

Exodus 9-11 - “Plagues and the Purpose of God”

As we’ve been going through the beginning of these plagues, God has been sending these plagues for a couple different reasons:

- 1) It’s to reveal His might and power. That He alone is God. God is giving everyone an opportunity to see that He is greater than any other source that people might put their confidence or trust in. There is no other God besides Him. He proves this by challenging the various deities worshipped in Egypt and demonstrating His power over them.
- 2) It’s to bring Israel out of Egypt that they may worship God and serve Him! Pharaoh has laid claim to them and is not letting them go. God reveals that they are His people and they are meant to live for His glory alone.

1. Fifth Plague: Livestock Killed – 9:1-7

9:1-7 - Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh and tell him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me. ² For if you refuse to let them go, and still hold them, ³ behold, the hand of the Lord will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the oxen, and on the sheep—a very severe pestilence. ⁴ And the Lord will make a difference between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel.” ’ ” ⁵ Then the Lord appointed a set time, saying, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.” ⁶ So the Lord did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the children of Israel, not one died. ⁷ Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one of the livestock of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh became hard, and he did not let the people go.

Here we have the original mad cow disease. Back in 1985 when this struck in England, it sent people into a frenzy. Well, it put the cows into a bit of a frenzy and then they dropped dead. It brought panic to many for a long time. Here we see a **very severe pestilence**, there was no bull about the magnitude of this.

As mentioned at the beginning, the Israelites are to serve God, not Pharaoh. The people were to worship God and give Him glory. So God warns Pharaoh that if he still tries to hold them, God is going to take far more from them.

- It’s interesting that so many people in the world and those who live in sin, try so hard to hold on to what they feel is going to help them, yet in the end it only ends up taking away far more. Pharaoh is going to experience this.

In trying to hold on to the Israelites, the Egyptians are going to lose many of their livestock (cattle, horses, donkeys, camels, oxen, and sheep).

- “John J. Davis explains, “Such a plague would have had grave economic consequences in the land of Egypt. Oxen were depended upon for heavy labor in agriculture. Camels, asses and horses were used largely for transportation. Cattle not only provided milk but were very much an integral part of worship in the land of Egypt. The economic losses on this occasion must have affected Pharaoh greatly because he kept large numbers of cattle under his control.”¹ This suggests that the plagues gradually increased in their severity. Not only was the fifth plague the first to bring death, but it was also the first to destroy Pharaoh’s personal property. This was only fair: If Pharaoh would not let go of God’s property, then he would suffer the loss of his own. And his losses were mounting as his punishment became more intense. Whereas the plague of gnats was attributed merely to “the finger of God” (Exod. 8:19), the plague on livestock was sent by “the hand of the Lord” (Exod. 9:3).”¹

A couple significant miracles are also evident in more than just seeing all this livestock killed off. First, we see the specificity of the timing of this plague. God says this is going to happen tomorrow (9:5). It says the **LORD appointed a set time**... This was no mere natural thing that happened as a result of all the dead frogs and such. This was by the Lord’s hand. **The LORD will do this thing in the land**. God has all things in perfect order and control.

Secondly, there was another distinction made between the Egyptians and the Israelites. None of the Israelite’s livestock was affected (9:4). This was no mere coincidence; this was the Lord protecting those who are His. God knows clearly who are His and He will be with them to bring about His provision and protection.

Now it’s interesting that we read in verse 6 that **all the livestock of Egypt died**. Yet in verse 19 with the plague of hailstones the Egyptians are told to gather their livestock. How is there any livestock around?

It’s believed that this plague affected only the animals out in the field. In verse 3 it says that this will come upon those in the field. So it’s possible that livestock that were in their barns and such were spared.

¹ John J. Davis, *Moses and the Gods of Egypt: Studies in the Book of Exodus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1971), p. 113.

¹ Ryken, P. G., & Hughes, R. K. (2005). *Exodus: saved for God’s glory* (pp. 260–261). Crossway Books.

Some say that perhaps the term ‘all’ was not meant to speak of all in number, but all in type. That all kinds of livestock were killed. I would hold to the first view.

So, this plague didn’t just hit them economically, it hit them at their false religion. Cows were very sacred and were worshipped in Egypt. Why do you think when the Israelites after leaving Egypt and when they thought Moses was not returning, they made a golden calf.

