

INTRODUCTION: Exodus 11

We are continuing our series titled So Great A Salvation

- Last time we looked at how salvation is a power encounter between the gods of this world and the world system and the One True God
- We looked at how we are saved by grace which I defined as the Real Powerful Presence of Jesus that literally destroys the power of Satan and sets people free from bondage to the tyranny of sin and death
- I derive this definition of grace from Strong's Exhaustive Concordance in the original edition that defines grace as...

Strong's defines grace as the divine influence on the heart and it's reflection in the life

- Thus Salvation is a power encounter between the gods of the world and the world system
- That is what Exodus teaches us... God literally defeats the gods of the Egyptians, the gods of the age and by His mighty power delivers Israel from bondage
- Today I want to focus on the 10th plague which is death

In Biblical Numerology, the number 10 is a complete number

- It is complete in that all 10 parts are to be seen as one
- Just like the number 1, 3, 7 and 12 are all complete numbers
- God is ONE... Hear oh Israel, the LORD Your God, the LORD is ONE
- God is THREE in ONE... Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Seven is the number of completion and thus when you see terms like the Seven Spirits... it's not describing 7 unique Spirits... but ONE complete Spirit
- Like 10, Twelve is made up of 12 parts that are seen as one like the nation of Israel... 12 Tribes but 1 nation

Numbers have meaning... 10 is the complete revelation

- 10 times in the Creation Account we read the phrase... "God said" signifying the power of God's Word and completeness of God's created intent for man
- God is a God of revelation and every time God speaks and acts He is revealing Himself to man
- The Bible says all creation worships the Lord and thus God's created intent for man is to worship God and enjoy Him forever

- There are 10 commandments signifying the completeness of God's law which is the revelation of man's need for salvation
- The law demands perfect obedience and the payment for breaking the law is death... thus, man needs to be saved from the death penalty
- There are 10 generations from Adam to Noah signifying the complete perversion of mankind by demonic contamination which results in the destruction of mankind... which the exception of Noah and his family
- There are 10 generations from Noah to Abraham signifying the complete salvation of mankind by God calling out a people to Himself beginning with Abraham
- The Greek word used for Church is "ekklesia" which means "called out ones"... thus this concept of being "called out of the world" is not a New Testament concept but a God concept and we see it in Genesis
- The tithe, which is 10% of what we receive from God as provision...
- The concept of the tithe is this... although everything belongs to the LORD we give 10% and that represents that we are giving all to God
- God blesses us as if we've given everything to the LORD... and I see that as a good deal... that's a 90% return on investment!

With regards to our study in Exodus

- There are 10 plagues signifying God's complete revelation of Himself to Pharaoh who represents the world and the world system
- God is revealing to Pharaoh that He is the ONLY God
- That He is the undefeated Sovereign of creation
- He is the King above all kings and the LORD above all lords

God reveals Himself as a God of compassion and mercy

Exodus 6:6–8 (NKJV)

⁶ Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I *am* the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. ⁷ I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I *am* the LORD.' "

You might say to the Egyptians God revealed Himself as a God of wrath... how was He compassionate to them?

- You'd have to go back and listen to our midweek study online or better yet, come and study with us to understand this

But I'll give you a hint... Exodus 9:20-21 we read

Exodus 9:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ He who feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses. ²¹ But he who did not regard the word of the LORD left his servants and his livestock in the field.

- God warns the Egyptians and tells them a plague is coming and gives them revelation on how to live
- To the wise, to those who respect God's Word there is life
- To the unwise, to those who do not respect God's Word there is death
- But the power to choose life or death is left with each person to decide
- A God of wrath would simply judge man with no warning
- You broke the law, you didn't appease the gods, you must be punished
- But God goes out of His way to reveal Himself to man so man can make a decision about God based on revelation

Let's read our text and draw out some principles for us today

Exodus 11:4–8 (NKJV)

⁴ Then Moses said, "Thus says the LORD: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; ⁵ and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who *is* behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals. ⁶ Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it *before*, nor shall be like it again. ⁷ But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the LORD does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.' ⁸ And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Get out, and all the people who follow you!' After that I will go out." Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

The 10th plague is death to the firstborn in the land of Egypt

- In Chapter 12 God gives the cure for death... but today I want to look at God's power over death
- The fact that death to the firstborn is the 10th plague is significant
- It's significant because it represents to final act of revelation to Pharaoh

- Pharaoh has taken what does not belong to Him... the children of Israel
- God is taking what belongs to Him... the firstborn males

Exodus 13 gives us some insight on this

Exodus 13:11–16 (NKJV)

¹¹ “And it shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and gives it to you, ¹² that you shall set apart to the LORD all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males *shall be* the LORD’s. ¹³ But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem *it*, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴ So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What *is* this?’ that you shall say to him, ‘By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ¹⁵ And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’ ¹⁶ It shall be as a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt.”

