

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.

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.”

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.

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

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.

The Egyptian people understood that their nation was being punished for their sins and that the people of Israel had been protected from the worst plagues. This brought honor to Moses, and favor to the slaves.

It’s good that America forsook slavery or the United States would be guilty of the same crime as Egypt and it would suffer the same judgment from God. Ironically, there are still a lot of white people who think that slavery was a good thing and we should return to those days. Let’s hope and pray they see the light.

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

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.

Nations reap what they have sown. It may not come quickly but it comes. The king had used a policy of genocide against Israel (the slaves) 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”.

Some people probably feel that this it was unfair that a slave girl who had no power or authority to change the king’s policy of slavery should suffer for his actions? They are absolutely right in that assessment. So why is this world so messed up?

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, all who want to exercise their free will as they see fit, would be a place of peace and fairness. The bible is quite honest about mankind and how we have messed things up and what we can do to make things right.

Solomon tells us that this life is unpredictable and unfair.

See Ecclesiastes 7:15

¹⁵ I have seen everything during my lifetime of futility; there is a righteous person who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked person who prolongs *his life* in his wickedness.

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

See Ecclesiastes 13:12

¹³ The conclusion, when everything has been heard, *is: fear God and keep His commandments*, because this *applies to every person*. ¹⁴ For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

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.

Just as a footnote our Lord addressed this issue also.

See Luke 13:1-5

Now on that very occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² And Jesus responded and said to them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the *other* Galileans *just* because they have suffered this *fate*?

³ No, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or do you think that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse offenders than all the *other* people who live in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

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.

Egypt will never suffer a judgment as bad as this one ever again.

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.**

This verse is a summary of plagues 1 thru 9. As we have seen, the Lord had only hardened the king's heart 3 times. The other 6 times the king hardened his heart by his own free will.

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

After the 10th plague the king will let the Israelites go.