

Evening Worship August 26, 2018
"Water to Blood, Wine" Exodus 7:14-25

- I. *By looking with New Testament glasses, we can see this miracle as an example of law and justice over against Christ's bringing of grace and truth –*

For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17 NKJ)

1. *This first plague was an example of the perfect justice of God –*
A. *The Nile, the river, was the weapon Pharaoh used against God's people –*

So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive." (Exodus 1:22 NKJ)

- B. *God would use this river to bring about the salvation of His chosen deliverer –*

But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. (Exodus 2:3 NKJ)

And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water." (Exodus 2:10 NKJ)

- C. *However here we also see Egypt's final judgment prefigured:*
• *They killed Israel's boy babies in water, for they feared they might one day become a mighty army –*

Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.⁹ And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we;¹⁰ "come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land." (Exodus 1:8-10 NKJ)

- *Their mighty army would be drowned in water –*

^{NKJ} **Exodus 15:1 Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! (Exodus 15:1 NKJ)**

Just as wicked Haman would later build a gallows for Mordecai and ended up hanging on it himself, so Pharaoh calculates that he would destroy Israel's army by throwing them as babies in the river, but has his own army "thrown" both horse and rider, into the sea by God!

He made a pit and dug it out, and has fallen into the ditch which he made.¹⁶ His trouble shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown. (Psalm 7:15-16 NKJ)

2. *Second, this miracle of turning the waters of the Nile into blood shows us God's dominance over the false God's of the Egyptians –*

"In order to understand these plagues we need to understand that they were directed against the gods and goddesses of Egypt and were intended to show the superiority of the God of Israel to the Egyptian gods. There were about eighty major deities in Egypt, all clustered about the three great natural forces of Egyptian life: the Nile river, the land, and the sky. It does not surprise us, therefore, that the plagues God sent against Egypt in this historic battle follow this three-force pattern. The first two plagues were against the gods of the Nile. The next four were against the land gods. The final four plagues were against the gods of the sky, culminating in the death of the firstborn."

James Boice

Many of these so-called gods were related to the river –

- A. *Sobek – the crocodile god*
B. *Osiris, the ruler of the entire earth, the Nile was considered his bloodstream.*
C. *Hapy – was the god of creation and fertility, this god may have seemed to live by the Nile since it was so fertile, normally –*

Thus says the LORD: "By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood.¹⁸ "And the fish that are in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river." (Exodus 7:17-18 NKJ)

- D. *The Nile itself was considered a god –*
"Hail to thee, O Nile, that issues from the earth and comes to keep Egypt alive." Part of the Hymn to the Nile

II. Through Moses God showed Himself superior to the gods of Egypt but Christ is superior to Moses –

1. *Moses' miracles condemn sin, as does the law / Jesus' miracles show He has the power to forgive sin*
2. *Moses makes water into blood / Jesus makes water into wine –*

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. ³ And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." ⁴ Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." ⁶ Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And He said to them, "Draw *some* out now, and take *it* to the master of the feast." And they took *it*. ⁹ When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. ¹⁰ And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the *guests* have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" ¹¹ This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. (John 2:1-11 NKJ)

3. *Wine that would symbolize His own blood by which He would wash our sins –*

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJ)

III. Pharaoh's heart was not softened by this miracle, nor were unbelievers in Jesus' day softened by His –

1. *This miracle brought death –*

²¹ The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. ²² Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said. ²³ And Pharaoh turned and went into his house. Neither was his heart moved by this. ²⁴ So all the Egyptians dug all around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the river. ²⁵ And seven days passed after the LORD had struck the river. (Exodus 7:21-25 NKJ)

2. *Jesus' miracle brought life –*

Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up *His* eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² "And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me." ⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" ⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

- A. *Physical Life - :44*

- B. *Spiritual life / faith - :45*

⁴⁵ Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.

3. *However, just as Pharaoh's heart was hardened, so were the hearts of the Pharisees. On the same day Jesus raised Lazarus, the leaders among the Jews, knowing of the miracle, plotted more seriously to kill Jesus - :46-48*

⁴⁶ But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. ⁴⁷ Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. ⁴⁸ "If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation." (John 11:41-48 NKJ)

Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death. (John 11:53 NKJ)

- A. *They even plotted to kill Lazarus –*

But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, ¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. (John 12:10-11 NKJ)

- B. *How sad it is to have a heart hardened to commit greater sin and bring on your head greater condemnation!*

IV. In contrast to the blood in the Nile, Jesus' blood gives life -

Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ "For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. (John 6:53-55 NKJ)

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