

# Lessons from the Plagues of Egypt

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Well, Greetings Everyone! Here we are on the First Day of Unleavened Bread—beautiful spring day! And we just want to thank you for being there and we're just very thankful that we can have this time to speak to you on this Holy Day.

So with that in mind in keeping with the times that we're celebrating, God's Holy Days and the very First of the Spring Holy Days, we just with that in mind would want to look at the Exodus for a little while.

The Exodus miracles are viewed by the world as fairytales. And the atheists and non-believers view the Exodus as something that's just mythology and not true. And you would think that the Christian various denominations would view them as miracles from God, but they go to great lengths to explain them as some kind of natural phenomena—red plankton or sand storms or things like that—and just totally ignore the fact that God has the ability to perform mighty miracles.

The miracles of the plagues are an integral part of the Exodus. And through those plagues, God took care of Egypt so well that they would not bother and could not bother Israel during the forty years in the wilderness. They were decimated.

But we need to ask the question today: What do these plagues and the miracles that surround these plagues have to do with us in the Church today? Why are they recorded in the Bible? Why is so much space given in the book of Exodus and throughout the Old Testament and New Testament to recounting these plagues and to talking about them and the miracles that God performed?

So the title of the sermon is:

*What Lessons Can We Learn from the Plagues upon Egypt?  
And What Lessons Can We Learn About Israel's Coming Out of Egypt?*

Well, let's talk in the beginning about some background right before the plagues began.

The first thing we need to understand is that Egypt did not know who God was. Let's go back to Exodus chapter 5 and read the first two verses. Egypt didn't understand the God of Israel. They didn't know the God of Israel. They didn't believe that there was a God of Israel, but they were to quickly learn that was not the case. Exodus 5 verse 1:

**Exodus 5:1.** And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. (KJV)

Verse 2, notice what Pharaoh says:

**Exodus 5:2b.** Who *is* the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go. (KJV)

They didn't have a clue who God was, but that was about to change.

The second point of background is that God was not fully understood by Israel either. They didn't really know God, but they were going to get acquainted with God very quickly. Look at chapter 10 of Exodus the first two verses, Exodus chapter 10 verse 1:

**Exodus 10:1.** And the [Eternal] said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I might shew these my signs before him: 2) that [you may] tell in the ears of [your] son, and of [your] son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; (KJV)

Why? Notice this last phrase!

**Exodus 10:2b.** that [you] may know (KJV)

"You" meaning Israel.

**Exodus 10:2 continued.** may know how that I *am* the [Eternal]. (KJV)

So part of the reason for all of these miracles and these plagues was to identify God Almighty to Israel as well as to Egypt.

A third point of background is the fact that with one event, God would identify Himself to both nations—Israel and Egypt. Look at Exodus chapter 7 and verse 5:

**Exodus 7:5.** And the Egyptians shall know (KJV)

And obviously Israel was going to know also.

**Exodus 7:5.** And the Egyptians shall know that I *am* the [Eternal], when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them. (KJV)

And so by stretching out His hand toward Egypt, meaning the plagues and by bringing Israel out Egypt through miracles, both nations would know God. Both would see in a dramatic fashion the true God.

Now with that background, what we're going to do next is spend some time going through the Ten Plagues of Egypt. Now let's understand that the best estimates that we have right now was that the population of Egypt was about twenty million. It was not a small country. This was not some little event in some backwater nation. This was the major nation of the earth. And Israel, although a small percentage of the total population, was there in Egypt and God was going to identify Himself to both nations.

So let's look at the First Plague—first one—the Plague of Water Being Changed to Blood. Exodus chapter 7 and we're going to read verses 17 through 21. Exodus 7 verse 17:

**Exodus 7:17:** Thus [says] the [Eternal], In this [you shall] know that I *am* the [Eternal]: (KJV)

He says it again. This is one of the reasons that God is performing these miracles so that Israel and Egypt would know who He was.

He says:

**Exodus 7:17b.** behold, I will smite with the rod that *is* in [my] hand the waters which *are* in the river, and they shall be turned to blood. 18) And the fish that *is* in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall [loathe] to drink of the water of the river.

Of course, you wouldn't want to drink blood and particularly stinking rotting blood.

Verse 19:

**Exodus 7:19.** And the [Eternal spoke] unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take [your] rod, and stretch out [your] hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and *that* there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in *vessels of wood*, and in *vessels of stone*. (KJV)

Now think about that! Today it would be in your toilet, in your sink, in the water in your refrigerator, the water in your evaporative coolers, everywhere!

Verse 20:

**Exodus 7:20.** And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that *were* in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that *were* in the river were turned to blood. 21) And the fish that *was* in the river died; and the river stank, (KJV)

And there's nothing that smells worse than rotting fish—millions of fish stinking and rotting.

**Exodus 7:21b.** and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. (KJV)

In every home, in every community, all along the river!

Now one of the reasons God did this was that the Nile was the patron deity of the country. The Nile was Egypt. The whole culture centered around the Nile.

And when the Nile flooded every spring, it flooded the land and rejuvenated the land with new organic material. And then they could plant crops and the crops would flourish. And the Nile was Egypt for water and for agriculture.

And what this miracle did is made the Nile worthless! And God was saying to them, "Your god, the Nile, is now stinking in your nose. It's now smelling and you can't use it for any productive reason." These dried caked ponds, rivers, the Nile itself stank in the hot sun. And so what God was doing was destroying Egypt's image of their god, the Nile. Instead of being a blessing to the people, the Nile, it was a curse. And it stank. So in this First Plague, God was telling them right out of the bat, "Your gods are nothing."

Now let's go to the Second One, the Plague of the Frogs. We're going to begin in Exodus 8, read the first six verses, and then read verses 12 through 14. Exodus 8 verse 1:

**Exodus 8:1.** And the [Eternal spoke] unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus [says] the [Eternal], Let my people go, that they may serve me. 2) And if [you] refuse to let *them* go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs: 3) And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into [your] house, and into [your] bedchamber, and upon [your] bed, and into the house of [your] servants, and upon [your] people, and [even] into [your] ovens, and into [your] kneading-troughs: (KJV)

And again today you open the refrigerator and there's frogs in there. You open up your stove and there's frogs in there. You open up your stove and there's frogs in there. The microwave at eye level, you open it up and a frog jumps into your face.

