

8

Seeing God's Power

Text: Exodus 8:20-10:29

Key Verse: Exodus 9:16

Next Week: Exodus 11-12:32

Encountering God

EXODUS

Finding Freedom

OPEN

Last week in the story of Exodus, we transitioned from God's preparation to the plagues, in moving from Exodus ch. 6 to 7-8:19, as we looked at the hardness of Pharaoh's heart versus our need to keep a soft and repentant heart toward God.

As we continue this week to look again at the plagues – these acts of mercy sent to soften and pry people's hearts away from worshipping false gods – we now cover plagues #4-9. The key verse in our text for this week is ch. 9:16 where God says regarding Pharaoh: "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." God was not only using the plagues to pry people's hearts away from worshipping idols but in Pharaoh's resistance to also show God's power to the glory of His name.

In a sentence, what we see in this week's text is that God has no rivals, and uses His power to demonstrate the greatness of His name over all. How are we to respond? To savour His unmatched greatness, to follow God unconditionally (unlike Pharaoh), and to unashamedly embrace God's call to make the name of Jesus known..

REFLECT

- From Ex. 8:20 to 10:29, how many times (through Moses) does God tell Pharaoh to let His people go? How many times does Pharaoh resist?
- In Ex. 8:22-23, what does it say about God's people who live in Goshen? How is God's 'hand' experienced differently between the Egyptians and the Israelites?
- In Ex. 8:29-31, what role does prayer play in this story in regards to the plagues lifting? What does this suggest about the importance and God places and the authority He gives us in prayer?

DISCUSS

- In this week's text, we are reminded that God sovereignly raised up both Moses and Pharaoh – both. How do you understand this? For what purpose does God say he raises up Pharaoh in 9:16.
- In Exodus 8, God says that the land of Goshen – the area where the Israelites lived within Egypt – would not experience the judgement of Egypt in the plagues. How come the Israelites were protected? Was there something they did to avoid God's judgement?
- How do you see this same principle of God protecting and sparing our lives from negative things on account of a believer obeying and trusting in God's Word? In what ways have you maybe see God's hand of protection or blessing on account of following what He says in His Word?
- Read Romans 10:9-13 that talk about the basis of our being saved from God's judgements. What is the basis? What is required? How much of being saved from God's eternal judgment rests upon us? How much rests upon God in his grace for us?
- In response to the plagues, Pharaoh keeps saying he will let God's people go and then changes his mind. Why do you think Pharaoh keeps going back on his word?
- In this way, how does Pharaoh's 'false repentance' contrast with what the Bible says is real repentance? See Jesus' words in Matt. 3:8
- In the plagues, God repeatedly demonstrates His overwhelming power over any other 'god.' What does this tell you about the power available to those who carry through faith in Christ the presence of the Holy Spirit?

APPLY/PRAY

Take time to pray for one another...

1. Continue to pray for soft hearts toward God, including those in your family or relationship circles of those who do not yet know Christ.

2. Ask God to help you believe in His power to change you, to change circumstances, and to overcome situations in your life. What situation right now do you need God's power for? Where in your life do you need God's freedom?

3. Pray for revival, as we are seeing at Asbury College!

