

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Ten

The Ten Plagues of Egypt

The time came according to the promise to Abraham that God sent his servant Moses to deliver the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage. There arose a Pharaoh, who knew not Joseph, and he afflicted the children of Israel with grievous and hard bondage. God sent Moses and Aaron to deliver God's commandment to Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go and serve Him.

Ten times God commanded Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go and ten times Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to let the children of Israel go. After each refusal, God sent a plague upon Egypt. The ten plagues were these:

1. Water turned to blood
2. Frogs over all the land
3. Lice
4. Flies
5. Murrain and death of livestock
6. Blains and boils on the bodies
7. Hail
8. Locusts
9. Darkness over all the land
10. Death of the firstborn.

According to Heb. 2:2, "every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward." Beginning with Adam, God has pronounced judgment upon sin. The wages of sin is death. God brings every sin to his bar of justice and executes

judgment against it. There is no such thing as anyone ever getting away with a single sin before God. Every sin is punished.

The plagues of Egypt declare unto us that God will not be mocked and that disobedience to his commandments is a gravely serious matter before God. Yet in these plagues, we also see the grace of God.

In the last plague, God's grace is abundantly manifest to his elect children. Ex. 11:4 "And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: 5 And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn 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. 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. 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 doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel."

In executing the death of the firstborn in the land of Egypt, God's justice was still satisfied both upon the Egyptians and upon the children of Israel. We may ask, "How was God's justice satisfied upon the children of Israel as none of the firstborn of the Israelites died that night?" The answer is found in the ordinance of the Passover lamb. Under the Passover ordinance, each house of the children of Israel was to take a lamb and keep it penned up from the **tenth** day of the first month until the fourteenth day of the first month and then to sacrifice it in the evening of the fourteenth day. The blood of the Passover lamb was to be sprinkled on the upper doorpost and the two side posts of all the houses of the children of Israel. God would Passover all the houses in which there was blood sprinkled on the upper doorpost and the two side posts.

The Passover lamb was a figure of Jesus Christ. He is the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the elect world. The Passover lamb was to be penned on the **tenth** day. This shows us in type that Christ came under the law: Gal. 4:4 "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Christ came under the law and kept the law to a jot and a tittle and because he was without sin and perfect in every detail, he was the perfect Passover Lamb to satisfy the just demands of God to suffer God's punishment of the sins of the elect on behalf of the elect.

Just as the children of Israel were passed over in judgment, so the elect of God are passed over in judgment as the judgment of their sins was satisfied in the person of Jesus Christ who suffered for us that he might redeem us to God.

