

The importance of Bible Study: This morning as I was (19) planning for my day of Bible Study preparation, I heard a clarification, from the LORD, the Holy Spirit, or from God (not sure Who)

tell me to revisit the plague of lice, that we concluded with last week. And, without any outside sources, or readings, I realized (was given the insight) that the magicians and sorcerers could not replicate the dust turning to lice was because no one outside of God can create life. In any form! Aaron did not turn the dust in to lice, God did through Aaron. And that is why Bible study, and Sunday Worship are so crucial in our living in peace. Taking our Sunday in to Monday, and so on, is not for God's benefit but for ours! And if we stay in fellowship with God (God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the LORD They all the same) through out the week He will revive certain Scriptures, exactly when we need them, that we heard from God's Word last Sunday or in my case, last Thursday. Yes, I write the actual study pages but only according to what I have been given and am too only a student in this class. It just once again proves that

God's Word is alive; "For the Word of God is alive and active, Sharper than any double edged sword. it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow..." (Hebrews 4:12)

Last week: God through Moses and Aaron starts to bring down plagues on Egypt because of the way they have treated God's people and because it is time for the Israelites to leave their captivity but Pharaoh won't let them go. Of course, Pharaoh is a picture of the anti-Christ and so he does his best to counterfeit God and has his sorcerers and magicians try and duplicate the plagues as a haphazard way of saying, "I am equal to your God", "I too have the same powers at my disposal".

Exodus 8:20-24 Next up, flies: Now it is time for God to humiliate Shu, the god of air and supporter of the sky. Shu was often depicted in human form with an ostrich feather on his head, the hieroglyphic for his name. Flies had dual meanings in ancient Egypt. The fly was not only a pesky flying creature but also swift and elusive. A symbol of military prowess. Amulets shaped in the image of a fly were worn to

to both ward off insect bites or pesky flying creatures through their believed apotropaic magic. These amulets were also found on entombed military warriors because they

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proclaimed that this was a fierce warrior.

Notice that God once again has Pharaoh confronted as he heads out for his morning worship of the Nile river. Also, some scholars proclaim that this is the first plague that excludes the Israelites. I am not of that opinion. Just because it is this time clearly excluding the Israelites, I have to fall back on what I know about God. God when He is casting judgements on the unbelieving evil ones, He always keeps those judgements from affecting his believers. (In Revelation God's believers are marked with a seal to protect them from adversity, At the precipice of the promised land only the non-believers perished during the "40 year time-out", prior to the flood God invited any-and-all to board the ark when He kept the door open for 7 days, Rahab and family were spared during the overthrow of Jericho, the Tribe of Korah were separated out for their rebellion and only the ground under their feet opened up. And many more examples including the Rapture when God's people are once again not appointed to His wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:9). Exodus 8:25-30 (Pharaoh starts negotiating): The flies too are too much for Pharaoh to handle so he tells Moses, and Aaron "O.k. I'll let you worship your God, but you have to do it here in Egypt. Moses says, "No, that is not what God has said". So Pharaoh says O.k. but you may not go very far away (not agreeing to 3 day journey to worship). Then he makes it sound like he has given in when he asks Moses to intercede for him and to take away the swarm of flies that plague his people. verse 32 says it all. Pharaoh, being self centered and evil, once again renigs on his promise. Scripture tells us that he himself hardened his heart. Of course, God committed to removing the plague, and He did, because He is a God of His word. (Even knowing the end from the beginning in that He knows Pharaoh will have once again lied, He still gives him the opportunity to do the right thing. This is His M.O. Throughout all of His dealings with men. From Cain to Judas, He continues to give opportunity after opportunity

For man to do the right thing, make the right choice. No (21) one will stand before the White Throne Judgement who did not have hundreds, or even thousands of opportunities to do what God's will for them to do was.

Exodus 9: 1-7 (God affects Pharaoh's food supply): This time, after Pharaoh once again refused to let the children of Israel go, God sends a pestilence (disease) upon all the livestock of the Egyptians and they all die. And also again, Pharaoh was warned that the God of the Israelites is so powerful that He can even specify whose livestock gets sick and dies and who's doesn't. That is why I believe that the last two plagues have the specific mention of the Israelites not being affected. Not because they were not protected before but to draw attention to Pharaoh that these plagues do not affect God's people. Verse 7 proclaims that Pharaoh sent out observers to see, for the first time, if the Israelites indeed had been being spared. And again we see that Pharaoh has gotten to the point where his rejection of all things God (the only God) has led to his inability to repent, his inability to change.

Exodus 9: 8-12 (Too late for Pharaoh to turn back): I believe we have just become witnesses to how far God will go to give any and all a chance to be saved! Over and Over again, in the last 2 chapters alone (let alone Pharaoh's whole life) we have seen Pharaoh try and explain God away by having his own miracles performed, be a hypocrite and say he will do something even though he has no intention of doing it, bargaining with God through Moses ("I let them worship here in the land, I will let them go tomorrow," "If You do this I'll do that") all the while starting his day by worshipping the Nile. (And his other gods). Pharaoh has now just become a pawn who's heart God has now hardened.

Exodus 9: 13-26 (God gets mad and declares His power). God tells Moses to tell Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go and to tell him He's not playing around. He could just send a plague to wipe out all of Egypt but He is not going to do that. He is instead going to send hail upon Egypt greater than ever before and wipe out every man or animal found out in the field. Why? Because God does not kill without warning. →

He is giving all a chance to head Him and be saved. Again (22) we serve a just God who wishes for none to perish. Ever! It broke His heart when 1/3rd of His angels chose Lucifer over Him.

But, He is also a God who will let you choose to love Him. Choose to choose Him. And He will move heaven and earth to help you choose Him. Here He is forewarning the Egyptians about the coming hail storm of never before seen in all of Egypt magnitude. And in verse 20 we see some of the Egyptians have come to believe in Moses' God. They heed the warning. (In deed during the Exodus itself we will see some Egyptian converts to the God of Israel also leaving with the Israelites. (Remember 80 years ago there were already "midwives who did not obey the command to kill all the Hebrew baby boys because they feared the LORD". This was a reverent faith (aka faith in the God of the Hebrews).

Exodus 9: 27-35 (Empty words, Empty tears): Just like Esau, Pharaoh makes it sound like he is repenting, but he's not. Esau cried because he lost out on the wealth and status that was the birthright.

Not because of the spiritual value of being the patriarch of the family. Pharaoh is playing the same game: "Oh, I have been bad. My people have been bad. You win. Tomorrow, I'll let your people go. (Not). Moses even warns him that he does not believe Pharaoh as having had a change of heart. In verse 34 we indeed see that once again Pharaoh spewed empty words and carried false tears of recognizing his shame.

Exodus 10: 1-2 God tells Moses He is heading in to His end game with Pharaoh and that the events that follow will be remembered throughout all of Israel for generations to come, of the miraculous events that led to the freeing of the children of Israel. Indeed the last plague of the death of the first born in all the households that were not protected by the blood of the lamb (for us Lamb), and the parting of the Red Sea would be God's signature moves for the Land of Israel that would be proclaimed throughout the world for all generations.

One specific such interaction always comes to mind: and that is how Rahab tells Joshua and Caleb that all of Jericho remembers how their God dealt with the Egyptians (Joshua 2: 8-13) see printout.