**Exodus 8:4.** And the frogs shall come [upon] both [you], and [your] people, and upon all [your] servants. 5) And the [Eternal spoke] unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch forth [your] hand with [your] rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up upon the land of Egypt. (KJV)

Verse 6:

**Exodus 8:6.** And Aaron stretched [forth] his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt. (KJV)

Now jumping to verse 12:

**Exodus 8:12.** And Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh: and Moses cried unto the [Eternal] because of the frogs which he had brought against Pharaoh. (KJV)

This was after Pharaoh was whining and complaining now.

Verse 13:

**Exodus 8:13.** And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; and the frogs died out of the houses, out of the villages, and out of the fields. 14) And they gathered them together upon heaps: and the land stank. (KJV)

So now after the stinking of the river, now you have the stinking of the frogs in these gigantic piles! Now understand that frogs are part of the Egyptian god family. Their god Pettah was a reptile with a frog's head.

And it was demoralizing to see their gods:

- 1) sent as plagues, but
- 2) they're all dead and stinking now!

What is that doing to their image of their worship of their religious gods? They died by the millions—maybe even the billions! Egypt was treated to the beautiful view of their gods stinking and rotting in the sun. God was sending them a message.

Okay, that's two. Now let's go to the Third. This is the plague, what the King James says, "the Plague of Lice." And that's Exodus 8 verses 16 through 19. Let's read that. Exodus 8 verse 16:

**Exodus 8:16.** And the [Eternal] said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out [your] rod, and smite the dust of the land, (KJV)

Obviously in Egypt, there is a lot of dust. It's everywhere. It's like West Texas. There's just everywhere, dirt everywhere. And we're going to find that that dust turns into lice. That's a lot of lice.

**Exodus 8:16b.** smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt. 17) And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. (KJV)

Now you think of every little particle of dust turned into an insect and all of a sudden now those insects begin to attack man and beast and crawl throughout all the land!

**Exodus 8:18.** And the magicians [of Egypt] did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast. (KJV)

They failed in their efforts. Verse 19:

**Exodus 8:19.** Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This (KJV)

Now they know!

**Exodus 8:19b.** This *is* the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he [didn't listen to] them; as the LORD had said. (KJV)

Now if you do some research on what it means when it refers to *lice*, some scholars say that they were gnats and mosquitoes. Now I think all of us have had experience with gnats and mosquitoes. Now if every speck of dust in a land was turned into either a gnat or a mosquito, how bad would that be? I mean you couldn't exist. You'd be flailing and flapping around trying to get all the mosquitoes off of you and they're biting and sucking your blood.

Now other scholars say that the word *gnat* is a generic reference to all blood sucking, biting, burrowing insects of all types, like chiggers and ticks and no-see-ums and mosquitoes and gnats, all of those. So it might be multiple types of insects rather than just one type.

Now let's understand the Egyptians had a fetish about cleanliness. And the Egyptians shaved almost all the hair off of their bodies. And they took frequent baths. And they were fanatics about being clean. Now, they have their bodies coated, covered with these nauseating insects and bugs chewing on their flesh, leaving whelps and scars and all of that. And they're quickly coming to the understanding that their gods are turning on them. Instead of their gods being beneficial to them their gods are attacking them. That was the Third, the Plague of Lice.

Let's go the Fourth Plague, the Plague of Flies. This is in Exodus 8 and we'll read verses 20 through 24.

We're skipping through a lot of this, obviously, because the purpose of the sermon is not to recount all of the Exodus and the interactions between Moses and Pharaoh. We're just focusing on the plagues themselves.

Exodus 8 verse 20:

**Exodus 8:20.** And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he [comes] forth to the water; and say unto him, Thus [says] the [Eternal], Let my people go, that they may serve me. (KJV)

Now Moses is sounding like a broken record. This is the fourth time now. But notice verse 21:

**Exodus 8:21.** Else, if [you will] not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms *of flies* upon [you], and upon [your] servants, and upon [the]

people, and into [your] houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of *flies*, and also the ground [where] they *are*. (KJV)

The ground will be covered with it. The air will be covered with it.

Verse 22:

**Exodus 8:22.** And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, (KJV)

Now up until that time, these plagues had come across the whole land including the nation of Israel. Now God wanted to impress upon Israel His power and His might, but here in the Fourth Plague, He's making a separation between Israel and Egypt. He says:

**Exodus 8:22.** And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people [live], that no swarms of *flies* shall be there; to the end [you may] know that I *am* the [Eternal] in the [middle] of the earth. (KJV)

And He's saying, "I'm making a distinction between My people and between Egypt."

Verse 23:

**Exodus 8:23.** And I will put a division between my people and [your] people: to morrow shall [be] this sign. (KJV)

This was a sign in advance. God was saying, "I have the power to make swarms of flies congregate in one area, but not in another area." And He told them in advance this was going to happen. Now think about this! This was a tremendous example to the nation of Israel that if they would follow God, He would protect them and preserve them.

Verse 24:

**Exodus 8:24.** And the [Eternal] did so; and there came a grievous swarm of *flies* into the house of Pharaoh, and *into* his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt: the land was corrupted by reason of the swarm of *flies*. (KJV)

Now let's understand that Egyptians worshipped both flies and beetles. But these were not common house flies. These were flies that bit. And some scholars say that this particular fly was the *Iblatta orientalis* and it is a beetle that gnaws on clothes, furniture, plants, animals and humans. It just ate everything in sight, chewed on everything in sight. And we've seen beetles with their mouths that just can chew on anything and for their size, they're very powerful. And these things are now swarming on the ground eating anything out of wood, all the plants, the animals, and then chewing on people including Pharaoh. Pharaoh was not isolated from this. He couldn't go into his bunker and hide out. He was there susceptible as the average Egyptian.

