

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Bible Study Notes

7-29-20

Exodus 11

The declaration that the people will be driven out of Egypt soon- Verses 1-3

¹ Now the LORD had said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely. ² Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbors for articles of silver and gold." ³ (The LORD made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh's officials and by the people.)

11:1 God knew exactly what would happen in the future. He had His exact timetable. Plague ten wasn't plan 10 and plague two wasn't plan B. God knew it would take ten plagues to convince Pharaoh to let His people go. This is yet another reminder to us to persevere.

11:1 Pharaoh was not only going to let them go, he was going to drive them out. This would demonstrate clearly God's victory. Pharaoh would no longer attempt to compromise. He would no longer need any persuasion. God would completely humble him and force him to do exactly what God wanted. Instead of using his army of enforcers to keep the Israelites as slaves, he would forcibly expel them from the land. Proverbs 21:1

11:2 Moses was to speak to the people to prepare them for the Exodus. Each one was to ask valuable articles from his neighbors. There are several reasons why God might have asked Moses to do this. Firstly, we learn in 1 Timothy 5:18 that a worker is worthy of his wages. The Israelites had worked in Egypt for hundreds of years as slaves and been mistreated, abused, and even murdered in mass by the Egyptians. Now was finally time to be paid for their work. Secondly, it was yet another form of punishment for the Egyptians and their cruel national policy towards the Jews. Thirdly, it was God's way to provide for the Israelites. As slaves, it is likely that they were very poor and didn't have many things. God chose to use this way to provide for them. Fourthly, God had prophesied this to Moses in Exodus 3:22. This prophecy and fulfillment showed the completeness of God's victory over the Egyptians. Fifth, much of this treasure would likely be used to build the tabernacle for the LORD in the wilderness. Ask and you will receive.

11:2 We can learn a great lesson from this about God's provision. When we read in Matthew that if we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to us, we can know for sure that God will take care of us somehow someday. It could be through friends providing for us when we are in need. Or as in this case, it could even be enemies or strangers knowingly, or unknowingly helping us. God will make a way even when there seems to be no way.

11:3 Moses was finally a leader the people respected. If we remember back in the first couple of chapters of Exodus, the Jews rejected him as their leader. They didn't want anything to do

with him. although the Egyptians had suffered greatly seemingly at the hands of Moses, they still respected him. He was a man of principle and courage.

11:3 We can learn several lessons from this. Firstly, if God gives us a task to do, He will enable us to do it. God asked Moses to be a leader and it took some time, but people finally respected and followed him. Don't worry about getting the respect of others. If God wants them to respect you or listen to you, He will cause it to happen *at the right time*. Secondly, if you do what is right and serve God even unbelievers may end up respecting you. The first criticism of unbelievers is often that believers are hypocrites. But if you stand up for what you believe in and boldly, publicly follow Christ, it will draw many people's admiration. Of course, this is not the goal of why we serve God, but it is a nice reminder, especially in cases where a boss or other authority figure has been against you. Hang in there and you might just win the person's respect.

The Plague on the Firstborn - Verses 4-8

4 So Moses said, "This is what the LORD says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. **5** Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. **6** There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. **7** But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal.' Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. **8** All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, 'Go, you and all the people who follow you!' After that I will leave." Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.

11:4 The final plague would be by far the most serious yet. Every firstborn human and animal would die. This is a great number of people. The Egyptians honored the firstborn. They held an especially important position in the family and in society and in the monarchy. The firstborn would ascend to the throne and continue the dynasty. The firstborn would be the head of the household after growing up. All of this religious, political, and societal importance would be rendered mute by this plague. No one would be exempt from Pharaoh's household, down to the lowest slave girl.

11:7 Moses told Pharaoh that God made a distinction between Egypt and Israel. At this time the distinction was very clear in God's mind: He knew the Hebrews would become his chosen people. The distinction was taking shape in Moses' mind also. But the Hebrews still saw the distinction only in terms of slave and free. Later, when they were in the wilderness, God would teach them the laws, principles, and values that would make them distinct as his people. Remember that God sees us in terms of what we will become and not just what we are right now.

11:8 God, through Moses, warned the Egyptians first (see verse 4 -8, Moses was talking in the presence of Pharaoh). The Egyptians knew what was coming and presumably heard through word of mouth or directly from Moses or other Jews how to prevent it (the Passover lamb). This means that all the Egyptians were quadruply culpable. They were culpable firstly because they had original sin, secondly because when they were old enough they decided to sin knowingly (including worshiping false gods and not turning to God even when He showed clearly He was the true God,

they had plenty of signs), thirdly because they had willfully enslaved the Jews, and fourthly because they had not listened to Moses warning.

The Plague on the Firstborn - Verses 9-10

⁹ The LORD had said to Moses, "Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you—so that my wonders may be multiplied in Egypt." ¹⁰ Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his country.

11:9-10 You may wonder how Pharaoh could be so foolish as to see God's miraculous power and still not listen to Moses. But Pharaoh had his mind made up long before the plagues began. He couldn't believe that someone was greater than he. This stubborn unbelief led to a heart so hard that even a major catastrophe couldn't soften him. Finally, it took the greatest of all calamities, the loss of his son, to force him to recognize God's authority. But even then he wanted God to leave, not to rule his country. We must not wait for great calamities to drive us to God, but must open our hearts and minds to his direction now.

Lessons Learned:

God is just. He takes sin seriously and cannot allow the sinner to go free.

You reap what you sow. The Egyptians had ten chances to repent and didn't take them.

We should take sin seriously, especially the sin of rejecting God willfully. It is not a light matter. All sin is worthy of death. While God is patient and kind, He also hates sin and takes it seriously.

God protected and saved those who obeyed Him and trusted in Him.

Parents have a great responsibility for their kids. Their own decisions and their own sins will affect their own kids lives.

God is patient with us. God could unleash similar plagues around the world at any time for people's sin and their willful rejection of Him, but in most cases He doesn't do this. In most cases He gives people more time and opportunities to repent. Don't waste these opportunities.

Do not fight against God. God will win in the end, but if you fight against Him your life could be destroyed just like the Egyptians' lives were.