

9-10

- **THEME OF**

1-19

the
the

- **THAT
LORD...**

and
did
Lord

REVIEW...

THE BOOK...

- o **Chapters**

– The
deliverance of
Israel from
slavery in Egypt!

- o **Chapters**

20-40 – The
FIRST giving of
Law of God as
Lord makes
Israel His nation!

THEY MAY KNOW THE

- o Pharaoh
the Egyptians
not know the
– God used
Moses to reveal
Himself...

- Through his hard heart the Lord would perform TEN plagues – show His power...
- Each of the TEN plagues corresponded to one of the gods of the Egyptians!
- o FIRST plague – God turned the water of the Nile River into blood...
- o SECOND plague – Frogs - Pharaoh promised to let the people go – went back on his word...
- o THIRD plague – Lice – the first plague the Egyptian magicians could not duplicate...
 - They called it the finger of God – acknowledged that the God of Israel was the true God...
 - Pharaoh hardened his heart – he did not want to believe!
- o FOURTH plague – Flies – Pharaoh sought a compromise with Moses – worship God in Egypt...
 - Moses would not accept – he would not partially obey the Lord...
 - Pharaoh agreed to let the people of Israel go – but again went back on his word!

THE REASON FOR TRIALS... (5 POINTS)

- **1st – FIFTH PLAGUE – FINANCIAL RUIN... vs. 1-7**
 - 1st - In the world – not of the world... vs. 1
 - God commanded Moses to return to Pharaoh - He was to tell (*piel*) him...
 - The Lord the God of the Hebrews says – let my people GO (*imperative*) ...
 - HEBREW – 34x in OT - one from beyond – not of this world...
 - If the people of Israel had lived like the Egyptians – they would NOT have had problems...
 - But God called them HEBREWS - NOT part of the world – separate from the world...
 - Because they were NOT part of Egypt – they suffered persecution FROM the Egyptians...
 - The Egyptians / Pharaoh wanted to keep the Hebrews from serving the Lord!
 - In the same way God has called the church to be set apart from the world...
 - The NT word for church - *ekklesia* - means to be called out of the world!
 - If we were of this world – doing worldly things - the world would love us
 - Yet because we are not of this world – the world hates us – tries to keep us from Jesus!
 - **John 15:19** – “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”
 - 2nd - Financial ruin... vs. 2-5
 - IF Pharaoh REFUSED – and still HELD [חָזַק] *them* – still HARDENED his heart...
 - God would bring a VERY SEVERE plague on their animals – they would all die...
 - God had given INCONVENIENT plagues up to this point – blood / frogs / lice / flies...
 - The FIFTH plague would have a HUGE financial impact on the Egyptians...
 - As an agrarian / farming society they depended heavily on their animals...
 - If INCONVENIENCE would NOT get their ATTENTION – next step was their pocketbooks!
 - God is always trying to get our ATTENTION – **II Peter 3:9**
 - If people ignore the Lord – He is willing to do anything to try and get their ATTENTION...
 - Often the KEY for people to be willing to listen is hardships / problems...
 - It is the people going through tough times – which suddenly show up to church!
 - Financial hardships – even ruin – are often the Lord trying to get our ATTENTION...
 - Many people depend on money – rather than the Lord – so God lets the money FAIL...
 - The solution to financial hardships – trust in the Lord – **Matthew 6:33**
 - 3rd - Passing the blame... vs. 6-7
 - Not even ONE of the livestock of the children of Israel perished...
 - God again made the distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites
 - Pharaoh saw that the Israelites were untouched – while Egypt was devastated!
 - Rather than repent – seeing it was his REFUSAL that caused all the problem...
 - Pharaoh instead blamed God – he HARDENED [כָּבַד] his heart once again towards the Lord!