So now we see once again that God is turning their "gods" onto them. And He is showing them who is a God and who isn't a god.

Now the Fifth One, the Fifth Plague is the Plague on the Cattle. This is in Exodus chapter 9 and the first seven verses. Exodus 9 verse 1:

**Exodus 9:1.** Then the [Eternal spoke] unto Moses [and He said], Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus [says] the [Eternal] God of the Hebrews, (KJV)

He's reinforcing the fact that "I am the God of the Hebrews. I am the God of Israel. I'm not your god, but you're going to feel my power."

**Exodus 9:1b.** Let my people go, that they may serve me. 2) For if [you] refuse to let *them* go, and [will] hold them still, 3) Behold, the hand of the [Eternal] is upon [the] cattle which *is* in the field, upon the horses, upon the [donkeys], upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: *there shall be* a very grievous murrain [or disease]. 4) And the [Eternal] shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: (KJV)

Again that has never happened in human existence where some disease attacks one nation's cattle but not another nation's cattle. A disease does not respect borders. It does not respect races. But here God had the power to make a very prominent demonstration to the nation of Israel as well as Egypt.

And He says:

**Exodus 9:4.** And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all *that is* the children's of Israel. 5) And the [Eternal] appointed a set time, (KJV)

Again God not just letting it happen whenever it happened, He said, "This is going to happen at a certain time"—again demonstrating His power and His authority.

**Exodus 9:4b.** saying, To morrow the [Eternal] shall do this thing in the land. (KJV)

He's saying in advance that it was going to happen and indeed it did.

Verse 6:

**Exodus 9:6.** And the [Eternal] did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one. 7) And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. (KJV)

He sent out his spies, looked into the land and found out God did exactly what He said He was going to do.



**Exodus 9:7b.** And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, [for] he [didn't] let the people go. (KJV)

As we know, Egypt worshipped cattle, especially the god of the bull. And that was a very powerful god in Egyptian mythology. And this disease like anthrax caused ulcers on the body outwardly so the people could see, but also ulcers in the lungs and they began to be unable to breathe. And the ulcers then caused phlegm and mucus and they basically drown in their own mucus.

Now we know that Egypt hated those people who used cattle for food. You can read that in Exodus 8 and verse 26. And we see here that now all of a sudden Egypt's gods were in pain. This was a horrible thing on the animals. And they were in pain and they were suffering and then they were dying. These beasts that Egypt worshipped were now having power greater than their presumed power exerted upon them to the point that they were now suffering and dying in the sight of the Egyptians with blisters and boils all over their body, unable to breathe, suffering horribly because God was making a demonstration of Who was the real God and Who had the real power.

Let's go to the Sixth Plague, the Plague of Boils. Exodus chapter 9, we'll read verses 8 through 10.

**Exodus 9:8.** And the [Eternal] said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, (KJV)

We'll get to that in just a minute. But notice, He said, "ashes of the furnace."

**Exodus 9:8b.** and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. (KJV)

And if you—say a campfire—you just got all the ashes and started throwing it up in the air, there'd be dust everywhere. There'd be ashes everywhere.

Verse 9:

**Exodus 9:9.** And it shall become small dust in the land of Egypt, (KJV)

It shall spread all over the land of Egypt just like a dust storm. And growing up in West Texas, I'm very familiar with dust storms. And there is just dust everywhere. In a bad storm, you can't even see the sun. And so these ashes became as that.

**Exodus 9:9.** And [He said] it shall become small dust in the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth *with* blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt. 10) And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth *with* blains (KJV)

The word *blains* in the Hebrew means blisters.

**Exodus 9:10b.** upon man, and upon beast. (KJV)

If the animals hadn't suffered enough, they were going to suffer some more.

Now I had chicken pox when I was thirty-five years old and it liked to kill me. I had chicken pox from the top of my head and my scalp down into my ears, into my nose, your armpits and various cracks and crevices in your body, but in between your toes. And they turn into small blisters. And you're just in a rage. You just want to scratch, but the more you scratch, the more it itches. And you can't do that. You know you want to and you can't. But there for a while I felt like in order to die I would have to get better.

And this is the way these boils occurred in the Egyptians. So I know a little bit about what they were going through.

Now it said *ashes from a furnace*. And what that refers to is that Egypt annually would sacrifice humans and burn them. And then take those ashes in a religious ceremony and scatter them over the land in an effort to bless the land. So what God is saying, "I'm going to turn something that you have used for centuries as a blessing to the land, I'm going to turn that against you because you are sacrificing human beings, your own brothers, you're sacrificing them and I'm going to turn that against you.

And also the magicians and the priests use ashes in other religious rites during the year. So the fact is that once again, God is taking something they used religiously that was supposed to be a blessing to them and turned it into a curse. And every Egyptian, the little kids and the aged and Pharaoh himself were just scratching and itching and in pain. And they became infected. And they scabbed over. And they'd scratch them again. And so let's not underestimate what God was putting them through because as we've said many times before, human beings often only learn by pain. And the Egyptians, particularly Pharaoh, were learning a very powerful lesson.

Let's go to the Seventh Plague, the Plague of Hail. This is in Exodus 9. We'll read verse 14 and then jump to verse 18 through 26. The Plague of the Hail, Exodus 9 verse 14:

**Exodus 9:14.** For I will at this time send all my plagues upon [your] heart, and upon [your] servants, and upon [your] people; (KJV)

Notice this last phrase!

**Exodus 9:14b.** that [you may] know that *there is* none like me in all the earth. (KJV)

And I think by this time, the Egyptians were starting to get the picture that "This is something new. This has never happened before. This God is really powerful."

