did not know Jehovah, and did not know that the everlasting command of Jehovah was that His people were to remain and to be His witnesses throughout the ages.

—J. A. Clark

The world will always lose when fighting the God of the Bible.