

SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2018

SERMON NOTES

"God of Power"

Psalm 135

Exodus 6:1-12, 7:1-7

"I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God." (Psalm 6:6-7)

"If the Israelites will not listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me." (Exodus 6:12)

I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my people ... the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out." (Exodus 7:4-5)

“Know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.” (Psalm 135:5-6)

Plagues, plagues, and more plagues...

“I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, he will not listen to you.” (Exodus 7:3-4)

“We should consider whether the phrase can be understood in this way: ‘I shall harden,’ as if he were saying, “I shall show you how hard his heart is.”
St. Augustine

“He struck down the firstborn of Egypt, the firstborn of people and animals. He sent his signs and wonders into your midst, Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants.” (Psalm 135:8-9)

The Passover

“During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! ...Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go.” (Exodus 12:31-32)

The Power of the Cross

“God is indeed all powerful, but God’s power is not like raw human power but is instead a love that takes the form of weakness, a power expressed most dramatically on the cross. We think we want God to plunge into creation with a machete and to slash away at evil. It is not that this is somehow out of God’s range of power; it is that this kind of use of power is out of God’s range of character.”

Thomas Long

Additional Notes:

Questions for Further Reflection and Conversation...

- **Have you ever felt like God has claimed you as his own? If so, when and how?**
- **Do you ever resist listening to God's word?**
- **When/how have you seen God's power displayed?**
- **How do you react to the 10 plagues? How do the plagues affect your view/understanding of God?**
- **Is your heart ever hard, like Pharaoh's?**
- **Why doesn't God move in power, like the 10 plagues, today?**
- **How is the cross God's ultimate display of power?**