Verse 18:

**Exodus 9:18.** Behold, to morrow (KJV)

Again setting a time. He's not going to say, "Well, sometime next week." He's saying,

**Exodus 9:18b.** to morrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as [has] not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now. (KJV)

Something new that has never happened before! Verse 19:

**Exodus 9:19.** Send therefore now, *and* gather [your] cattle, and all that [you have] in the field; *for upon* every man and beast which shall be found in the field, shall not be brought home, (KJV)

God is saying—He's giving them a heads up. He says, "Whatever's out there, they're going to die." And so He was giving them a chance to believe in Him and then spare some of the suffering if they would believe in Him.

And He says:

**Exodus 9:19b.** shall not be brought home, [and] the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall die. (KJV)

Verse 20:

**Exodus 9:20.** He that feared the word of the [Eternal] among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses [for protection]: 21) And he that regarded not the word of the [Eternal] left his servants and his cattle in the field. (KJV)

And God was demonstrating this principle of blessings and cursings. "You obey Me and you will be blessed and spared. But on the other hand, you ignore Me and you ignore My commandments, then you're going to suffer for it."

Verse 22:

**Exodus 9:22.** And the [Eternal] said unto Moses, Stretch forth [your] hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout [all] the land of Egypt. (KJV)

And we all know a bad hail storm can do horrible damage. We lived in Lubbock, Texas for three years and have seen golf ball size hail. It just dented one car that we had. It looked like somebody took a ball pin hammer and just went over the whole car. Ruined a roof that we had and just strips trees of leaves of leaves and plant and all of that! It can be very horrible. And this was just hail golf ball size or slightly smaller—nothing compared to this!

Verse 23:

**Exodus 9:23.** And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the [Eternal] sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; (KJV)

He was showing them this is not an ordinary hail storm. This is not something from nature. And modern Christianity can't explain this. You don't have hail storms with fire running across the ground. You have ice and then fire! Go figure that! Explain that scientifically. You can't.

**Exodus 9:23b.** the [Eternal] rained hail upon the land of Egypt. 24) So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. 25) And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and [broke] every tree of the field. (KJV)

Now God is taking care of Egypt long-term. He is destroying the crops. He is destroying the fruit trees. He's destroying their means of eating long-term.

Verse 26:

**Exodus 9:26.** Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail. (KJV)

Now the Roecks have experienced that. They're farmers here locally. They've experienced it when rain came at the wrong time. They saw it coming. And obviously, they'd been praying to God. And the rain passed by their field and went on to somebody else's field. And that was a blessing to them! They've seen it first hand. Most of us who are not farmers and attached to the land don't go through this every year or every season, but the farmers amongst us and ranchers amongst us and fishermen too do that.

Now in Egypt it rained occasionally between January and March, just occasionally. Again they used the Nile for their water. But it was rare, very rare in Egypt for any thunder or any hail.

But here we have thunder and hail and lightening and fire. Now this is something that you can't explain meteorologically. It just doesn't work. The buildings, the trees, the crops, the animals, and people caught outside were killed by this most unusual event. I think the people now were starting to get a message.

The Eighth Plague, the Plague of the Locusts. This is Exodus 10. We'll read verses 4 through 6 and verses 13 through 15. Exodus 10 verse 4:

**Exodus 10:4.** Else, if [you] refuse to let my people go, behold, to morrow [again setting a specific time] will I bring the locusts into [your] coast: 5) And they shall cover the face of the earth, that one cannot be able to see the earth: (KJV)

This swarming, crawling thick mass of locusts that could have been a half a foot to two or three feet deep on the land!

**Exodus 10:5b.** and they shall eat the residue of that which is escaped [from the hail], which [remains] unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which [grows] for you out of the field: (KJV)

They're going to eat everything~

**Exodus 10:6.** And they shall fill [your] houses, and the houses of [your] servants, and the houses of the Egyptians; which neither [your] fathers, nor [your] fathers' fathers have seen, since the day that they were upon the earth unto this day. And he turned himself, and [he] went out from Pharaoh. (KJV)

He said, "This is going to be a plague unlike anything you have seen!"

Verse 13:

**Exodus 10:13.** And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the [Eternal] brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all *that* night; *and* when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. (KJV)

And it just blows me away that on some of these cable channels, they try to explain this in a physical way saying, "Well, yeah the wind blew and brought all the locusts." Well, okay. What does that explain? It doesn't explain anything. Where did the locusts come from? How did they get there? How did it happen all at once on the very hour and the very day that God said in advance it would happen?

Verse 14:

**Exodus 10:14.** And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous *were they*; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them [as] such. (KJV)

Now what this is telling us is this was a different type of insect. They had never seen this one before.

Verse 15:

**Exodus 10:15.** For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; (KJV)

In other words, there were such swarms in the air that it darkened the land. It blotted out the sun.

**Exodus 10:15b.** and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any green

thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt.  
(KJV)

That land was bare! It was the equivalent of a nuclear weapon going off and there were just stumps left. Nothing green! And if you think about it, one day the land is green and luscious, the hail did its damage; but then the next day, you wake up twenty-four hours later and once those locusts left and you could see the ground, then there was just dirt and sticks and twigs and trunks of trees.

The species of this locust, if you do some research on it, were like a large spotted locust, red and black, double winged grasshoppers. And they estimate they were approximately three inches long, each one. Now we don't know for sure, but they were big. They destroyed all the vegetation remaining from all the other plagues.

We had a sweet widow lady in the Church. She's dead now. Her name was Lorene O'Neal in the Yakima Church. And she grew up in eastern Montana as a young girl. She described a plague of locusts to me one day we were talking. And she said, "The locusts came over the land." And she said, "They were a few inches thick. And you could see parts of the land—not to the degree that we see here in Egypt—but they came and they just swarmed over everything." She says, "They got in your hair and your eyes and your ears and your clothes, in the houses." And she said, "We had a clothes line out in the back yard." And back in those days, they used wooden clothespins, no springs on them, just wooden clothespins. She said, "They ate every clothespin hanging on the line, every leaf, every twig"—this plague of locusts. So she understood what it was like to a degree.

