

Dear Friend,

I remember the first time I saw the 1956 movie titled "The Ten Commandments." The special effects that were in it mesmerized me at the time. The Red Sea parted, the pillar of fire by night, the pillar of cloud by day, the rod turning into a serpent when it was cast down. I was about ten years old at the time and those images have stayed with me to this day.

I also remember that the first plague of judgment brought upon Egypt was the turning the waters of the Nile into blood. My ten-year-old mind watched in amazement at the power of this almighty God as He did with utmost ease that which is impossible for man.

It was many years later that I found out "why" the first judgment was turning the waters of the Nile into blood. I knew that Pharaoh had ordered the death of all the newborn Hebrew male children during the time period that Moses was born, but it was many years later before this single verse revealed to me "how" Pharaoh ordered the babies to be killed.

**Exodus 1:22 And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.**

They slaughtered the children of God's people **by drowning them in the Nile river!** From God's perspective, the waters of the Nile were running red with the blood of His children. What God saw in the realm of the spirit, He wanted all of Egypt to see in the realm of the natural. He wanted Pharaoh to know that this heinous sin had not gone unnoticed by the God of the Hebrews!

**Proverbs 6:16-19 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: (17) A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, (18) An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, (19) A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.**

The Egyptians revered the Nile river as one of its many gods. To them, the Nile brought life to the people because they irrigated their crops with its plenteous waters. But the God of the Hebrews was showing Pharaoh that the Nile was simply a work of His own hands, and He could do with it as He wills.

I will not speak of the next eight plagues that came upon Egypt in this short letter, but it is a fascinating Bible study. Each plague showed the powerlessness of the so-called "gods" of Egypt, and the almighty power of Jehovah, the only true and living God. But let us speak of the tenth plague, because it is connected to the first, the shedding of innocent blood.

**Exodus 11:4-6 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.**

The lives of the Hebrew babies had meant nothing at all to Pharaoh. We are not told how many thousands of those babies perished in the Nile while Pharaoh continued to eat lavish meals and drink fine wine in his palace. But each and every one of those little lives were precious to the God and Father in heaven. Just as the Nile turning to blood was God rendering judgment for Pharaoh's shedding of innocent blood, now payment in full for the lives that were destroyed was being required by the death of Egypt's firstborn children. The scales of justice were balanced in full measure.

**Psalms 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**

But notice this, God makes a difference between the world and His people.

**Exodus 11:7 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.**

Most modern translations say something like, "Among the Israelites it will be so peaceful that not even a dog will bark." Hallelujah! God knows how to bring judgment upon the wicked while preserving his people. But how did He preserve them? Through the observance of the Passover.

In this short letter there is not space enough to teach at length on the Passover, but what caused the plague of death to "pass over" the Israelites so that the judgment would not come upon them?

**Exodus 12:13 But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt.**

That was a foreshadowing of the blood of Jesus shed for us. All judgment was laid upon Jesus when He suffered and died on the cross for us. When you receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord, it is as though His blood is painted on the doorposts of your heart. When the Lord renders judgment upon the world, that judgment will pass over every person when the Lord "sees the blood."

Your fellow servant for Christ,

*GARY*