



EXODUS

A STORY OF
**REDEMPTION
AND COVENANT**



God Wants to Show He is God

- God wants to show the world He is the only God
- Exodus 10:1–2, Isaiah 43:11, Romans 9
- The theme of the story of the plagues is that God is the only God.
- We have learned that the plagues were designed to attack a different Egyptian “god.”
- God was showing the world that He is more powerful than any of their so-called “gods.”

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- God told Moses and Aaron that everything He was doing in these plagues was “so that you may know that I am the Lord.”
- Everything He did, all the destruction and judgment as well as the sparing and salvation, was part of His desire to show them that He is the one true God and the only one who could save them – to show them that the gods they trusted in were not real and could not save them.
- It was necessary, because even with the intensity of this message, Pharaoh still didn't humble himself before Yahweh.

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- In Romans, Paul wrote that God has the absolute authority to do whatever He pleases with human beings.
- He is the potter; we are the clay.
- He can do whatever He wants
- We have no right to argue with Him.
- But that doesn't make Him mean or demanding, because His purpose is to show "the riches of His glory for vessels of mercy" (Romans 9:23).

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- God's heart wasn't about just showing Pharaoh who's boss.
- It was to show the Egyptians His mercy on His people and therefore how they could also find mercy.
- The Israelites were no better or more worthy of mercy than the Egyptians.
- They were only saved by God's grace through faith.
- The Egyptians could turn from their false, useless gods and be saved by grace through faith in Yahweh, too.

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- The Lord told Moses that this story of the plagues, His wrath and His mercy would be told to “your son and grandson,” implying that they would pass the story down to every generation, not just those two.
- And we are still reading the story today, almost 3,500 years later.
- This is how we pass along the message of the Gospel – person to person, generation to generation, sharing the testimony of what God has done for us.
- How He has redeemed us from slavery to sin and brought us into His kingdom of light and love.

God Wants to Show He is God

- God calls us to soften our hearts, to have His heart for others
- Exodus 10:3–20
- When Moses and Aaron approached Pharaoh this time, they called out his stubbornness, his refusal to humble himself before God.
- This was the issue for Pharaoh; he refused to humble himself. He refused to admit defeat.
- Though he did “confess” his “sin” a few times, his heart wasn’t really in it.

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- As soon as God relented on the plague, as soon as he was out of danger, he went right back to refusing to let the people go.
- His “humility” was fake. He was just saying what he needed to say to get out of trouble.
- At this point, Pharaoh’s servants came to him and told him to just let God’s people go. The text doesn’t say “asked”; it’s “said” in Hebrew.
- They must have been desperate. They had already endured seven plagues. Most of Egypt had been destroyed.

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- Pharaoh listened to his servants and brought Moses back.
- But again, he tried to compromise, asking them to take only the men into the wilderness. Pharaoh was irrational, but he wasn't stupid. He knew if their wives and children went, they wouldn't come back.
- But Yahweh doesn't negotiate with evil dictators, and that compromise was rejected.
- Interestingly, Pharaoh accused Moses of having "some evil purpose in mind," when he was the one who had done evil against the Israelites.

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- We all do this at times, even those of us who know and love Jesus.
- So much so that in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said we all struggle with seeing “the speck” in other people’s eyes but not “the log” in our own.
- We tend to see other people’s flaws, weaknesses, and sins easily, even if they are miniscule, while looking right past our own huge flaws.
- If we cannot see our own flaws, mistakes, shortcomings and sins, we will never realize our need for God, for salvation. We’re all sinners who fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

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- But this is the work God does in our lives when He gives us new, softened hearts, a new life in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 36:26).
- He is making us more like Himself. He gives us His heart for others.
- He gives His eyes to see their pain and suffering.
- He gives us His humility, which looks for ways we can serve instead of being served, which doesn't think first about ourselves but about how to help others (Mark 10:45; John 13; Philippians 2:1–11).

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- This story reminds us to soften our hearts and not be like Pharaoh.
- For those who don't know Jesus, it's to soften their hearts toward Him, humble themselves before Him and recognize, first, that He is God and they are not, and second, that they are a sinner in need of a Savior.
- For those of us who do know Jesus, the call to soften our hearts is to ask the Spirit to continue to grow our hearts to be more like His heart, to give us His heart toward other people and situations in the world. To give us His eyes to see their pain and suffering. So we can truly love others the way He loves us.

God Wants to Show He is God

- Choosing life without God is choosing a life of darkness
- Exodus 10:21–29, 1 John 1:5–7
- The ninth plague was a deep darkness, so deep it could be felt. This is a powerful description. We can immediately imagine what that was like.
- It would have been not only physically difficult (they couldn't see what they were doing) but also emotionally and spiritually impactful; they could feel its presence. It would have stunned them, made them stop and think, wonder what was happening and what to do about it. It could not be ignored.

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- Throughout the Bible, darkness represents not only evil but also chaos and disorder. Before God created the world, there was only darkness. But then God brought the light, created substance, and gave it order. This plague was a de-creation, a reversal of the created order. Light is deeply connected to the creation of life, and darkness is aligned with death.
- Darkness would have been particularly terrifying to the Egyptians because Amon-Re, the “sun god,” was their chief god, and Pharaoh was believed to be his incarnation. This was a direct attack against Pharaoh and the climax of the attacks.

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- The New Testament uses the imagery of darkness and light to differentiate between the kingdom of the world and the kingdom of God.
- Those who know Jesus have been called out of darkness “into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).
- We’ve been delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of Christ (Colossians 1:13).
- John drew a sharp contrast with very defined lines between darkness and light; there is no room for a gray area. God is light.

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- If we say we have fellowship with Him but walk in darkness, we are lying, even to ourselves (1 John 1:5–7).
- Spiritual darkness is where we used to be, stumbling around, unable to see what was right in front of us until God turned on the light.
- Just as the creation of light was the beginning of creation, it is the beginning of the new life for us – God’s turning on the light so we could see what the world around us was really like, so we could see the dangers all around us.

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- In this plague, God removed all light from the Egyptians, showing them what it is really like to live without Him, as He is the light.
- They had been living without Him in spiritual darkness for a long time, not realizing how dangerous the world around them.
- Now He was showing them in a tangible way that life without Him is like a darkness so deep you can feel it.
- Darkness so complete you cannot even move. You can't do anything or go anywhere; you're completely paralyzed by it.

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- Most people who live in spiritual darkness don't realize they are in darkness. They think they're doing just fine on their own.
- Because their hearts are hardened and their eyes are closed (Isaiah 6:9–10; Matthew 13:15), they don't realize that God is light, that Christ is the light of the world and the life of all mankind (John 1:4; 8:12).
- But it can even be easy for those of us who do know Jesus to slip into walking in darkness without realizing it, because the evil forces of this present darkness are crafty (Ephesians 6:10–12).

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- Paul implored us to walk as the children of the light that we are and take no part in deeds of darkness but to expose them to the light so the world can see what it is (Ephesians 5:8–14).
- Like the New Testament, this plague shows us a distinct line between the darkness of Egypt and the light of the Israelites.
- It would have been obvious to the Egyptians that if they wanted to live in the light, they needed to join God's covenant people.

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- For those of us with softened hearts and open eyes, it's obvious to us, too, that if we want to live in the light, we have to follow Jesus.
- We must pray for our friends and family who don't know the Lord to have their spiritual eyes opened to the truth and the light.
- We also need to pray for ourselves and one another as Paul did for the Ephesians, that the eyes of our hearts will be enlightened, that we will truly know the hope of Jesus and the greatness of His power (Ephesians 1:15–22) so we will truly trust in it and not waste our time walking in darkness.