But we see here this was far greater than anything Egypt had ever seen. And the fact is it took years and decades for them to regenerate their agricultural industry. And this is one of the reasons they posed no problem to Israel in the wilderness for those forty years. They were too busy trying to figure out how they're going to get the next bite of food.

What this plague did is force the Egyptians to eat the remaining animals which were their gods! They had to eat their own gods in order to survive. And now, here this God that's supposed to be more powerful than the Egyptians. They're turning around eating their own gods just to keep their belly full. Once again, God is showing them who is God and who is not god.

Now the Ninth Plague, Exodus 10 verse 21 through 23. This is the Plague of Darkness. Now this is something really special. We'll get to that in a second.

**Exodus 10:21.** And the [Eternal] said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness *which* may be felt.

What does He mean by that? "*Darkness which could be felt*," this is something that's not just like a moonless night—"darkness which could be felt."

**Exodus 10:22.** And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness (KJV)

Again this is a term that tells us the degree of darkness. Again we'll get into that in a minute.

**Exodus 10:22b.** a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: (KJV)

So this proves it's not just some cloud layer coming over for twenty-four hours or something like that.

Verse 23:

**Exodus 10:23.** They saw not one another, (KJV)

Now if you're in the house and you have your family next to you a few feet away, it says this darkness was so thick you couldn't see even a few feet. You couldn't see your own children. They were feeling around trying to find their families.

**Exodus 10:23.** They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. (KJV)

And undoubtedly Pharaoh sent spies to go into Goshen. And all of a sudden they walk into Goshen and something changed. The curtain lifts and there's light. And then they go back into Egypt. And the curtain comes down and they can't even see their hand at the end of their arm. And so it tells us again the power of God.

Now understand that the sun was the Egyptian's chief god. They worshipped the sun more than anything because the sun provided warmth. It provided photosynthesis for their crops. It provided light for them to work. It was their chief god.

But this, as we just read, was not an ordinary darkness. It was like a black cloud of doom. Josephus says that it was even difficult to breathe. So undoubtedly this was some kind of very black cloud or mist that made it difficult to breathe. And you couldn't see beyond your own face.

Now we had a little bit of that example. Dorothy and I live in Yakima, Washington. And in 1980 when Mount St. Helen's erupted, we were seventy miles directly down the wind. And it occurred in May on a Sunday morning. About 8:30 a.m. this dark cloud appeared off to the southwest and it began to grow and grow and grow. Being used to thunder storms in West Texas, I thought it was an unusual thunderstorm. We don't get that many.

And then all of a sudden as the cloud came over the top, you began to feel things on your arms and you could hear a pitter-patter on the leaves. And it was the granules of sand falling out from this cloud that was going overhead. And within

a couple of hours daylight turned to absolute dark! And it was a darkness unlike anything I had ever seen. Nothing compared to what the Egyptians went through. But the fact is by noon you couldn't see across the street. And this ash as it came down began to absorb all the light. And we went for twenty-four hours in total darkness. And this was a darkness that absorbed light.

Well, what we're being told here is that this was something that was far, far worse than that. And so, they could not only have difficulty seeing but difficulty breathing and they were lost!

I've been down in Carlsbad Caverns where they turn the lights out for a few seconds. They've stopped that now I'm told. But you could put your hand half an inch in front of your face and you could not see anything. The reason they stopped is some people got panicky. You know if you weren't holding your child's hand and that darkness occurred, and that little child could wander off and you'd never find him!

And obviously it caused great panic in the land of Egypt. What God did was He killed their sun god. He killed the sun god for seventy-two hours. He said, "You think your sun god is so powerful? It's come up in the east for centuries. I'm going to stop it. And I'm going to show you Who the real God is." And this got to them as much as anything if not more up to this point.

Now the Final Plague is the one that turned the trick. That is The Tenth, The Firstborn Being Slayed. We're going to read Exodus 11 verse 1 and then we're going to jump through various Scriptures as we go through this. Exodus 11 and verse 1:

**Exodus 11:1.** And the [Eternal] said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague *more* upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; (KJV)

This is the *coup de grâce*. This is the one that's going to be the turning point.

**Exodus 11:1b.** afterwards he will let you go [from here]: when he shall let *you* go, he shall surely thrust you out [of here] altogether. (KJV)

He's not just going to give you permission to go; he's going to chase you away because he doesn't want anymore plagues.

Verse 4:

**Exodus 11:4.** And Moses said, Thus saith the [Eternal], About midnight [again a specific time] I will go out into the [middle] of Egypt: 5) And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that [sits] upon [the] throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and [even] the firstborn of [all the animals]. (KJV)

God is not a respecter of persons. And we in the Church need to understand this. Just because somebody is wealthy or somebody has a good job or somebody is a minister or whatever doesn't give you a pass to God.



Verse 6:

**Exodus 11:6.** And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall [there] be [any] like it any more. (KJV)

Verse 7:

**Exodus 11:7.** But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that [you will] know how that the [Eternal puts] a difference between the Egyptians and Israel. (KJV)

And we'll see that as we talk about some of the lessons we learn from these plagues.

Now jumping to chapter 12 verse 29. And then we'll read verse 51.

**Exodus 12:29.** And it came to pass, that at midnight the [Eternal] smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that *was* in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. 30) And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; (KJV)

You can imagine if your firstborn child died. And, of course, in Egypt that firstborn child was going to be the next Pharaoh. And all of a sudden not only did Pharaoh fear for his life and for the life of the people—if he cared for them—but also his lineage was now in jeopardy.

**Exodus 12:30b.** there was a great cry in Egypt; for *there was* not a house where *there was* not one dead. (KJV)

Now this could possibly mean that if there was a household where there wasn't a firstborn that God went ahead and killed the family leader where there was not a firstborn, but in order to emphasize the point. That's a possibility. That would explain that Scripture.

Verse 51:

**Exodus 12:51.** And it came to pass the selfsame day, *that* the [Eternal] did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies. (KJV)

Now the fact is that by this time, by the Tenth Plague, Egypt was completely decimated except for what remained of their army.

