

# WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Exodus 7:14-25--October 13th, 2024

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## **Sermon Recap:**

### **Plagues- Water to Blood**

#### **I. Call**

- V.15-This is the river where Pharaoh's daughter first met Moses, saving him from the waters that were meant to kill him and the other Israelite infants. And it is here, where Moses meets Pharaoh and curses the waters that were meant to save the Egyptians.
- V.16-17- This is an act of divine judgment. Pharaoh has refused to let Israel free to worship and as a result, Moses is commanded to "strike" the Nile, turning it to blood.
  - "plague"- Latin for "a blow or wound." This is a blow against Pharaoh, Egypt, and their entire belief system.
- Five things we can learn about the character of God in this command:
  - God is immutable: He does not change and his message has not changed.
  - God is faithful- He has "remembered" his covenant, meaning he is ready to act upon it. The plagues are displays of God's faithful action.
  - God is sovereign- His demands are nonnegotiable. God will eventually get his way.
  - God is jealous- V.16- He demands that Israel be set free to worship him. He takes worship seriously and desires that he be glorified through worship.
  - God is just- the plagues are a result of Pharaoh's hard heart and refusal to obey. His actions are fair as justice is done.

#### **II. Act**

- Moses and Aaron faithfully obey the Lord's command to "wound" Egypt by striking the Nile.
  - The Nile is 4,000 miles long, 25-36' deep, with over 80 billions gallons of water and it is instantly transformed into blood (killing all fish), along with all of the water in puddles, pitchers, basins, etc.
    - This sign was performed that "you may know that I am Lord."
- This was an attack on Egypt. The Nile was everything to them. Their lives revolved around this river for transportation, food/water, measurement of time, and worship.
  - So then, it is no surprise that God strikes the Nile first. He is saying, "I am the Lord. I created the Nile and the creatures in it. I am the source of life and sustenance and fertility. I am God and there is no other. Worship me."

#### **III. Response**

- V.22- Pharaoh's magicians are able to replicate the sign...without water?
  - Either they are swindlers or truly empowered by Satan. They provide no hope. They can replicate the sign but they cannot stop it. They, like Satan, only contribute to chaos.
- Two descriptions of Pharaoh's response:
  - His "heart remained hard"- Egyptian lore believed that when someone entered the afterlife, their heart was placed on a scale to determine if it was weighty (hard/heavy) with misdeeds.
    - Pharaoh's heart was made heavy as he was given over to his lust (Romans 1).
  - "he did not take even this to heart"- He is apathetic, being unconcerned and unimpressed with God and the display of power he has just witnessed.

## Discussion Questions:

- What was the command given to Moses and Aaron? Why was this command given?
- What five things can we learn about the character of God from this command?
- What is the confusion between God's fairness and mercy?
- How do Moses and Aaron respond to this command?
- What is the significance of the Nile in Egypt? How was this plague a blow/wound against them?
- Imagine living in Egypt during this week. What thoughts and feeling might the Egyptians been experiencing?
- How were the magicians able to replicate this miracle? What can we learn from their inability to stop the plague?
- What is the meaning of Pharaoh's hard heart (in relation to Egyptian lore and Romans 1)?
- How does his hear heart result in apathy?

## Application:

- Reflect on the five attributes of God revealed in the call to Moses. Which stands out the most to you? Which is the most appealing? Least appealing?
- How can these attributes impact your prayer life?
- Have you ever found yourself crying out for fairness?
- How can we take that desire for fairness and turn it into an occasion for thanksgiving?
- Do you recognize any hardness/heaviness in your heart or apathy in your life? What steps can you take to address it?
- The power and sovereignty of God swallows up all other "gods." How can you live in light of this truth?