- “Some Egyptians worshiped the bull, which they viewed as “a fertility figure, the great inseminator imbued with the potency and vitality of life.”⁶ Cults dedicated to the bull were common throughout Egypt. There was Buchis, the sacred bull of Hermonthis, and Mnevis, who was worshiped at Heliopolis. Sometimes bulls were considered to embody the gods Ptah and Ra. But the chief bull was Apis. At the temple in Memphis, priests maintained a sacred enclosure where they kept a live bull considered to be the incarnation of Apis. When the venerable bull died, he was given an elaborate burial. Archaeologists have discovered funeral niches for hundreds of these bulls near Memphis.⁷

Then there were the goddesses. Isis, the queen of the gods, was generally depicted with cow horns on her head. Similarly, the goddess Hathor was represented with the head of a cow, sometimes with the sun between her two horns. Hathor was a goddess of love and beauty, motherhood and fertility. One of her sacred functions was to protect Pharaoh, and on occasion she was depicted as a cow suckling the king for nourishment.”^{8 2}

Interesting that Pharaoh continues to harden his heart. Even after going and getting evidence of God’s supernatural protection of His people. Pharaoh, though seeing evidence, continues to reject God.

- **Ephesians 4:18**, *"having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;"*
- Interesting how these plagues progress in severity and leads up to darkness in the ninth plague. It was very telling of the darkness Pharaoh chose to walk in.

⁶ Currid, *A Study Commentary on Exodus*, 1:192.

⁷ The discovery is described in Davis, *Moses and the Gods of Egypt*, pp. 113, 114.

⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 114, 115.

² Ryken, P. G., & Hughes, R. K. (2005). *Exodus: saved for God’s glory* (pp. 262–263). Crossway Books.

As we've been seeing, these plagues follow a pattern in a set of three. The 1st, 4th, and 7th plagues Moses is told to rise up early and meet Pharaoh (perhaps down by the river as Pharaoh worshipped the false deities). The 2nd, 5th, and 8th plagues Moses is told to go in to Pharaoh. Perhaps in the very palace. The 3rd, 6th, and 9th plagues are done without any warning at all.

2. Sixth Plague: Boils – 9:8-12

9:8-12 - *So the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh. ⁹ And it will become fine dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt."* ¹⁰ Then they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered them toward heaven. And they caused boils that break out in sores on man and beast. ¹¹ And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians. ¹² But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the Lord had spoken to Moses.

Moses and Aaron were to take ashes from the furnace. This could very well be the furnaces that they used to bake the bricks in their labour to Pharaoh and Egypt. Which means God is now taking the burden and symbol of suffering for Israel, and making it a burden and source of suffering to the Egyptians.

The very means that brought grief and sorrow to Israel will be the means to inch them closer to their deliverance.

This time the magicians couldn't even come out and challenge Moses with their sorcery because they were hit with boils and were in too much pain.

These were the ones that should have brought help to the people suffering in this affliction, yet they were unable to even help themselves. Nothing that the enemy can do is a match for God.

This plague prevented anyone from worshipping their gods, certainly their priests would be unable to carry out their duties as no one could enter their temples with their cleanliness compromised by these boils.

Again, in all this, Pharaoh hardened his heart. But for the first time we read that ***the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh***. How can this be? We don't need to

look at this as though the Lord hardened his heart against Pharaoh's choice, but rather in confirmation of what Pharaoh had already decided.

- In Romans 1 we read three times that God gave people over or gave them up to live in the mind and desire that they pursued (vv. 24, 26, 28).

3. Seventh Plague: Hail – 9:13-35

9:13-21 - Then the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me, ¹⁴ for at this time I will send all My plagues to your very heart, and on your servants and on your people, that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth. ¹⁵ Now if I had stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, then you would have been cut off from the earth. ¹⁶ But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. ¹⁷ As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go. ¹⁸ Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now. ¹⁹ Therefore send now and gather your livestock and all that you have in the field, for the hail shall come down on every man and every animal which is found in the field and is not brought home; and they shall die.” ’ ’ ²⁰ He who feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses. ²¹ But he who did not regard the word of the Lord left his servants and his livestock in the field.

I love this, in verse 15 God is letting Pharaoh know that He's been showing mercy to him. If the Lord decided to really strike them, nobody would be left standing. So now the Lord will send all His plagues **to your very heart** (9:14). That's an interesting way of saying it. What is meant by that?

God wants Pharaoh to know in his heart that He indeed is the Lord and there is none like Him. Pharaoh is still exalting himself against God's people (9:17). He's still in his heart seeing himself as god. But when the Lord is finished, Pharaoh will know that the Lord is the only God.

- Paul quoted Exodus 9:16 in Romans 9:17-18 to show that God works through the hard hearts of men to reveal His power and glory.
- We have 1 of 2 options. Resist the Lord and suffer through as His will is carried out regardless. Or submit to the Lord and enjoy bringing glory to Him

which is going to happen either way. One way is blessing, the other a burden.

