

One Night In Egypt

Long Beach Alliance Church • April 3rd, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Moses said, “Thus says the LORD, ‘About midnight I am going out into the midst of Egypt... there shall be a great cry in all the land of Egypt, such as there has not been before and such as shall never be again.’ ”

~Exodus 11:4 & 6 (NASB)

1) Where We’ve Been...

- A) After the heated exchange between Pharaoh and Moses at the conclusion of the darkness plague (Exodus 10:21-29), the narrative shifts to a momentary panoramic recapitulation of the entire series of plagues.
- B) The beginning of this “recap” section (11:1-3) takes a look at God’s earlier prophecy to Moses (3:20-22; 4:21-23). The NIV translation captures the sense well, “Now the LORD *had said* to Moses...” (11:1).
- C) The memory of the previous prophecy serves to reintroduce the idea of Israel’s emancipation from Egypt to the reader, as if to say, “Now, let’s get back to Egypt releasing Israel from slavery...”
- D) As an emphasis of the complete dominance which God has accomplished over Egypt, the reader is also reminded of how Egypt will contribute to Israel’s well being in departing Egypt, driven out by Pharaoh (11:1-3).

2) Where We Are...

- A) The narrative then shifts back into the throne room during the plague of darkness with Pharaoh and Moses in a heated exchange (11:4-8).
- B) It’s almost like Moses, on his way out from his verbal fight with Pharaoh (10:24-29), has a “parting shot” from the Lord to Pharaoh, predicting a final fatal plague (11:4-6).
- C) In a distinctive moment of asserting the truth in the face of Pharaoh, Moses prophesies that the people of Egypt will bow down to Moses (instead of Pharaoh), and only then will Moses and God’s people depart Egypt (11:7-8). You can smell the smoke of Moses & Pharaoh’s exchange!

3) Where We Are Heading...

- A) Finally, after the angry outbursts between Moses and Pharaoh in the throne room, God reminds Moses that everything that has happened was in His plan (11:9).
- B) As a capstone statement over all the previous plagues, Moses and Aaron are pictured (in a panoramic narrative overview) accomplishing all nine of the plagues against Egypt, each one asserting God’s authority over Egypt (11:10).
- C) As each of the plagues has completed before this, the first nine plagues are summarized in the typical fashion of noting the “hard heart” of Pharaoh against God. As though to throw the ultimate gauntlet down, Pharaoh refuses to let God’s people go (11:10), initiating the final plague.

For further discussion with your family, spouse, or small group study... What do you think the effect of the first nine plagues would have been on God’s chosen people, Israel? If you would have been one of the Israelite slaves living in Goshen, would you have been excited for the future? Do you feel that God is dealing in a fair manner with Egypt through the plagues? In what ways does God express His grace to people through the plague stories?