

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Exodus 9:1-7--November 3rd, 2024

Sermon Recap:

Plagues- Livestock

I. The Sovereign Hand of God

- V.1-5--Moses is teaching us here that God is sovereign, and wills that He would be known as such.
 - "the Lord, the God of the Hebrews"- God tells Moses to remind Pharaoh who it is speaking to Him, the Lord, the God of the Hebrews.
 - V.3- "the hand of the Lord"- literally "the hand of Yahweh."
 - Pharaoh's power was often described in terms of his "strong hand." But here, in this poetic irony, God is humiliating Pharaoh with his strong hand.
 - V.3- "a very severe plague"- This is the same word used to describe Pharaoh's "heavy" heart. This is a hard/heavy plague.
 - This is very intentional. God has is striking a blow to every animals that provides food, milk, clothing, and transportation.
 - This is also another blow on the faith of Egypt. Cattle were sacred animals in Egypt as they represented at least six different gods.
 - These are all counterfeit gods; imposter whom Yahweh will stretch out his sovereign hand against and strike a heavy blow; swallowing them up.
 - V.4- God makes divine distinction.
 - God's sovereignty is evident in the plague that only effects particular animals belonging only to the Egyptians. He can determine who it falls on.
 - V.5- God's sovereignty is evident in the timing of the plague.
 - "Tomorrow"- the timing of disease and death of the animals is solely in the hands of God.
- God is manifesting that is in absolute, complete control of what is happening. He is not a God to be reckoned with. He will not be trifled with.

II. The Distinguishing Hand of God

- V.6-7- The wound is struck and everything happens just as the Lord said it would.
 - God sets a distinction between those who are His, and those who are not.
 - He always makes a distinction in His providential dealings with His people, and those who are not. Now, He doesn't always make the distinction in the same way.
 - In this passage that God is clearly the great actor here. The Lord is emphasized five times in this passage. The only think Pharaoh can do is watch, and he hardens his heart as a result.
 - The hardening of Pharaoh's heart, are signs of God's sovereignty over him and judgment over him.

John 10:1-30

Those whom are distinguished by God, divinely called by the Lord Jesus Christ, are no longer under the wrathful hand of God, but are not safely secure in his sovereign hand.

Discussion Questions:

- How is God's sovereignty displayed in Exodus 9:1-5?
- How is God's mercy displayed in this passage?
- Why is this plague so severe?
- Why is God someone we should not be comfortable with?
- Explain the difference between God being safe and God being good.
- How does God make distinction between Israel and Egypt? Is this fair?
- How could God making distinction between his people and the world comfort the church today?
- Read John 10:1-30
 - How is the distinction of God displayed in this passage?
 - In what position do those called by God find themselves in today?

Application:

- Are there counterfeit gods in your life? In what ways does God swallow those gods up?
- Are there areas of your where you are trying to knock God off the throne and be the central character? How can you repent of that?
- How do you see the sovereign hand of God in your life, family, and church today?
- How do you see the distinguishing hand of God in your life, family, church today?
- How does your position in God's hand comfort or convict you?