- When we see other people being blessed by God – but our life is FALLING apart...
- Rather than seeing our RESPONSIBILITY – taking ACCOUNTABILITY for our actions...
- We want to BLAME anyone but us – rather than take the BLAME...
- It is far easier to just pass the BLAME onto someone else – even God...
- Because then it was NOT our fault – and we do NOT have to do anything!
- **Proverbs 28:13-14** – “He who covers his sins will not prosper... he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.”
- **2ND - SIXTH PLAGUE – PHYSICAL RUIN... vs. 8-12**
 - 1st - Boils on both man and beast... vs. 8-10
 - God commanded Moses ASH into the air – and it became boils on man and beast...
 - Having ignored INCONVENIENCE and FINANCIAL RUIN – God took away their HEALTH...
 - We tend to think we are indestructible – invincible – nothing can touch us...
 - We tend to think we will live forever – we tend to avoid even talking about death...
 - We forget that our lives are like a wisp of smoke – here today gone tomorrow – **James 4:14**
 - God in His grace – will take our health – if it means saving our soul...
 - Better to suffer physical pain for a few years – and have eternity with Jesus in heaven...
 - Then to live a pain free life here for a few years – and spend eternity in hell...
 - The solution to physical hardships – trust in the Lord – **James 5:15**
 - 2nd – Proven fools... vs. 11
 - The men who had resisted Moses – been so influential in hardening the heart of Pharaoh...
 - Now were PROVEN to be FOOLS – could not stand before Moses - struck down by the boils!
 - **II Timothy 3:8** – “Everyone will recognize what fools... just as with Jannes and Jambres.”
 - Do NOT be concerned about the people who give us a hard time for following Jesus...
 - It will NOT be long before everyone recognizes their foolishness!
 - 3rd - The Lord hardened [כִּזְקָה] the heart of Pharaoh... vs. 12
 - This is the FIRST time the Lord hardens the heart of Pharaoh...
 - It does not mean God REMOVED his choice – in means God CONFIRMED it...
 - SEVEN times Pharaoh had CHOSEN to harden his heart – now God AFFIRMED his choice!
- **3RD - SEVENTH PLAGUE – CHOOSE LIFE... vs. 13-35**
 - 1st – That you may KNOW... vs. 13-17
 - God sent a SEVENTH plague – this time upon the people of Egypt...
 - INCONVENIENCE / FINANCIAL RUIN / and POOR HEALTH had been ignored...
 - Now God would go for the heart – for the FIRST time there would be DEATH...
 - Not all of the Egyptians would DIE – God was still merciful!
 - If God wanted - He COULD have wiped them all out...
 - God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire – **Genesis 19:24-25**
 - God killed 185k Assyrian soldiers with ONE angel – **Isaiah 37:36**
 - Wiping out the population of Egypt was certainly within His power!
 - That would have been one way to REDEEM the people of Israel...
 - But God did NOT want to destroy the Egyptians – He wanted them to KNOW Him...
 - God would do that by showing His power through the HARDNESS of Pharaoh!
 - If Pharaoh had let Israel go the FIRST time Moses asked...
 - The Egyptians would have continued worshiping all their FALSE gods...
 - The world would never have heard about the AWESOME power of God...
 - It was through these plagues – EGYPT got to see God do a work!
 - Israel was allowed to SUFFER for EGYPT...

- There was anything lacking in the sacrifice of Jesus – the cross...
- When the work was done Jesus said – It is finished – nothing needed to be added!
- But we were not there to see the cross – we did not see Jesus die...
- Paul was allowed to suffer so others could see Jesus in him!
- **Colossians 1:24** – “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His... church.”
- It is easy to worship Jesus when everything is going well – no one notices...
- But when we get sick / bad things happen – just like they do to everyone else...
- And rather than complaining about life – we are strong by the POWER of God ...
- Then people stand up and take notice – through our suffering they see Jesus in us!
- God allows us to God through hardships – so He can reveal Himself THROUGH us!
- 2nd - Life or death... vs. 18-21
 - Giving everyone the choice...
 - Tomorrow I will rain down heavy hail – such as has never been seen in Egypt...
 - NOT today – NOT immediately – but with WARNING – tomorrow...
 - God gave the Egyptians a CHOICE – CHOSE to fear the power of God...
 - He gave them the opportunity to be able to AVOID the devastation that was coming!
 - Making the choice...
 - All those who listened and BELIEVED – found shelter and were safe from the storm...
 - All those who IGNORED the Word of the Lord – stayed out in the open – and perished!
 - The Lord did not desire for anyone to perish – but they had a CHOICE!
 - **Deuteronomy 30:15** – “Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster.” [NLT]
 - It is the same today – the Word of God is very clear – believe in Jesus and live...
 - If we reject the message of salvation – then there is no hope – only death...
 - God does not send ANYONE to hell – they CHOOSE to go there – by rejecting His Word!
- 3rd - The problem of the heart... vs. 22-35
 - Everyone / everything in the open was destroyed by HAIL and FIRE (*except in Goshen*) ...
 - Pharaoh called for Moses – I have sinned (*perfect*) ...
 - The Lord is righteous – and my people and I are wicked...
 - Ask (imperative) the Lord to take away the hail – I will let you go (*piel*) ...
 - Moses knew – Pharaoh and his servants did not YET fear the Lord...
 - As soon as Moses left – the storm stopped – so Egypt would KNOW it was the Lord!
 - But also moment the hail and thunder stopped – Pharaoh HARDENED [חָבַד] his heart...
 - Pharaoh was not truly repentant – he just wanted to get out of the trial...
 - The moment the trouble had passed – he went right back to his old ways!
 - People when they are faced with consequences – will admit they are sinners...
 - The moment the trial / problem has passed – they go right back to their old ways!
 - **II Peter 2:22** – “According to the true proverb: A dog returns to his own vomit...”
 - People do not know that what they are doing is wrong...
 - The problem is in the heart – I am the problem – I sin because I want to...
 - Why does someone do what they know is sin – because they want to...
 - Why does someone NOT do what they know is good and right – they do NOT want to...
 - And the challenge is we cannot change our heart – how do you change what we want!
 - **Romans 7:18-19** – “I want to do what is right, but I cannot. I want to do what is good, but I do NOT. I do NOT want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.” [NLT]
 - The solution is in recognizing the problem...
 - When we understand we are the problem – our desires – our wants...