Passover was the same date and same day as when Christ was slain. Now let's understand that there are reasons behind this.

Now we know later Pharaoh pursues, but he is brought to nothing. His army is killed. The animals are killed. We find that in Exodus 14, but that's not part of the subject today.

So let's ask the question:

What lessons can we learn from these plagues on Egypt and God's miracles? What lessons are there for us in the Church today?

The First One:

The Bible defines Egypt as a type of sin.

Let's go to Hebrews chapter II. We're going to read verses 24 through 27. Hebrews 11 verses 24 through 27, we're told:

**Hebrews 11:24.** By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, (NKJ)

He rejected his heritage—not his physical lineage, of course. We know that. But he grew up in Pharaoh's court. We understand that.

Verse 25:

**Exodus 11:25:** Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy [Notice this!] the pleasures of sin for a season; (KJV)

Living in Egypt was living in sin. And God acknowledges sin can be physically pleasurable for a very short period of time, but you pay for it later. And Moses had the character to follow God and reject all that was in Egypt. And Egypt represents sin.

Verse 26:

**Exodus 11:26.** Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; [and] he looked [for his] reward. (NKJ)

He looked for something greater after his physical life was over.

**Exodus 11:27.** By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him [referring to God the Father, Jesus Christ—the God of the Old Testament] who is invisible. (KJV)

He respected God more than he respected Pharaoh.

Revelation 11 and verse 8, we see that Egypt is put in the same category as Sodom. And we know both represent sin. Revelation 11 verse 8:

**Revelation 11:8.** And their dead bodies *shall lie* in the street of the great city [referring to the two witnesses], which spiritually [this great city] is

called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord [our Eternal] was crucified.  
(KJV)

And so we see by these two verses that the Bible identifies Egypt as a type of sin. So we need to understand that as we go forward.

The Second Lesson that we can learn—and this is the overriding lesson:

The plagues in the Exodus are a type of our conversion process.  
The plagues in the Exodus and those miracles associated with it  
are a type of our conversion process.

Now we know in John 6:44—we won't turn there—we're told that:

**John 6:44.** No man can come to me, except the Father which [is in  
heaven draws] him: (KJV)

God does the calling. And we come out of the world, we come out of sin.

Now notice Acts 2 and verse 39. This was after Peter had preached a powerful sermon and convinced the Jews that were there that through their actions Christ had to die. Through their sins, Christ had to die and pay the penalty for their sins. Notice what he said in Acts 2 verse 39:

**Acts 2:39.** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all  
that are afar off, (KJV)

Both Gentiles around the world at that time, but us today—notice:

**Acts 2:39b.** *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. (KJV)

A promise to us! And our eyes were opened and His Word began to make sense. God started a process of converting our minds from the sin of Egypt to look for a Kingdom, to look for something greater.

And so as with Israel, we came out of sin. Israel came out of Egypt through miracle after miracle after miracle, plague after plague after plague. And with us, we came out of sin by miracle after miracle after miracle in our lives. I'm sure we're going to be able to talk with God and Christ someday—maybe the angels someday—and They will tell us, "Well, you weren't aware of it, but back there I protected you," or "Back there you avoided this," or "Back there I taught you this lesson preparing you for the day when I would call you." Israel came out of Egypt. We came out of sin. There's that analogy—very powerful analogy.

We began keeping the Sabbath. We began keeping the Holy Days. We began tithing. And we began changing our behavior, and hopefully and most importantly changing our mind.

Notice Acts 3 and the beginning of verse 19. The people said to Peter—after he preached the sermon—they said, "Men and Brethren what do we do? We've

caused the Messiah to die! The Son of God to die! What do we do?" And the very first part of Acts chapter 3 verse 19, Peter said:

**Acts 3:19.** Repent [you] therefore, (KJV)

Of what you've done, the way you've lived, the life you've led.

**Acts 3:19b.** and be converted [that means be changed], that your sins [might] be blotted out, (KJV)

And we began that process. So as with Israel, we came out of sin.

Then as with Egypt, God began to destroy our gods. God destroyed every one of Egypt's gods to the point that they either died or they began to bite and eat the Egyptians or they stank. And God began to destroy their gods. But if you look back in your life—I look back in my life, God began to destroy my gods. My first god above all was to be a pilot in the United States Air Force. That came first. And God had to destroy my eyesight for a short period of time so I couldn't pass the physical to go into being a pilot in the U.S. Air Force.

Then my second god, simultaneously I was studying the martial arts. And I loved it. I thought about it. I dwelt on it. I meditated on it. I practiced for hours and hours every day. And that was my god. And God destroyed that because one morning I woke up with a lower back pain. And then within a few days and then weeks after that, I could hardly walk. I tried to practice and practice and finally you finally just give up. I said, "No, I can't do this anymore."

And in the meantime I was studying the Bible. Finally the light bulb goes on and you find the realization that maybe God doesn't want me to do this. Maybe I've been putting something in front of God. And, of course, it's something different with each and every one of you. We've had our own gods. And over time, God will destroy those gods just as He did with the Egyptians.

Look at Matthew 10 and verse 37. Christ tells us over and over again. Sometimes, even after we've been in the Church for decades, we can allow something to come between us and God. We can allow a god to replace God—our god with a small *g*. Notice Matthew 10 verse 37:

**Matthew 10:37.** "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. (NKJ)

He that loves job or career more than Me is not worthy of Me. He that loves sports or athletics or toys more than Me is not worthy of Me.

**Matthew 10:37b.** And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. (NKJ)

And God taught Egypt that lesson. He taught Israel that lesson. And He's teaching us that lesson today. As I said, the plagues on Egypt and the miracles are a direct analogy with our conversion and the process of our conversion.

As with Pharaoh, God destroyed pride and stubbornness. In Pharaoh's case, God had to destroy him with his pride and with his stubbornness. Now there's a lesson there. God is going to destroy pride and stubbornness one way or another. And if He has to destroy us eternally, He will do that because He's not going to allow people in His Kingdom that are prideful and that are stubborn. And there is a direct analogy with Pharaoh. Pharaoh would not repent. He would not change. And he had to die. If we don't repent of our pride, if we don't repent of our stubbornness, we will die too. Not in the Red Sea in a physical death. We will die an eternal death in the lake of fire.

