

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Exodus 9:8-35--November 10th, 2024

Sermon Recap:

Plagues- Boils & Hail

I. God's Sovereignty Humbles Egypt

- V.8- Moses is instructed to stand before Pharaoh and throw ashes in the air.
 - This would have removed any argument that this plague was not a miracle directly from God.
- This plague was the first to directly affect human beings. Thought to be skin anthrax, this could produce boils, open sores, and even death.
- This humbles Egypt in two ways:
 - God swallows up at least four of their false gods. Medicine and religion were intertwined in Egypt and their gods could not heal them.
 - The magicians (priests) were unable to replicate or prevent the boils. Having been afflicted themselves, they couldn't even stand before Moses.
 - He throws the ashes into the air. This was often done by the magicians as a sign of blessing. Moses does it to bring a curse.

II. God's Sovereignty Hardens Sinners

- V.12- This is the first instance of the Lord hardening Pharaoh's heart.
 - What we are being told here that in God's sovereignty, this hardening at God's hand is a judgment on Pharaoh in which God gives Pharaoh exactly what he wants. Pharaoh is given over to his wicked ways.

III. God's Multifaceted Purposes

- God often has multiple purposes for his actions.
 - Plagues were acts of judgment, but also meant to free his people for worship.
 - Pharaoh was graciously raised up to his position, but also so that he could be torn down.
 - God is pouring out his wrath, but also instructs the animals and servants to be brought indoor.
- God can do many things with the same action. It's a display of His sovereignty.

IV. God's Sovereignty in the Essence and Reach of the Plagues

- V.22-23- Moses stretches his hand to the heavens and the hail begins to fall, producing a storm (administered by God) that had never been seen in Egypt's 1700 year history.
- And it fell only on Egypt, not in the land of Goshen.
 - God drew a line that the storm could not pass and he decreed where every hail stone would fall.

V. Pharaoh's Failure

- V.27- Pharaoh confesses his sin...sort of.
 - He doesn't confess all of his sin. He only acknowledges his sin in this instance and he asks Moses for help.
- V.29- Moses prays, but not for Pharaoh or the plague, but so that everyone would know that the world belongs solely to God.
- Pharaoh again hardens his heart, refusing to let the people go.
- It is easy to judge Pharaoh, but he is a sinner in need of grace. In that sense, he is no different than us.
- Pharaoh has witnessed the glory of God in the plagues and refused to believe.
- We have a much more vivid picture of God's glory in Jesus Christ. Do not harden you heart today.

Discussion Questions:

- How is the plague of boils different than the previous plagues?
- How are the Egyptian gods and the magicians humiliated?
- How is a hardened heart an act of God's judgment (Romans 1)?
- What are the different purposes behind the plagues, specifically the plague of hail?
- What are some practical ways that we see the different purposes of God today?
- How does the nature of the plague of hail reveal God's sovereignty?
- How does the extent and reach of the plague of hail reveal God's sovereignty?
- What was wrong with Pharaoh's confession?
- How is the power, name, and glory of God seen more clearly today?

Application:

- Are there counterfeit gods in your life? In what ways does God swallow those gods up?
- Are you tempted to worship the god of medicine?
- Have you witnessed God's judgment in hardening hearts in your own life or those around you?
- How do you see the multiple purposes of God playing out in your life? How does that effect your worship?
- What does your prayer of confession look like? Does it resemble Pharaoh's or is it more like David (Psalm 51)? Read Luke 18:9-14. Which sounds more like you?