- This is a law of God... everything belongs to God
- But the firstborn males, the first fruits represent the whole
- Thus the firstborn males belong to God, the tithe, the first fruits belong to God... but here we see introduced the law of redemption
- The substitutionary death of an innocent life to redeem the firstborn

Now there are several concepts working together here

- This first being... that this is the 10th plague
- We know 10 signifies the complete revelation of God Himself to man
- God ends this complete revelation of Himself with the death of the firstborn
- We know now that the firstborn male belongs to God
- We also know from the tithe that 1/10th represents the whole
- Which means the death of the firstborn in this 10th plague is significant in that it represents the whole nation of Egypt

The other underlying message is the payment of death

- In Genesis 3 God slaughters an innocent life to cover man’s sin

- Thus from the garden of Eden we see this principle that death is the payment for sin
- Now the Pharaoh of Egypt has violated God's covenant with man
- If you remember in Exodus 1, Pharaoh commanded all the people to drown every Hebrew newborn male child
- Because of the law of reciprocity which says the measure with which you judge will be measured to you... all the male children in Egypt should have been slaughtered
- And not just all the male children, but all the people of Egypt because all the people of Egypt participated in the first holocaust against God's people
- All have sinned and all are under the judgment of death
- But according to the law of the firstborn, the firstborn male child must be redeemed, bought back from death by the substitutionary death of an innocent life... a sacrificial lamb
- This is going to set us up to talk more specifically about the Passover
- But suffice it to say... when you put it all together
- Death to the firstborn represents the death of ALL, but the firstborn can be redeemed, bought back from death through the substitutionary sacrifice of an innocent Lamb

What is being communicated here?

- ***Q: Who is Jesus in relation to God the Father?***
- Psalm 89:27 says Jesus is the firstborn of God the Father, the highest of the kings of the earth
- The death of firstborn represents the death of ALL
- The death of Jesus, the firstborn Son of God, represents the death of us ALL and through His death ALL mankind can live

Romans 5:17–18 (NKJV)

17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) **18** Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment* came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life.

But the death of Jesus also puts and end to death

- According to the law of the firstborn, Mankind can be redeemed, bought back from the death through the death of an innocent lamb
- The Bible says Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

Paul says...

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- Jesus was innocent of all sin and yet He was sacrificed for ALL sin that you and I could be declared righteous
- Thus on 2 fronts... the law of the 10th representing the whole and the law of the firstborn... Jesus has removed the penalty of death off of all mankind through His substitutionary death, the innocent Lamb of God
- By doing so... death is defeated
- And that is message of the 10th plague... that God is God over death
- That Jesus has defeated death and there will come a day when death will be completely destroyed
- The Bible says death will be the last enemy destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:26)

That's why Paul declares...

1 Corinthians 15:55–57 (NKJV)

⁵⁵ “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

You might say... but I still die... to which I say, no you don't

- Your body may die... but you will live forever for to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord
- For the believer, death is the transition into eternal life
- Death is the end of pain, sorrow, sickness, disease, wickedness
- It's the end of decay... which is what growing old is... it's your body dying over the period of 70 to 80 years
- Billy Graham said before he died... I was prepared to die, I just wasn't prepared to grow old...

- The older I get the more I relate to that statement or the one my wife makes... she says I don't fear the LORD taking me, I just don't want Him to take me in pieces
- The death of Jesus gives me the assurance that death does not have the final WORD...

Jesus has the final WORD and Jesus said

John 3:16 (NKJV)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- If you believe in Jesus, you will not DIE but have everlasting LIFE
- That is a promise... are you standing on it

EX: Yesterday, February 22 at 5:36 am my wife's mom transitioned from this life into eternal life. When she breathed her last breath on earth we had music on and the song that was laying was Standing On The Promises of God and when she breathed her first breath in heaven it was Jesus Loves Me This I Know... that was her favorite song.

- How about you? Are you standing on that promise? Are you living in that truth?