

God's Dividing Line

Text: Exodus 8:19-24

Introduction:

1. Our text is taken during the time of the plagues brought upon Egypt by God for not allowing His people to go.
 - a. In the fourth plague, the plague of the swarms, God distinguished between the Egyptians and the Israelites who resided in Goshen.
 - b. Moses does not use the word “flies” in this passage-he used the word “swarms”-the phrase “of flies” was added by the translators.
 - c. The swarms could very well be beetle's with the scarab beetle as the beetle in question (*this beetle is still worshipped as a god in Egypt today*)
 - d. God's plagues were not only brought upon the people of Egypt but upon their false gods that they worshipped.
 - i. **Amon-Ra**, the creator and king of the gods, had the head of a beetle.
 - ii. *“Ra, the Sale Creator was visible to the people of Egypt as the disc of the sun, but they knew him in many other forms. He could appear as a crowned man, a falcon or a man with a falcon's head and, as the scarab beetle pushes a round ball of dung in front of it, the Egyptians pictured Ra as a scarab pushing the sun across the sky.”*
 - iii. The scarab was actually a dung beetle-an insect which feeds on the dung in the fields.
 - iv. The plague of swarms of scarabs, with mandibles (*various mouth organs of invertebrates used for seizing and biting food*) that could saw through wood, was destructive and worse than termites!
2. But, God put “redemption” between His people and the Egyptians (**Exodus 8:23**).
3. This morning we are going to look at that dividing line that God has put between the Egyptians and the Israelites of Goshen and make an application for us today.

The Dividing Line Has Been Drawn!!!

I. Pharaoh refuses to let Israel go (v19)

- A. Pharaoh did not let Israel go to worship the true God (**v19**)
 1. His motive was selfishness
 2. His motive was for control (**Exodus 1:11**)

3. His motive was for power
 4. His motive was that he did not want Israel to worship anyone else except himself
- B. The same rationale can be used with Satan that he does not want anyone to worship the true God
1. His motive is selfishness in that he does not want anyone to come to God ([2 Corinthians 4:3-4](#))
 2. His motive is for control ([Romans 6:16](#))
 3. His motive is for power
 4. His motive is that he does not want anyone to worship the true God but himself
 - a) This is done by worshipping the worldly things
 - b) This is done by allowing temptations of the world to overcome us

II. God to bring swarms upon Egypt (v24)

- A. Because of the hardness of heart of the Pharaoh, God brought swarms upon Egypt
1. Bringing disease, stench and purification of anything that they touched.
 2. Bringing with them the power as displayed by God. (v22)
 3. Bringing with them the sorrow and havoc brought upon the Egyptians because of their leader. (v21)
 4. These swarms were to be a message against the ungodliness of the Egypt in their worship of false gods.
- B. Today, because of the hardness of man's heart, God allows man to 'find out the hard way' from the futility of the bad choices that he makes.
1. Suffering from the consequences of the sins of the flesh ([Galatians 5:19-21](#))
 2. Physically and mentally paying the high price of riotous living. ([Luke 15:11-32](#))
 3. Finding out that the sins of the flesh bring 'temporal' joy with no long lasting hope. ([2 Corinthians 4:18](#); [Hebrews 11:25](#))

III. Land of Goshen shall be protected from the swarms by God's dividing line. (v22)

- A. God set up a dividing line between His people and the Egyptians
1. Whereby:
 - a) The Egyptians and everything in their land would encounter the plague of the swarms.

- b) They would pay the penalty of suffering for their wrongdoings
- B. Whereby the Israelites were protected:
 - a) By their God whom they put their trust in.
 - b) They would not suffer as the Egyptians.
- C. Today, God has set up a dividing line that has been drawn between those saved and those not saved.
 1. God is not willing that anyone perish, but that all to come to repentance (**2 Peter 3:9**)
 2. The line is drawn between those *'in the world'* and those who have obeyed the gospel message and belong to Jesus Christ
 - a) For, it was He and He alone who died for our sins in order that we may have freedom from sins.
 - b) That we may be separated from this world as Israel was separated from Egypt.
 3. Christ died for us that we might have salvation (**Romans 5:7-9**)
 4. Obedience to the gospel message is a requirement to cross from the *'unsaved'* side of God's dividing line to the *'saved'* side (**2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; 1 Peter 4:17**)
 - a) The gospel that saves (God's Dividing Line in Obedience) – death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**)

Conclusion:

1. God established a dividing line between Israel and Egypt during the plague of the swarms.
2. God today has established a dividing line between those who are saved by their obedience to the gospel and to those who are not saved.
 - a. God does not want any to perish, but to all come to repentance (**2 Peter 3:9**)
 - b. See, it is our choice, either to stay on the side with the Egyptians or on the side with the Israelites. (*the unsaved versus the saved*)
3. God has always given man freedom of choice, to either come to Him in obedience and remaining faithful *or* remaining in the world doing their *'own'* thing.
4. Today, God wants you on the right side of the dividing line that He has established.
 - a. If you are not a Christian, obey the gospel message by: *believing that Jesus is the Christ* (**John 8:24**), *repenting of your sins* (**Luke 13:3**;

Acts 2:38), confessing His Name before men (Acts 8:37), being immersed for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38) and remaining steadfast until the end (Acts 2:42).

- b. If you were a Christian at one time, now is the time to repent and come back to your Lord and Savior (Acts 8:21, 22; 1 John 1:9), remaining faithful until the end.

God's dividing line has been drawn, which side are you on?