- And we understand there is NOTHING good in us – that we CANNOT change our heart...
- We understand we need to cry out to Jesus – the one who CAN change our heart!
- Jesus CHANGES our desires - so we do NOT want to do the things that are wrong...
- Instead we WANT to do those things that please the Lord – **Romans 8:1**

● **4TH - EIGHTH PLAGUE – FOR ISRAEL... vs. 1-20**

- 1st – Sons and Grandsons... vs. 1-2
 - God HARDENED [כָּבַד] Pharaoh and his servants hearts – so He could SHOW...
 - God reaffirms a powerful truth - If Pharaoh had let Israel go already...
 - Israel would NOT have had confidence their God was the - God of the IMPOSSIBLE!
 - It was through these plagues – ISRAEL got to see God do a work!
 - That you may know I am the Lord...
 - We are often left to ask why God lets hardships come into our lives...
 - Job was a VERY good man – but lost everything – his wealth / his family / his health...
 - One might question why God would let such hardships come on someone He loves...
 - Before the trials Job only knew about God – after He say God with his own eyes!
 - **Job 42:5** – “I had heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes.”
 - Certainly God could keep us from difficulties – He could make our lives very easy...
 - It is in the tough times we depend on the Lord – look to the Lord – see the Lord!
 - That you tell your children...
 - It was NOT just about the people knowing God – they were to tell (*piel*) their children!
 - **Ephesians 6:4** – “Fathers... bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”
 - It is the responsibility of the Dad to teach the kids about Jesus...
 - If we do not teach our kids to have a relationship with Jesus - who will...
 - But we can ONLY teach our children – what we have experienced...
 - If we have NOT SEEN God do the impossible – we CANNOT tell our kids about Him!
- 2nd – The problem is PRIDE... vs. 3-6
 - Thus says the God of the Hebrews – HOW LONG will you refuse to HUMBLE yourself...
 - Pharaoh would not let Israel go because he would not HUMBLE himself...
 - Pharaoh KNEW he was wrong – KNEW he should let Israel go – but was too PROUD!
 - To help HUMBLE Pharaoh – God sent locusts...
 - Enough to cover the whole of the land of Egypt – so you could not see the ground...
 - They would devour any plants that survived the HAIL and FIRE....
 - They would fill the houses of every Egyptian – eating everything they found!
 - 2020 there were swarms in Kenya – 70 BILLION strong – hundreds of kilometers!
 - **Proverbs 16:18** – “Pride goes before destruction, an arrogant spirit before a fall.”
 - The word נָפַל (*often translated fall*) - from the root verb to be broken...
 - The word arrogant from the root verb קָשַׁל - meaning to be weak legged / unable to stand...
 - The picture is actually encouraging - our Pride and Arrogance have the cumulative effect...
 - They BREAK us and teach us that we cannot STAND on our own!
 - They cause us to be HUMBLE so that we can receive the Grace of God!
 - **James 4:6 / I Peter 5:5** – “God resists the proud, but give grace to the humble.”
- 3rd – A SECOND attempt at compromise... vs. 7-11
 - The servants of Pharaoh tried to reason with him – Egypt was already destroyed...
 - Their economy was in shambles – livestock dead / their fields destroyed...
 - Their health had been ruined – friend and family killed...
 - The faith of the people in their gods was shaken – they had seen SEVEN mighty plagues...
 - The great and mighty empire of Egypt – builder of the pyramids – was in devastated!

