

Series: Exodus

Title: Christ in the Plagues (Pt 2)

Text: Ex 8: 24-12:23

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Our subject is Christ in the Plagues (Pt 2) In Exodus 7, God begins to pour out judgement in the first of ten plagues upon Pharaoh and Egypt. We will see three things these plagues represent:

- 1) They represent the judgement of God poured out on all who refuse to believe on Christ.
- 2) These judgements also show us something of what Christ bore for his people on the cross.
- 3) And by taking the negative effects produced by God's judgment upon Pharaoh and looking at their opposite, positive side, we see something of the effects Christ produces for his people through his blood.

Proposition: In the ten plagues we see the judgment of God and its effects upon those who reject Christ and we see the judgement Christ bore and its effects upon his redeemed.

In Part 1, we saw the judgment of death in the water turned to blood, the judgment of God leaving those who reject Christ to their own corrupt will and the judgment of being left under the curse and wrath of God.

THE FLIES, DISEASED CATTLE, DISEASED MEN, THUNDER AND HAIL, LOCUSTS AND DARKNESS

The next six plagues show us the fierceness of God's wrath which consumes and plagues the sinner's body, destroys his works, and at last casts him into outer darkness.

Fourth plague flies—**Ex 8: 24: ...there came a grievous swarm of flies...the land was corrupted** [destroyed] **by reason of the swarm of flies.** *Ps 78: 45: He sent divers sorts of flies, which devoured them*

Five, disease killed cattle—**Ex 9: 3: Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle...the horses,...the asses,...the camels,...the oxen, and the sheep: there shall be a very grievous murrain.** [disease]...**6: ...and all the cattle of Egypt died:**

Six, disease upon the people—**Ex 9: 10: And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast...14: For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that *there is* none like me in all the earth. 15: For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth. 16: And in very deed for this *cause* have I raised thee up, for to shew *in* thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.**

Seventh, thunder and hail killed their crops—**Ex 9: 23: And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail...25: And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that *was* in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field.**

Eight, locusts, consumed the rest of the vegetation—**Exodus 10: 12: ...that they may come up upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, *even* all that the hail hath left. 15...and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt.**

Nine, darkness—Ex 10: 21: **And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. 22...there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days:**

All these plagues represent the effects of the wrath of God poured out upon those who are without Christ.

Psalm 78: 49: He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them. 50: He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence;

Isaiah 24: 1: Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. 2: And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him. 3: The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word. 4: The earth mourneth *and* fadeth away, the world languisheth *and* fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. 5: The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. 6: Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.

In this life, under God's curse, the flesh of God-haters produces only dead works, disease and death—complete spiritual darkness even now! The flesh produces nothing good and God sees to it that it does not because:

Isaiah 1: 6: From the sole of the foot even unto the head *there is* no soundness in it; *but* wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

Then after physical death, they will suffer the eternal second death in *outer darkness* where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, as they bear the fierceness of God's wrath forever!

Unbeliever there is one refuge, one place God will be merciful to the needy—Christ.

Yet, Christ has already born the fierce fury of God's wrath for his people—look to that fierce fury on the cross.

Christ bore destruction—*marring more than any man in his body on the tree*—so that God's wrath will never destroy his people.

He carried *the griefs and bore the sorrows of the sin of his people* that he might heal us

God thundered upon him in fierce wrath so that believers now enjoy peace with God.

Thick darkness covered him for *3 hours* like Egypt for *3 days*, that we might have the everlasting Light in Christ.

Therefore, we see in the children of Israel the protection and fruitfulness Christ provides and produces in his people.

Exodus 8: 22: And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. 23: And I will put a division between my people and thy people: to morrow shall this sign be.

Exodus 9: 4: And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all that is the children's of Israel...

When hail fell on Egypt—**Exodus 9: 26: Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail.**

Exodus 10: 23: [during darkness in Egypt] They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Believer, Christ bore the fury of God's wrath for his people he promises the believer:

Isaiah 54: 17: No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

THE DEATH OF THE FIRSTBORN

Exodus 11: 5: [The Lord said he would go out in Egypt at midnight]...And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts....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.

Psalm 78: 51: And smote all the firstborn in Egypt; the chief of their strength...

The firstborn sons carried on *their father's name, and Pharaoh's name and kingdom*. Exodus begins with Pharaoh trying to *exalt his name by destroying Israel's name* by throwing the male Israelite babies *in the river*. The devil would *exalt his name and his kingdom* and destroy God's name by keeping God's children in bondage in sin.

Isaiah 14: 13...I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:...14...I will be like the most High

But God said, **Exodus 9:16 And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.**

Exodus 10: 7...that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel

God alone makes one sinner differ from another: by his grace, by his blood, by his Spirit, by Christ! It is God's name that we glory in and his name alone when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!

Psalm 7:17: I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.

Psalm 20: 7: Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

Proverbs 18: 10: The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

So from the first plague until the last, we see God *decreasing Pharaoh's name* little by little until at last *he destroyed his chief strength—slaying all his firstborn sons throughout Egypt*. And the way *God exalted his name and destroyed Pharaoh's name* was by redeeming all the firstborn sons in Israel by *slaying his Firstborn Son in our place, typified in the passover lamb*.

Exodus 12: 21: Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover. 22: And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. 23: For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

God exalted his name—by judging this world, casting out the devil, and redeeming his people—at the same time when Christ our Passover declared God just and the Justifier of all who believe on Christ:

John 12: 31: [Christ said] Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out 32: And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. 33: This he said, signifying what death he should die.

Christ, as Head of his house, applies the blood over the doorpost of our hearts through the Holy Spirit—like the head of the house did the night of the Passover. And now, God promises every believer, “*when I see the blood I will pass over you!*”

LET'S WRAP UP THIS OVERVIEW

The reason all these judgments are being poured out on so many in this life and in the world to come is because they reject Christ and prove themselves children of the devil, deserving of God's just wrath.

John 3:18: He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

God is pouring out judgment on sinners now: by turning them over to reprobation, by leaving them to the corruption of their natural heart, by leaving them under the curse of his offended law, by leaving them to the destruction of their sinful flesh by his wrath and at last sentencing them to eternal death.

Sadly, throughout his life, the sinner loves it to be so! They rejoice in their freewill and their works while hating Christ.

Jeremiah 5:31: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

But Christ said one day he shall, “*Depart from me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you!*”

On the other hand, the one reason none of these judgments will be poured out on God's believing people is because God chose us by grace and Christ our Passover died in our place bearing all our judgment. God alone puts a difference between his elect Israel and the rest of this sin-cursed world.

Therefore, God's name alone will be exalted in the person of his Son for the salvation of his people. And God names will also be exalted in the destruction of all his and our enemies.

Flee to Christ now and wash in the blood of the Lamb—believe on his name and be no more ashamed to publicly confess him.

Amen!