Now what God is doing with us over a period of time is giving us time to destroy our gods and to destroy our pride and to destroy our stubbornness. Now Pharaoh had a very narrow window and that was a physical destruction. But the stakes are much higher with us. And so God gives us years, sometimes decades, to destroy our pride and our stubbornness.

1 John 2 and verse 16—a very familiar Scripture—God tell us that pride is something that all of us have to root out. Because if pride motivates us, in the Kingdom we would argue with God! We would try to succeed God. We would know better than God. That's exactly what Satan did! God's not going to repeat that! God is not going to have people in His Kingdom who want to assert themselves and their idea is better than God's idea. God's not going to have an arguing Family for an eternity. 1 John 2 and verse 16:

**I John 2:16.** For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and [the third one] the pride of life, [isn't] of the Father, but is of the world. (KJV)

It's of Egypt. It's of Pharaoh. And it's of Satan.

And we have to destroy our pride. We have to root it out and get ride of it. And I've seen that in myself over the years. And you think you push it down and then it pops up. And then you try to destroy and kill it and then it pops up again. It is just amazing that pride is one of the hardest things for us to overcome, but God is saying, "I'm not going to let your or let anybody into my Kingdom that is filled with pride."

Notice 1 Samuel 15 verse 23.

In addition to pride is stubbornness. God took ten plagues to get through to the Egyptians. How many trials is it going to take to get through our thick heads? Trial after trial, issue after issue and God sometimes hits us with a two-by-four between the eyes. Other times we slip and fall and get bruised. And He's teaching us lessons He wants us to learn.

1 Samuel 15 and verse 23:

**1 Samuel 15:23.** For rebellion *is* as the sin of witchcraft, (KJV)

Now think of that! There are people who would run away from *voodoo-ism* and witchcraft. But God is telling us that rebellion is just like that! Then He goes on to say:

**1 Samuel 15:23b.** stubbornness *is* as iniquity and idolatry. (KJV)

And we would never bow down in front of an idol, but, boy, we will get our back up and be stubborn very easily. And God is saying, "You get your back up, you get stubborn; that's just like bowing down in front of an idol." When are we going to get that message? And yet we run into stubbornness in ourselves and into others all the time. They know the right way. They know that their way is correct. They don't want to hear anything else. And it's "my way or the highway"! That is not going to work in the Kingdom of God. It's not going to work in the place of safety.

So we have to destroy pride and we have to destroy stubbornness in our lives. And here we are starting the Days of Unleavened Bread, which symbolize putting out sin, and the two areas we need to focus on in these last days is pride and stubbornness. And that is what destroyed Egypt and destroyed Pharaoh.

Another lesson we can learn is:

As with Egypt, over time we should see that we are nothing.

And my guess is as Pharaoh was under the water and drowning, hopefully he realized "Compared to God, this God of Israel, this God that I didn't know, I am nothing." You hope he learns that. And when he is resurrected, you hope he pops up and that is the first thing that's on his mind is that "Uh oh, I've screwed up. I have miserably failed."

Let's go to 2 Samuel chapter 7 and verse 18 and look at David's attitude.

David wanted to build a temple. And he told Nathan, "I want to do this." And Nathan said, "Go ahead and do what's in your heart." And then God came to Nathan and said, "Unh uh. That's not what's going to happen here. I want you to go back to David and I want you to tell him that he's been a bloody man and he is not going to build the temple. His son will. I will allow his son. And I will allow him to prepare the materials and the money necessary to build the temple. So Nathan went back to David and he told him that.

Now David could have gotten into a snit about it. He could have just done a little dance and a hissy fit because "No, I want to do that. I want to build the temple. Look at what I've done for you, God! It's my duty. It's my mandate to build the temple. It's my right to build the temple, but David didn't do that. He agreed with God because he had humility. And notice in 2 Samuel 7 verse 18:

**2 Samuel 7:18.** Then went king David in, and sat before the [Eternal] (KJV)

And notice his attitude!

**2 Samuel 7:18b.** Who *am* I, O Lord GOD? (KJV)

What he's saying is "I'm nothing. I'm just a little stinking human being and I'm going to die pretty soon and I am nothing compared to You."

**2 Samuel 7:18 continued.** what *is* my house, (KJV)

He said, "You're allowing my son to build this temple. What a blessing that is to me!" He says:

**2 Samuel 7:18 continued.** what *is* my house, that [you have] brought me [to this point]? (KJV)

"As king of Israel with wealth, and at that time peace and here my son is going to reign in my stead and what a blessing that is!" And He says, "I'm nothing."

And we have to get to the point where we are not large in our eyes. And that our way doesn't have to prevail. And we don't have some agenda that has to happen or we're going to get into a little snit about it. Because I've learned over the years—I've been in the Church almost forty-five years now—and I've learned over the years that my way means nothing. And my agenda—I don't have an agenda anymore. Finally God's beat it out of me.

We're all little children and all we can do is stick our hand up in the air and say, "God, take my hand. Lead me where You want me to go" because I don't have the intelligence, I don't have the wisdom to know where God wants me to go. And none of you do either. And all we have to do is be humble and ask for God's will to be done. Then we'll be in harmony with God.

Now Pharaoh had his own agenda. He was going to do what he was going to do. He wasn't going to let those Israelites go. And look what happened!

The longer we're converted the more we should see our smallness as compared to God and that we have no rights. We have no entitlements. God doesn't owe us a thing. And it's only through His grace and His mercy that we were called and that we have been given His holy spirit and that we are alive and we have a chance to be in His Kingdom. And beyond that we should say, "God, just take me. Lead me to serve Your people. Show me the path You want me to go and we'll be happy as clams."

