

Exodus Chapter Eleven

Read **Exodus 11:1-3** – God Provides for Israel

v.1 “AND THE **LORD** SAID UNTO MOSES, YET WILL I BRING ONE PLAGUE *more* UPON PHARAOH, AND UPON EGYPT; AFTERWARDS HE WILL LET *you* GO HENCE: WHEN HE SHALL LET YOU GO, HE SHALL SURELY THRUST YOU OUT HENCE ALTOGETHER.”

The time has come for God to end the sojourn of Israel in Egypt, so he will bring one more plague against the Egyptians. Consequently this is a transitional chapter. Up until now Moses has been dealing with Pharaoh, but God’s judgment of Egypt will shortly be completed and the balance of the book deals with their deliverance and the beginnings of their travels in the Sinai Wilderness.

As we remember from the end of chapter 10, Pharaoh threatened to kill Moses if he saw him again and Moses responded that “I WILL SEE THY FACE AGAIN NO MORE.” This chapter can be a bit confusing. Verses 1-3 are an aside, a parenthetical statement, then verses 4 through 10 is the balance of the conversation between Pharaoh continued from chapter 10.

This last plague will be so severe that Pharaoh will not only let Israel go but will “THRUST YOU OUT”. They will be driven out, at least initially, as we will see that Pharaoh will change his mind again and follow them.

v.2 “SPEAK NOW IN THE EARS OF THE PEOPLE, AND LET EVERY MAN BORROW OF HIS NEIGHBOUR, AND EVERY WOMAN OF HER NEIGHBOUR, JEWELS OF SILVER AND JEWELS OF GOLD.”

Any group of people, especially those who have been oppressed and suddenly freed need some means of supporting themselves. In the case of Israel; they will need a means of carrying out God’s commands when they prepare the tabernacle and its furnishings. So God commands them to acquire what is needed from the Egyptians.

The commentators all seem to agree that the word “BORROW” in the KJV is a poor translation. All of the other reliable translations use the word ask and the original language makes that asking more of a demand than a request. After all as much as they could carry would still be poor compensation for the years of slavery and oppression that they had suffered.

v.3 “AND THE **LORD** GAVE THE PEOPLE FAVOUR 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.”

We see two forces working in favor of the Israelites in this case. First of all we see that God has caused the Egyptian people to be generous with Israel, even those that are Pharaoh’s servants.

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Secondly we see that Moses, due to the miracles that God has performed through him and the power that he represents as God's messenger as being revered by the Egyptian people. In fact scripture testifies of Moses:

“AND THERE AROSE NOT A PROPHET SINCE IN ISRAEL LIKE UNTO MOSES, WHOM THE **LORD** KNEW FACE TO FACE,” **Deuteronomy 34:10**

But now there has been a prophet raised that is greater than Moses, Jesus the Christ whom we serve. Basically the entire book of Hebrews is dedicated to confirming that fact for all time.

Read **Exodus 11:4-10** – The Plague of Death

v.4 “AND MOSES SAID, THUS SAITH THE **LORD**, ABOUT MIDNIGHT WILL I GO OUT INTO THE MIDST OF EGYPT:

Now the writer takes us back to the final confrontation between Moses and Pharaoh. Pharaoh is being warned of the plague of death that is coming.

v.5 “AND ALL THE FIRSTBORN IN THE LAND OF EGYPT SHALL DIE, FROM THE FIRST BORN OF PHARAOH THAT SITTETH UPON HIS THRONE, EVEN UNTO THE FIRSTBORN OF THE MAIDSERVANT THAT IS BEHIND THE MILL; AND ALL THE FIRSTBORN OF BEASTS.”

The first born of all the people of Egypt and all of the cattle and other beasts that have survived the plague of murrain and the plague of hail will now die as well. There will be no exception, except of course, the children of Israel. Asaph, in his psalm telling of God's great goodness to Israel said of God:

“HE MADE A WAY TO HIS ANGER; HE SPARED NOT THEIR SOUL FROM DEATH, BUT GAVE THEIR LIFE OVER TO THE PESTILENCE; AND SMOTE ALL THE FIRSTBORN IN EGYPT; THE CHIEF OF *their* STRENGTH IN THE TABERNACLES OF HAM:” **Psalms 78:50-51**

v.6 “AND THERE SHALL BE A GREAT CRY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND OF EGYPT, SUCH AS THERE WAS NONE LIKE IT, NOR SHALL BE LIKE IT ANY MORE.”

We can only imagine what kind of cry would go up in this land if the first born of every family would be taken. Using this history that Israel knew, Amos brings the warnings of God to Israel many years later in:

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Amos 5:16-17 “THEREFORE THE **LORD**, THE GOD OF HOSTS, THE **LORD**, SAITH THUS; WAILING SHALL BE IN ALL STREETS; AND THEY SHALL SAY IN ALL THE HIGHWAYS, ALAS! ALAS! AND THEY SHALL CALL THE HUSBANDMAN TO MOURNING, AND SUCH AS ARE SKILFUL OF LAMENTATION TO WAILING. AND IN ALL VINEYARDS SHALL BE WAILING: FOR I WILL PASS THROUGH THEE, SAITH THE **LORD**.”

We can also see that the wailing described here and in Exodus would be similar to the wailing that will be taking place in the outer darkness of hell.

v.7 “BUT AGAINST ANY OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL SHALL NOT A DOG MOVE HIS TONGUE, AGAINST MAN OR BEAST: THAT YE MAY KNOW HOW THAT THE **LORD** DOTHS PUT A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EGYPTIANS AND ISRAEL.”

Israel will be spared completely. The expression used is that there wouldn't even be a reason for a dog to howl in Israel as can occur when there is a death in the house.

v.8 “AND ALL THESE THY SERVANTS SHALL COME DOWN UNTO ME, AND BOW DOWN THEMSELVES UNTO ME, SAYING, GET THEE OUT, AND ALL THE PEOPLE THAT FOLLOW THEE: AND AFTER THAT I WILL GO OUT. AND HE WENT OUT FROM PHARAOH IN A GREAT ANGER.”

This horror will be so great that the people of Egypt, even the servants of Pharaoh will come to Israel and beg them to leave their land. Then they will leave just as God has demanded all along.

Thus ends the last confrontation between Moses and Pharaoh with Moses leaving the Egyptian king and going to prepare to lead his people out of Egypt. The record in the great chapter on faith, Hebrews 11, is this:

“BY FAITH HE FORSOOK EGYPT, NOT FEARING THE WRATH OF THE KING: FOR HE ENDURED, AS SEEING HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE.” **Hebrew 11:27**

v.9 “AND THE **LORD** SAID UNTO MOSES, PHARAOH SHALL NOT HEarken UNTO YOU; THAT MY WONDERS MAY BE MULTIPLIED IN THE LAND OF EGYPT.”

God again reminds Moses that Pharaoh is not going to listen to the words of Moses, the plague of death will still need to be brought upon Egypt. Its purpose is to glorify God and to let all in the land of Egypt know assuredly that Jehovah, God of the Universe. We will see later that even after this plague, Pharaoh sends his army after Israel to bring them back or destroy them.

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v.10 “AND MOSES AND AARON DID ALL THESE WONDERS BEFORE PHARAOH: AND THE **LORD** HARDENED PHARAOH'S HEART, SO THAT HE WOULD NOT LET THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL GO OUT OF HIS LAND.”

This transition chapter is wrapped up by repeating that in spite of all of the miracles and wonders that God performed through Moses and Aaron Pharaoh has not been moved. His heart is as hard as ever and while it is prophesied in an earlier verse that even his servants will beg Israel to leave he will not bend to the will of God.