



Sermon Notes from 14 April

Used for Cosmic Glory (*Exodus 7:8-10:29*)

by Johanan Justin

Ex. 6:3 - In the Hebrew's wait for liberation and mass departure (Exodus) from Egypt, God leads them to fully discover who He is. They discover that God is Supreme. While the Supremacy of God can seem controversial, strange-sounding and inconsistent to us, a good way to respond is to talk about it.

4 Controversial Elements | Let's Talk About:

1) Moses' Lack of Confidence (Ex. 7:8-10)

There is an absence of Moses' usual lack of confidence. The hesitant and doubtful Moses we saw has been remarkably transformed. God is Supreme over His Messenger. Where there was fear, doubt, and unfruitfulness, God brought confidence, ability and unshakable faith. This Supreme God is our God!

2) Pharaoh's Magicians & their Secret Arts (Ex. 7:11)

Pharaoh's magicians responded to God's sign by doing the same through the secret arts. While their magic may have been supernatural (Mt. 24:24), it was not from God. In contrast, the source of Aaron's supernatural act was God Himself. The Egyptian magicians could only imitate another two plagues (Ex. 8:19) and were completely overcome by God at the sixth plague, they fled (Ex.9:11).

God chose to use supernatural plagues against the Egyptians to oppose the gods of the land. God challenged and overcame the entire pantheon of Egyptian gods. God is showing Himself as supreme over the heavens, the spiritual and the supernatural. Turn away from false gods to the mighty God, Yahweh!

3) The Snake Fight (Ex. 7:12)

Even before the ten plagues, the winner was already decided. The magicians could only imitate the Nile-related plagues, but God has mastery over the elements. He created, commanded and destroyed life, establishing Himself as Supreme over the

earth. Place your confidence in God and turn to Him now!

4) Pharaoh's Hardened Heart (Ex. 7:13)

A hardened heart is an image of a person moving further away from obeying God and sinking deeper into unrepentant rebellion.

Ro. 1:21 - Although Pharaoh knew God, he did not honour God as God. He became futile in his thinking and his heart was hardened. God's response to sinful men is to give them up (Ro. 1:24,26,28). *God hardens the heart – not by squeezing tighter – but by letting go.* God was shaping Pharaoh's path according to His will and purposes (Ex. 9:16). Even on this side of the cross, God's Supremacy still holds true (Ro. 9:17). God is self-sufficient and turns to no one for counsel (Eph. 1:11). He decides on His own terms whom to show mercy to, and whom to harden (Ro. 9:18-19). In our hostility to this truth, God responds by having us know our place (Ro. 9:20-21). God is Supreme over the hearts, wills and destinies of men.

5) The Heart of God's Supremacy

While God promised afflictions (Ge. 15:13), He did so to make Himself known to the Hebrews (Ex. 10:2), Egyptians (Ex. 7:5) and all the earth (Ex. 9:16). The heart of God's Supremacy is the glory of His Name. Everything that God allows to happen is all for **His glory**. Only God is worthy to take the center place of the universe. *Make His glory the center of your life* (Ps. 57:5, 1 Co. 10:31)!

At the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), the Pharisees realised their tactics would not work (Jn. 12:19). The only way was Jesus' death which God allowed. By His blood, people from every tribe and tongue were bought over to His glory (Re. 5:9). These would be the same people attending the heavenly Palm Sunday, declaring salvation belongs to God (Re. 7:10)!