

EXODUS 10: A METHOD TO THE MADNESS – THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAGUES

Why all the repetition? Why all the recapitulation?

There are patterns throughout the Bible.

Creation, tabernacle language and God residing with man – and then sin with banishment (exile) Egypt, a new creation (Red Sea crossing, water baptism) a new land, a tabernacle/ temple, a fall and then exile.

A new kingdom, (Gospel) new imagers and finally a restored earth.

The fall, the first murder, a city built, another murder, man building his own empire (cities) (Babel). Once man is scattered, then small city-states and finally empires pop up in order to thwart God's plan.

There are cycles and repetitions of God and evil fighting for the soul of creation. But God, as creator has decided advantage. And what we are reading about as we go through Exodus is a major part of the plan. We are now about to see the 8th plague, which is connected to the ninth plague. The ninth plague is

connected theologically to the 10th. All this would have been clear to everyone in that day and time. We have to pay more careful attention or these truths will allude us.

1 Now the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his servants, that I may show these signs of Mine before him, 2 and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and your son's son the mighty things I have done in Egypt, and My signs which I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord.”

3 So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, “Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 4 Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory. 5 And they shall cover the face of the earth, so that no one will be able to see the earth; and they shall eat the residue of what is left, which remains to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field. 6 They shall fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians—which neither your fathers nor your fathers’ fathers have seen, since

the day that they were on the earth to this day.’ ”

And he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

7 Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, “How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God. Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?”

The reason why all this has to happen. ... *that I may show these signs of Mine before him, 2 and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and your son's son the mighty things I have done in Egypt, and My signs which I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord.”*

There is a method to the madness. There is a purpose. In fact, this is the original purpose for the creation of mankind.

Tell your kids – that you may know that I am the LORD. Our first ministry.

How long will you refuse to humble yourself and repent? The largest stumbling block there is – self.

Swarm of locusts – they will eat whatever is left of the foliage. Locusts are used elsewhere in the OT as metaphors to describe judgments and invading armies.

Pharaoh! Please let them go! Can't you see that Egypt is in ruins? Pharaoh can see it, but can't

bring himself to acknowledge it. The last stumbling block we face.

8 So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the Lord your God. Who are the ones that are going?”

9 And Moses said, “We will go with our young and our old; with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds we will go, for we must hold a feast to the Lord.”

10 Then he said to them, “The Lord had better be with you when I let you and your little ones go! Beware, for evil is ahead of you. 11 Not so! Go now, you who are men, and serve the Lord, for that is what you desired.” And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

12 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land—all that the hail has left.”

13 So Moses stretched out his rod over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind on the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. 14 And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested on all the territory of Egypt. They were very severe; previously there had been no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. 15 For they

covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.

16 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, "I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. 17 Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the Lord your God, that He may take away from me this death only." 18 So he went out from Pharaoh and entreated the Lord. 19 And the Lord turned a very strong west wind, which took the locusts away and blew them into the Red Sea. There remained not one locust in all the territory of Egypt. 20 But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go.

Pharaoh says he will let some of them go. Who is going? Another compromise is being given. Moses responds with, "everyone." No man left behind.

Pharaoh: You had better hope God is with you when I let you go. Get out of my face!

Here come the locusts. They decimate whatever was left of the crops after the hailstorm.

Verse 15: Hebrew – “Eye (not face) of the whole land.” To an Egyptian, this “eye” would be the Sun. And this marries this plague to the next one. Verses 16 & 17: Another feigned attempt at repentance by Pharaoh.

Moses responds by praying to God, who brings in a West wind to blow the locusts into the Red Sea.

The Ninth Plague: Darkness

21 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt.” 22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. 23 They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

24 Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, “Go, serve the Lord; only let your flocks and your herds be kept back. Let your little ones also go with you.” 25 But Moses said, “You must also give us sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. 26 Our livestock also shall go with

us; not a hoof shall be left behind. For we must take some of them to serve the Lord our God, and even we do not know with what we must serve the Lord until we arrive there.”

27 But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. 28 Then Pharaoh said to him, “Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! For in the day you see my face you shall die!”

29 So Moses said, “You have spoken well. I will never see your face again.”

Darkness that could be felt. This came without a warning and lasted for three days. Once again, the entire nation is paralyzed.

They are also paralyzed spiritually. This was an attack on Ra or Re – the sun god.

Rising in the east represented him rising to life. Setting in the West represented death as he descended into the underworld. Essentially, it meant that Ra was dead and YHWH had killed him.

Go, but leave your livestock. This would allow Pharaoh to recoup some of his losses and then to go after the Israelites in order to once again place them in bondage.

Moses says, “No! Everyone and everything is going with us.

We don't even know what we will need when we get there." And we don't know what is beyond the horizon for us when it comes to serving the Lord. There is no telling to what or to whom He has called us!

Get out of here! Pharaoh is whipped. He has no more bullets in his gun. All he has is his pride, but even in that, he knows neither he nor his priests have an answer for YHWH.

The purpose and the bigger picture:

As a memorial – tell your kids! That they as well as you will know that I am the LORD!

We should tell our kids!

This time it wasn't just subordinate gods that were beaten. It was RA himself. The head of the Egyptian pantheon had been conquered. God rules creation and His will shall be done!

Jesus did the same thing at His ascension. He served notice that all power had been given to Him.

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo,

I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Matthew 28: 18 - 20

We should tell our kids! And anyone else who will listen.

An empire was conquered so that a nation could be started, so that eventually a kingdom could be inaugurated here on earth in order that the lost could get a preview of what it is like to live a kingdom life – a piece of the life to come.

There is a much bigger picture to be seen. God has a plan and it isn't self-serving. It is a plan that restores earth and its inhabitants to a place of sinless perfection. Revelation ends with earth and mankind restored to their original conditions prior to the fall. The exodus was a large part of that plan. And what's more, we as believers are a large part of that plan also!