- Pharaoh called for Moses – who is going with you...
 - Moses answered – young and old – men and women - as well as all their flocks...
 - Pharaoh balked – the Lord had better be with you – if I am to let you kids go!
 - Take the MEN – ONLY they can leave and serve the Lord!
- The COMPROMISE...
 - FIRST - Pharaoh had offered Moses to worship the Lord in Egypt – **Exodus 8:25**
 - SECOND – Pharaoh now offered to let them go – but only the MEN...
 - In other words – you can follow the Lord – but leave me your children!
 - I fear too often children learn their values from TV / school / other kids...
 - Rather than learning the truth of Jesus from their parents – the Word of God!
 - If satan cannot keep us from following after Jesus – he will go after our kids...
 - Children do not know – they need someone to show them – teach them...
 - If parents do not step up and instruct their children in Jesus – the world will!
- o 4th - How many times to forgive... vs. 12-20
 - Pharaoh refused to let ALL of Israel go – so the EAST wind blew all day and all night...
 - In the morning the locusts came – nothing green was saved on all the trees / plants...
 - Pharaoh again confessed his SIN against God and Moses...
 - He pleaded with Moses for forgive him – just this ONCE – and take away the locust...
 - This was not the first time Pharaoh REPENTED – but Moses still prayed for him!
 - So God send a strong WEST wind – and blew all the locusts out to sea!
 - But the Lord HARDENED [קָרַח] the heart of Pharaoh – so he did NOT let Israel go!
 - How often should we forgive the SAME sin...
 - Jesus tells us 70x7 – **Matthew 18:22** – but that is not a limit (490) ...
 - Jesus is not giving us a number – He is giving us a Bible reference - **Daniel 9:24**
 - Jesus is saying we forgive - until there is no more sin!
 - How often are we to forgive someone who sins against us – Every time!
 - What if they keep committing the same sin – then we keep forgiving!
 - Is there any reason not to forgive – NO – because we have been forgiven for EVERYTHING!
- 5TH – NINTH PLAGUE – No COMPROMISE... vs. 21-29
 - o 1st - The greatest of the gods... vs. 21-23
 - The greatest of all the gods of Egypt – was the sun god – Ra...
 - The last hope of the Egyptians was that Ra was still there – the sun still came up...
 - God showed them He was greater than Ra – He brought TOTAL darkness on Egypt...
 - For THREE days no one could see anything – they had to FEEL to walk around...
 - But there was still LIGHT inside the houses of Israel!
 - o 2nd – The THIRD compromise... vs. 24
 - Pharaoh offered to let them go – EVEN their kids – but not their POSSESSIONS...
 - YOU can serve the Lord – but do NOT give all you HAVE to God...
 - We may follow the Lord – but do we give ALL we HAVE to the Lord...
 - Satan would love us to miss out on the blessing God desires to give to us!
 - **II Corinthians 9:6** – “He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”
 - Does that mean we are REQUIRED to give a 10% to the Lord...
 - According to the Law there were THREE different TITHES people were to give!
 - **Numbers 18:21-24** – the Levitical tithe to provide for those who served the Lord...
 - **Deuteronomy 14:22-26** – the feast tithe – 10% of the harvest eaten before the Lord...
 - **Deuteronomy 14:28-29** - the poor tithe – which was only once every 3 years...

- In all the people were required to TITHE about 23% of their income each year!
- And that did not include offerings – which were free will gifts above the TITHE!
- I am always amused by those who teach giving 10% to the church (*should be 23%*) ...
- They take this one Law from the OT and teach it like it belongs in the NT...
- The Law is not a buffet line - you cannot pick and choose what laws you like...
- Those who teach giving 10% to the church - must also teach the rest of the Law!
- The New Covenant command is to give because we want to – **II Corinthians 9:7**
 - Everything we have – everything we are – was given to us by the Lord...
 - Money / time / talent – it does not matter – the point is to give ALL to God...
 - Too often we want to COMPROMISE – give most of ourselves to the Lord...
 - Instead we should give EVERYTHING to the Lord – completely surrendered to God!
 - Because where we put our TREASURES – is where our heart will be – **Matthew 6:21**
 - Wherever spend our money / time / thoughts / efforts – our heart follows!
 - So we invest in heaven – and our heart then becomes dedicated to the Lord!
- o 3rd – Refusing to COMPROMISE... vs. 25-29
 - The children of Israel had to bring their POSSESSIONS with them...
 - And the Lord HARDENED [קָרַח] the heart of Pharaoh one last time...
 - He commanded Moses to leave – and NEVER to come back – on penalty of DEATH...
 - Moses told him he spoke well – Moses would NEVER see the Pharaoh again!