

Exodus 11

Verses 1-3

Now the Lord said to Moses, “One more plague I will bring on Pharaoh and on Egypt; after that he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out from here completely. ² Speak now in the hearing of the people that each man ask from his neighbor and each woman from her neighbor for articles of silver and articles of gold.” ³ The Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Furthermore, the man Moses *himself* was greatly esteemed in the land of Egypt, *both* in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants and in the sight of the people.

Each man and woman ask from his neighbor for articles of silver and gold

This was an act of justice that came from the mouth of God

The Egyptian people had enjoyed a higher standard of living for 160 years because the slaves provided cheap labor.

We should remember that America supported slavery for 250 years and benefited in the same way.

Concerning the articles of silver and gold it should be remembered that this was part of the promise that God had made to Abraham

See Genesis 15:14

But I will also judge the nation, whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions

The Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Furthermore, the man Moses *himself* was greatly esteemed in the land of Egypt, *both* in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants and in the sight of the people.

The Egyptian people understood that their nation was being punished for their sins and that the people of Israel had been protected from the very severe plagues.

This brought honor to Moses, and favor to the slaves

Verses 4-10

Moses said, “Thus says the Lord, ‘About midnight I am going out into the midst of Egypt,⁵ and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of the Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the millstones; all the firstborn of the cattle as well.⁶ Moreover, there shall be a great cry in all the land of Egypt, such as there has not been *before* and such as shall never be again.⁷ But against any of the sons of Israel a dog will not *even* bark, whether against man or beast, that you may understand how the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.’⁸ All these your servants will come down to me and bow themselves before me, saying, ‘Go out, you and all the people who follow you,’ and after that I will go out.” And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger.⁹ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that my wonders will be multiplied in the land of Egypt.”¹⁰ Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh; yet the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the sons of Israel go out of his land.

10th plague – Death of the firstborn

All the first-born in the land of Egypt shall die

Nations reap what they have sown. It may not come quickly but it comes.

The king had used a policy of genocide against Israel and now the King and all of Egypt will suffer the consequence of that policy

God is the Judge of all nations and he says, Vengeance is mine

From the firstborn of the Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the millstones

Many people probably feel that this is unfair.

Why should a slave girl who had no part in this policy of the king suffer for his actions?

That is a fair question. And here is another question.

Why did this generation suffer the penalty of God’s judgment and not all of the other generations that preceded them? Was this generation worse than all the others?

See Luke 13:1-5

Free will is a precious gift from God and it is part of what makes us human

But all of us misuse that gift and in many cases that affects other people

Is it fair that other people should suffer for the things that we do?

We have to be quite naïve to think that a world with 7 billion people, who all want to exercise their free will as they see fit, would be a place of peace and fairness

So how should we respond to this dilemma of living in a fallen world?

Solomon tells us in the Book of Ecclesiastes that people should get right with God because this life is unpredictable and unfair

The Book of Job revealed this same theme long before Solomon came along.

Get right with God as soon as possible because tomorrow may never come.

There is a lot more that could be addressed here but we will leave that for the Book of Job and the Book of Ecclesiastes

By the way, the Jews were not the only slaves in Egypt

None of the 1st born slave girls among the Jews died, so the ones mentioned in this verse had to be Egyptian slave girls

⁶ Moreover, there shall be a great cry in all the land of Egypt, such as there has not been *before* and such as shall never be again.

This is a prophesy that Egypt will never suffer such a judgment as this again

Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh; yet the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the sons of Israel go out of his land.

This verse is a summary of plagues 1 thru 9.

As we have seen, the Lord has only hardened the king's heart 3 times so far.

See chart 1105

Plague	Verse	Who hardened the kings heart	King	Lord
Blood	7:22	Pharaoh's heart was hardened	x	
Frogs	8:15	He hardened his heart	x	
Gnats	8:19	But Pharaoh's heart was hardened	x	
Flies	8:32	But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also	x	
Livestock	9:7	But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened	x	
Boils	9:12	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart		x
Hail	9:34	he sinned again and hardened his heart	x	
Locust	10:20	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart		x
Darkness	10:27	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart		x

The other 6 times the king hardened his heart by his own free will.