Now after 6 plagues some of the people are beginning to see that the Lord is not someone to take lightly. Some of the Egyptians (***servants of Pharaoh***) actually feared the word of God. They know now that what God says, God does. Nobody can control or override that. God is the one in control. So some took proper precautions.

- It's interesting how some today can experience trial after trial in their lives. And sometimes it's directly linked to their disregard of God's Word and walking in obedience to it. And they wonder why life has been difficult or lacking in joy and stability.
- Yet with these here that listened to the Word, they ***received*** it, ***revered*** it, and ***responded*** to it. And it brought *safety, protection and blessing*.

9:22-26 - *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt—on man, on beast, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt."* ²³ ***And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. And the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt.*** ²⁴ ***So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.*** ²⁵ ***And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field.*** ²⁶ ***Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.***

Imagine what this would have been like? Thunder, hail and fire shooting to the ground. This is not normal stuff. This has got to be pretty evident that God is carrying this out.

And not only do we see this happen on a historical level, but this is something we read happening on a prophetic level; when once again, God begins to judge a world in opposition to Him. Egypt is a type of the world and Pharaoh is a type of the Antichrist who will face God's wrath in an upcoming day.

- **Revelation 16:19b–21**, *"And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath."* ²⁰ *Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.* ²¹ *And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men*

blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great."

- If those hailstones were about 100lbs (the weight of a talent) imagine what the people in Egypt are experiencing in this hail storm that rivaled none other.
- Interestingly, these ten plagues all have parallels to what is recorded in Revelation of the Tribulation period. There will even be a Moses and Aaron representative as two witnesses will be calling the world to repentance.
- In the tribulation God will have a people protected, just as Israel in Goshen was once again spared from the hail.

9:27-35 - *And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and my people and I are wicked. ²⁸ Entreat the Lord, that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer."* ²⁹ So Moses said to him, "As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the Lord; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, that you may know that the earth is the Lord's. ³⁰ But as for you and your servants, I know that you will not yet fear the Lord God." ³¹ Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley was in the head and the flax was in bud. ³² But the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they are late crops. ³³ So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and spread out his hands to the Lord; then the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain was not poured on the earth. ³⁴ And when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, he and his servants. ³⁵ So the heart of Pharaoh was hard; neither would he let the children of Israel go, as the Lord had spoken by Moses.

Pharaoh is beginning to see that the Lord is right in all He does, and He is indeed powerful. Pharaoh sounds sincere in repentance here, but this repentance has not penetrated to his heart. He's looking to save face, but he's not willing to do an about face, which true repentance always is. It's changing your mind and changing course. Pharaoh wants to be free from the consequences of sin, but not give up the life of sin.

As soon as the problems subsided, ***he sinned yet more*** (9:34). Pharaoh continued to harden his heart and reject God's mercy and grace.

- Pharaoh is an example to all of what happens to a person who is determined to resist the work of God. Don't let yourself reach the point

where your hardness of heart prevents you from moving toward God. It gets harder and harder to hear Him and easier and easier to resist Him when you follow the example of Pharaoh.

4. Eighth Plague: Locusts – 10:1-20

10:1-2 - *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.”*

God desires these things to be passed on as a spiritual heritage to future generations. For people to hear of what God has done in times past is such an encouragement to keep pressing on in the present. We serve the same God yesterday, today, and forever. Pass on the great things God has done for you!

10:3-7 - *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?”*

Locusts are a destructive force, wiping out everything in their path.

“Scientists report that the daily consumption of a locust equals its own weight. That may not sound like much. However, a full-scale swarm covers several hundred square miles, with between one hundred and two hundred million locusts per mile. John Davis writes, “The locust is perhaps nature’s most awesome example of the collective destructive power of a species. An adult

locust weighs at a maximum two grams and its combined destructive force can leave thousands of people with famine for years.”^{4 3}

Pharaoh’s servants are fortunately beginning to realize they are fighting a losing battle. They plead with Pharaoh to let them go. It’s almost humorous that they ask Pharaoh if he knows that Egypt is basically destroyed.

- This is the deception of sin. When we begin to let sin have a hold of our life it truly blinds us to the destructive work it does in our life. We think we’re getting by and that sin isn’t damaging too much in our lives. But we fail to see how Satan has blinded us and the destruction it brings.
- Don’t mess around with sin. It will not be mastered, but will master you and destroy you.

10:8-11 - *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.*

Pharaoh wants to control how things are going to go. He’s not willing to give up power to the One who holds all power. So Pharaoh tries to compromise with who will go with Moses. He wants the women and children to stay behind and just have the men go and worship.

