

²⁷ But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go. ²⁸ Pharaoh said to Moses, “Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die.”

²⁹ “Just as you say,” Moses replied. “I will never appear before you again.”

- Chapter 11 is a continuation of the conversation Pharaoh and Moses had in Chapter 10 after 9th plague. Notice it doesn't say Moses left.

¹ Now the Lord **had said** to Moses (This is God talking to Moses prior to this conversation/ past tense), “I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. (This is the first time the word PLAGUE is used but he says “one more” implying the previous 9 were plagues too.) After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely.

- **This is a prophecy. Let me take a prophetic tangent filled with common sense and righteous indignation.** Prophecy today in churches isn't Biblical Prophecy. Today's prophets are like fortune cookies. “Something difficult is going to come you're your life this year.” (Oh, you think so, do ya!) “God's gonna bless you in a mighty way this year.” **Captain Obvious, can you be more specific, because that's how someone who doesn't know what is going to happen and who doesn't have control guesses what may happen in the future?**
- **God doesn't guess!** God is very specific because He is not only predicting something, but He's the cause of who, when, where, why and what happens.
- **It's called the sovereignty of God, and we see it clearly here in chapter 11.**
- Verse 4 tells us **when?**- About midnight Vs 5 says **Who?** – Every firstborn. Vs 5. **Where?** In Egypt. **What?** Will die from Pharaoh's son to the son of the female slave. Vs. 7 **Why?** You will know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. And vs 1, **Why?** So, Pharaoh will let God's people go.

God is not reacting to Pharaoh. God is in control. That's why God can tell Moses what's going to happen before it happens.

God is sovereign, even in the midst of Pharaoh's free will.

² Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbors for articles of silver and gold.” ³ (The Lord made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh's officials and by the people.)

- Pharaoh still didn't want God's people to leave Egypt, but the people of Egypt wanted them gone. They were willing to give them silver and gold to persuade them to leave.

When God delivers you from your old life, He equips you with everything you need so you will never have to return.

- Holy Spirit- Power - God provides for His Children like he provides for the birds.
- When Jesus was with the disciples, he gave them authority (Equipped them).
- When Jesus ascended and left, he gave Christians the Holy Spirit (to equip them)
- **This gold and jewels that are given will eventually be part of the temple and the sacred vessels and the sanctuary and the priests breastplate.**

⁴ So Moses said, “This is what the Lord says: So, after Pharaoh said the next time you see my face you'll die, Moses says, “I'll never appear before you again and then continues by saying this on God's behalf. . . ‘About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. ⁵ Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well.

Why is God going to kill ever firstborn son in Egypt? I mean, why not just kill Pharaoh? Why must all these people suffer too?

Exodus 4:21-23 ²¹ The Lord said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. ²² Then say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son,’ ²³ and I told you, “Let my son go, so he may worship me.” But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.”

- You've been killing my son. I will kill yours.
- **You thought you were going to get away with enslaving and killing my firstborn after doing it for 400 years.**

Some of you think that because you've been doing something for most of your life you are going to get away with it and God doesn't care. Take the lesson.

- **So, this plague will make NO distinction between male, female, rich or poor, vocation or species.**

⁶ There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. **So, what distinction will there be?** ⁷ But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal.' Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. **While there is crying and wailing heard all over Egypt, not even the dogs will make a fuss among the Israelites.** Dogs freak out over the wind blowing. So, Moses tells Pharaoh there will be a distinct difference between how God treats the Egyptians here and how He treats the Jews. But He doesn't tell him how? The means for saving the Jews.

- The way is this. **Those who trust God, evidenced by obedience, will be saved. Everyone else will face judgment.** This plague warns us that death is coming to all who refuse to submit to Jesus.
- **Only through faith in the blood of a lamb** on the Israelite's doorframe that they were saved from death. **Only through faith in the shed blood of Jesus** that anyone is saved from death caused by our sin.

You see, not all gods are the same. There is a distinct difference between what will happen to God's people and what will happen to everyone who serves every other god.

- Liberals peddles this in the name of tolerance but at the expense of truth.
- **The point of this last plague is that Everyone would know that not all gods are the same.** There is the God of Israel who is real and everything else is false and will be judged.

The blind men and the Elephant. Analogy used to explain how we all worship the same God but from different perspectives and with different experiences.

- One blind man tail=like rope. Tusk=spear leg = like a tree. Side = like a wall.

- This argument is used to try to say that our subjective experiences don't necessarily mean that what we believe contradicts what others experience.
- **The story is a call to turn away from the arrogance that individual religions have when they claim to have the true God.**

Here's the problem! In order to tell the story, you have to do exactly what the story is teaching you not to do. Claim you know the truth about the Elephant!

Who are the blind men in the story? The humans with all different perspectives. Then who is not blind so they can tell us that the object is actually an Elephant?

The Narrator. The story, itself, does not allow for any people on earth to see the whole elephant for themselves. They are ALL blind. That's the storytellers point!

God the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; The God of Moses and the Israelites; The God of those who follow Jesus is a God who knows that there is not way for you to know the truth about Him unless He reveals Himself to you.

1. God is revealing that He is the only true God in the Plagues of Egypt.
2. God ultimately reveals Himself by personally showing up on Earth in the person of Christ so the blind would finally see.

Matt 11:2-6 ² *When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"* **(I want to make sure I am seeing the whole elephant. That I'm right about who You are. That I'm right about who God is. Because others are saying something different.)** ⁴ *Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."* **I showed up so you could see and understand who God is, not so you would tumble in your blindness.**

John 14:9a *Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.*

⁸ *All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, 'Go, you and all the people who follow you!' After that I will leave."* **Pharaoh, we will leave Egypt, and it won't just be by permission. You and the rest of Egypt will command us to leave.** *Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.*

Why is Moses angry when all the Israelites are about to be freed? It's the day before Independence Day, Baby! *Destructive defiance is frustrating.*

⁹ *The Lord had said to Moses, "Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you—so that my wonders may be multiplied in Egypt."* ¹⁰ *Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his country.* **There is only one true God and only one true way to escape death. Just as the Jews had to put faith in the blood of the Lamb on their doorposts, we put our faith in the blood of the Lamb Jesus. It's death place of our death. This is the only way.** *Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*