So as with Pharaoh, the final lesson that we're going to talk about—we just talked about as God did with Egypt over time, maybe they learned that they were nothing. We learn that we're nothing. And the final lesson we want to talk about:

As Pharaoh did with Israel, Satan pursues us.

You notice after they left, Satan gathered what was left of his army, went in hot pursuit of Israel. Now we know that Pharaoh is also a type of Satan. And once we're baptized, Satan comes after us. And he comes after us every day, as we know, as a roaring lion seeking whom he may destroy.

Now we won't turn there but the last sermon I gave we talked about John 10 and The Parable of the Sheepfold. And Satan's agenda is to steal and to kill and to destroy. To steal God's people away from the Church, turn them away from the Church back into the world, to kill them physically if he possibly can, and then to destroy them eternally. That is his agenda. He does not want to see anybody in God's Kingdom because he knows he's not going to be there and he doesn't want anybody else there either. And so he pursues us to get us off track.

Look at Matthew 10 and verse 27.

How do we overcome Satan's agenda? How did Israel overcome Satan's agenda?

Do you remember when Moses was standing at the edge of the Red Sea? He basically told them, "Stand still and watch the power of God!" And he stretched forth his hand and this miracle occurred. (It wasn't a little wind blowing and two inches of water! That just blows my mind! I get angry. I stopped watching those programs when I see that because I get angry.) He took this giant body of water and He performed a miracle.

I think I said Matthew. Mark 10 and verse 27:

**Mark 10:27.** And Jesus looking upon them [said], (KJV)

And this is one thing we have burn into our minds!

**Mark 10:27b.** With men *it is* impossible, (KJV)

And yet scientists and "*religious authors*" and scholars try to explain the unexplainable by some kind of physical means.

**Mark 10:27b.** With men *it is* impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. (KJV)

And the greatest miracle God can perform is the changing of a human mind through the power of His holy spirit. All we have to do is let it happen and not be a stumbling block or a road block by getting our back up, by getting our stubbornness and pride up. It's a barrier to God's holy spirit. We cannot allow that to happen.

And here we are in the Days of Unleavened Bread—starting the Days of Unleavened Bread. We need to spend this coming week rooting out pride and rooting out stubbornness. Look at 1 Corinthians 15 and verse 57. If we do that—not just during the Days of Unleavened Bread but—for every day of the



rest of our life, if we root out pride and stubbornness, there is a victory. 1 Corinthians 15 and verse 57:

**1 Corinthians 15:57.** But thanks *be* to God, [who gives] us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (KJV)

The victory comes from the Father and the Son. Not from our efforts. Not from our wisdom. Not from our ability. It comes through the Father and the Son living in us, motivating us and changing our minds, our very minds. Therein lies the victory.

Now let's understand that there's a huge difference between ancient Israel, the Israel of the Old Testament, and the Israel of the New Testament, us. Huge difference! Because we have been baptized we have the spirit of God. They didn't. And it's not through anything we've done. Not through any great thing that we have done. It's through the mercy and the grace of God.

And we've been back to Acts chapter 2 and Acts chapter 3. Let's go for a final Scripture back in Acts chapter 2 verse 38 because they said, "Men and Brethren, what do we do? What do we do? And Peter said unto them in Acts 2 verse 38, he said:

**Acts 2:38b.** Repent, and be baptized (KJV)

We've done that. We have done that.

**Acts 2:38 continued.** [And] every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for (KJV)

What?

**Acts 2:38 continued.** the [putting away] of [your] sins, and [then you] shall receive the gift of the Holy [spirit]. (KJV)

Now this is a cycle. You repent. God gives you His spirit.

Now that cycle doesn't end once you're baptized because once you come out of the water at baptism that is the first time in your life you have been sin free. That is an enormous joy to somebody who's just been baptized and they come out of that water and God looks at them as a newborn lamb white as snow. No sin whatsoever! But after that, yes, we're going to sin. Then we repent. Then we're white as snow again. And then God gives us more of His holy spirit as we repent. As we ask for His spirit, then He gives us more power to recognize—opening of our mind—more power to see greater sins in our life or more subtle sins in our life. And then we see those; we repent; God forgives; and then we ask for more of His holy spirit.

And over the years and over decades, we grow in rooting sin out of our lives as symbolized by the Days of Unleavened Bread as we put away leavening, which as we know is an analogy of sin, represents sin. Over the decades, we put out

more and more sin. We become more and more like God the Father and Jesus Christ. This cycle is repeated every day of our lives. When we exercise God's spirit, when we use God's spirit, He gives us more of it. Then we have a greater ability to see ourselves, repent of what we see, and make changes in our life.

And so these Days of Unleavened Bread, as we look back into what happened with Egypt, we can only marvel at the power and the glory of God in His authority to make things happen when He says they're going to happen. Now this same authority, this same power is available to us every day of our lives through His holy spirit—the power to put sin out of our lives, the power to reject Satan, the power to reject the world, the power to reject pride and stubbornness, and the power to be in harmony with God and Jesus Christ.

Because you see we would have unity in the greater Church of God if all of us were like Jesus Christ. Then we'd all be alike. There wouldn't be any barriers. There wouldn't be arguing. There wouldn't be fighting. And so the idea is we're scattered all over the place. People are fighting, throwing rocks at each other, and the more we become like Jesus Christ, the more we grow toward the central image of the knowledge of Christ, the closer we will become.

And I believe a certain group, who yearn for that, who want that, are growing closer to Jesus Christ and they will come together in the image of Christ. It's not any man's doing. It's not any human's doing. It's people wanting to be like their Daddy. People wanting to be like their elder Brother and they come together in order to be in the image, in the fullness of the stature of Jesus Christ. Because then, and only then, will Christ marry them.

And so let's remember every day of the Days of Unleavened Bread that part of our walk on this earth is to become like our elder Brother and to become like our Father. And we do that by putting away sin. And let us remember the examples of what happened to Egypt. And let's understand that that is an analogy of our conversion process. And let's learn *The Lessons from the Plagues of Egypt and the Miracles that Occurred at that Time*.

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