But worship of God is to be a family thing. Parents you have a tremendous ministry before your family, don’t leave your kids behind in the things of God. Take them along on that spiritual journey with you. Don’t hope they receive these things through osmosis, speak it out and train up your children to be worshippers of God.

- Satan is going to do all he can to bring you into compromise. To tell you that it’s more important for your kids to socialize around sports rather than go to church. Or to stay current with the latest trends so they can fit in. We don’t need to fit in, we need to stand out as people who serve the Lord.

⁴ John J. Davis, *Moses and the Gods of Egypt: Studies in the Book of Exodus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1971), p. 120.

³ Ryken, P. G., & Hughes, R. K. (2005). *Exodus: saved for God’s glory* (pp. 298–299). Crossway Books.

10:12-20 - *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.*

The gods of Isis and Seth were believed to be the protectors of Egypt’s crops from blight. Again, God is making His point that these false gods are totally impotent.

It's getting kind of ridiculous that Pharaoh thinks he can keep coming in and acting like he’s really turning over a new leaf now. He’s still not responding in true biblical repentance. He’s more so trying to manipulate the situation so as to have Moses pray for the locusts to be gone.

Amazingly Moses prays and the Lord acts. God is gracious in all this, and yet, it provides opportunity for God to continue to display His greatness.

5. Ninth Plague: Darkness – 10:21-29

10:21-29 - *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.”

This was a direct hit against their sun god Ra. This was a unique darkness because this was darkness that could be felt (10:21). I don’t know what that’s like, and I don’t intend to find out.

Light is not just a physical property it’s an aspect of God’s character – *“God is light and in Him is no darkness at all”* (1 John 1:5).

It’s as though in this plague God is revealing what life is like apart from Him. It’s utter darkness – it’s darkness that can be felt.

- Hell is referred in Scripture to outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. It’s not a place to just live in your sin forever, it’s a place where you will experience life apart from God and it will not be pleasant.

Another distinction is made as Israel had light in their dwellings (10:23). This was either from natural sources or supernatural as God illuminated their way.

Pharaoh comes with his 4th compromise. This time asking for the livestock to be left behind. But these are going to be instrumental in the worship of God.

- These are compromises we have to guard ourselves from today. The world would say, *Go and worship God, but retain these possessions for your own enjoyment. Don’t give up these things, you earned them!*
- But Jesus says: *‘For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.’* (Matthew 6:21).

So the showdown between Moses and Pharaoh comes to an end, but God will have one more display of His power that will finally bring Pharaoh to his knees.

6. Death of the Firstborn Announced – 11:1-10

11:1-3 - *And the Lord said to Moses, “I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether. ² Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her neighbor, articles of silver and articles of gold.” ³ And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants and in the sight of the people.*

“These verses are parenthetical; for Moses had one last message to communicate to Pharaoh before he left his presence after the ninth plague in 10:29.” ⁴

Amazingly God will be sure that the Israelites receive back pay! They’ll be compensated for their years of labor. We never need to doubt God coming through for us. He will provide for you and bless you as you walk in faithfulness.

10:4-8 - *Then Moses said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; ⁵ and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals. ⁶ Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. ⁷ But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the Lord does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.’ ⁸ And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Get out, and all the people who follow you!’ After that I will go out.” Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.*

This announcement doesn’t come with any conditions, such as: *Let us go but if you refuse this will happen...* This is just straight up going to happen for Pharaoh’s already obstinate heart.

- Sadly in his hardened heart he not only hurt himself, but many others were affected – throughout the plagues – but now it will hit even closer to home as his own son will perish.

⁴ Barker, K. L., & Kohlenberger, J. R., III. (1994). *Expositor’s Bible Commentary (Abridged Edition: Old Testament)* (p. 83). Zondervan Publishing House.

- To what extent is your stubbornness or sin costing you? It's affecting you now, but who else is it hurting? Sin will inevitably hurt those you love. Better to humble yourself before God rather than have Him humble you.

11:9-10 - *But the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not heed you, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt." 10 So Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh; and the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go out of his land.*

10 plagues, but none of them were in vain. This was not God trying to soften Pharaoh's heart without success, this was the means for God to multiply His wonders in Egypt – that all may know He is the Lord, and there is no other! This is what it's all about. Living life to the glory of God that His might may be on full display.

- If you ever feel like your life is plagued, be sure to humble yourself before God, but also understand that it might just be the means God uses to put His glory on display. Your plagues can become praise when we understand that God's purposes are coming to fruition.