

The Purpose of A Plague

READ: Exodus 7-8:19



Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. ²You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country. ³But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, ⁴he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites. ⁵And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it."

⁶ Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD commanded them. ⁷ Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh. ⁸ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ⁹ "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a miracle,' then say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,' and it will become a snake."

¹⁰ So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. ¹¹ Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: ¹² Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. ¹³ Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said.

The purpose of Exodus is to establish a global reputation for the creating and redeeming God of Israel.

Everything in the book serves to make the point that Yahweh alone is God. More, in seeing the work of this gracious God to transform one people,

other cultures will begin to know the reality of God's enduring presence.

James Bruckner, Exodus

The Plague of Blood ^{7:16} Then say to him (Pharaoh), 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness. But until now you have not listened. ¹⁷ This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood.

²² But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said. ²³ Instead, he turned and went into his palace, and did not take even this to heart.

The Plague of Frogs ⁸ ¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. ² If you refuse to let them go, I will send a plague of frogs on your whole country,

⁶ So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land. ⁷ But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

⁸ Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Pray to the Lord to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the Lord."

⁹ Moses said to Pharaoh, "I leave to you the honor of setting the time for me to pray for you and your officials and your people that you and your houses may be rid of the frogs, except for those that remain in the Nile."

¹⁰ "Tomorrow," Pharaoh said.

Moses replied, "It will be as you say, so that you may know there is no one like the Lord our God. ¹¹ The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile."

REFLECT: What was God's intent, His desire throughout book of Exodus? What does he want us to understand?

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 One of God's most important commandments =
 "Have no other God's before me" (Exodus 20:3)

Key Question all must answer: **"Who is your God?"**

What does it mean to be "Redeemed"?



What was God's purpose for the plagues?
 "Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God." (Exodus 34:14)

RESPOND: 2 Questions to Ponder

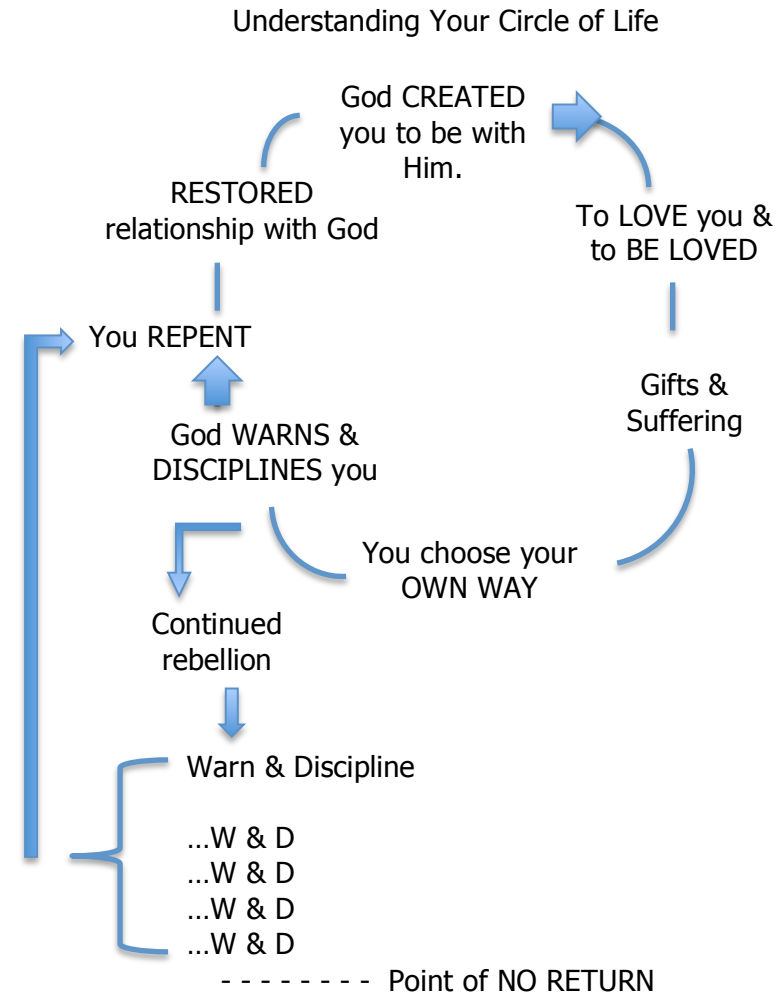
1. What "god/God" am I showing people by how I live?

2. What negative consequences will I (and others around me) suffer IF I chose my own way?

What was the impact of Pharaoh's decision on the nation of Egypt?

¹³ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me,¹⁴ or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth.
¹⁵ For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. ¹⁶ But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." (Exodus 9:13-16)

WEEKLY STUDY CHALLENGE: WHERE ARE YOU AT?



*"We are scared to make mistakes,
 so we fret over figuring out God's will.
 We wonder what living according to His will
 would actually look and feel like, and we are scared to find out.
 We forget that we were never promised a 20-year plan of action;
 instead, God promises multiple times in Scripture never to leave or forsake
 us. God wants us to listen to His Spirit
 on a daily basis, and even throughout the day ...
 My hope is that instead of searching for "God's will for my life," each of us
 would learn to seek hard after "the Spirit's leading in my life today."*

Francis Chan, Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God