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## Battle of the Gods

August 13, 2023 Message Notes

*TEXT: EXODUS 7-17*

Throughout generations, people have been held captive by the “gods” of their culture and, in turn, abuse, mistreat and take other people captive because of it. How are we supposed to get free and not suffer anymore from false gods and stubborn hardness of heart?



## NOTES

The ancient Egyptians of Moses' time had a polytheistic culture and worshiped many gods.

God introduced himself to Moses as Yahweh: the covenant-making Redeemer God of Israel, coming to draw his people out of slavery and into the land of promise.

This is battle-of-the-gods territory.

People then and today are held captive by the gods of their culture and, in turn, abuse, mistreat and take other people captive because of it.

God wants people free. He cares and responds when people are abused and oppressed.

“I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians... I will bring you into the land I swore to give Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

*Exodus 6:6, 8*

“I will lay my hand on Egypt with mighty acts of judgment and I will bring out...my people.”

*Exodus 7:4*

“Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen to them. Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding.”

*Exodus 7:13, 14*

“The Lord God of the Hebrews sent me to say to you, ‘Let my people go, so that they may worship me...Until now you have not listened.’”

*Exodus 7:16*

“By this you will know that I am the Lord. The water of the Nile will be changed to blood and as the staff struck the water it was all changed to blood.”

*Exodus 7:17*

“Pharaoh’s heart became hard; he would not listen...just as the Lord had said.”

*Exodus 7:22*

<b><u>Exodus</u></b>	<b><u>Plague</u></b>
7:14-24	Blood
8:1-15	Frogs
8:16-19	Gnats
8:20-32	Flies (mystery bug)
9:1-7	Livestock



9:8-12	Boils
9:13-35	Hail
10:1-20	Locusts
10:21-29	Darkness
11:1-12:33	Death of Firstborn

The Hebrews are spared because they put the blood of a male lamb without defect on the sides and tops of the door frames of their homes.

Some have tried to explain away how these ‘signs’ could happen, tried to connect them to natural phenomena that were possible in ancient Egypt.

“... I will send the full force of my plagues against you and your officials and your people, so you may know there is no one like me in all the earth.”

*Exodus 9:14*

“But 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.”

*Exodus 9:16*

“I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt.”

*Exodus 12:12*

These 10 plagues exposed the falseness and impotence of the so-called gods Egypt was worshiping.

<u>Exodus</u>	<u>Plague</u>	<u>Egyptian god</u>
7:14-24	Blood	Hapi, god of the Nile
8:1-15	Frogs	Heqt, god of fertility
8:16-19	Gnats	Geb, god of earth
8:20-32	Flies	Khepri, god of renewal
9:1-7	Livestock	Hathor, goddess of maternity
9:8-12	Boils	Amun/Isis, god of air/goddess of medicine
9:13-35	Hail	Nut, god of sky
10:1-20	Locusts	Seth, god of chaos, evil, storms
10:21-29	Darkness	Ra, god of the sun
11:1-12:33	Death of Firstborn	Osiris/Pharaoh, god of underworld/man god



The God of the Hebrews claims to be the one true, living God, Creator of the universe, Maker of covenants, Keeper of promises who does justice, sets people free and holds nations accountable.

Some people come to parts of the Bible and discount it all as a book of superstition and make-believe. They miss the message.

God is beyond the natural order. He creates nature and it will do what he wants it to do as it serves His purpose.

In *Miracles*, C.S. Lewis worked his way through what miracles are and why and when God does them.

### **How do hearts go hard?**

Pharaoh chooses resistance and then God lets him have more of what he chose.

“God wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.”  
*1 Timothy 2:4*

“God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”  
*2 Peter 3:9*

“.... God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance (a change of heart).”  
*Romans 2:4*

“But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart (hardness), you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God will repay each person according to what they have done.”  
*Romans 2:5-6*

**Why 10 plagues?** Ten is the Bible number of completeness.  
Egypt is completely plagued out. Their false gods have been completely exposed.

### **What are you treating as a “god” in your life?**

A “god” is what you turn to for identity, security and meaning; what you revere and are willing to sacrifice for. Career, education, pleasure, beauty, family, religion, sports, politics, science, sex.

*“Idolatry in western culture is usually a good thing taken too far”.*  
Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*



Two big idols in culture today: Money and Self.

- There's a reason it's called the Almighty Dollar.
- Homo Deus (Latin for man god), by Yuval Noah Harari

How are we supposed to get free and not suffer more from false gods and stubborn hardness of heart?

- **God wants you to know Him as GOD** - the Ancient of Days, Lord of history. All nations and people are accountable to Him. He cares about doing justice and setting people free.
- People are meant to find freedom and life by choosing God and His way. People are making choices every day that either respond to God's call or harden their hearts.

### **What is the way to life and freedom?**

Get yourself under the blood of the Lamb, Jesus.

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

*John 1:29*

Jesus Christ is our deliverance from the deceit of false gods, from the judgment of death.

He is God's Passover Lamb, without defect, sacrificed for us. His blood over us frees us by the grace and power of God.

As we trust Him, He draws us out of our sin and death to draw us into the fullness of His life and freedom.

