

Sermon Reflections

Do you see the difference? (Exodus 8:20-9:12)

Summary: Trust that God knows what he is doing – always. He will always be faithful to His promise, His plan, and His people. Trust in the God who knows. He knows...

1. How to Make Distinctions (8:20-8:24)

- Read the passage. What is a significant difference between this plague and the previous three?
- Count the number of instances that the words “My people” or “your people” appear in the text. What is the significance of this delineation?
- What reason is given in the text that explains why God set apart Goshen?
- What does God’s protection of His people communicate to the people of Israel (in Goshen)? To the people of Egypt?
- Read Ephesians 1:1-4. How has God placed a distinction on us as believers? How does knowing this elevate your worship towards Him?

2. How to Spot Compromise (8:25-32)

- What compromise did Pharaoh try to get Moses to agree to? What was Moses’ response?
- How can we stand firm in our culture, being careful to avoid compromise of God’s Word - especially as it relates to the Gospel and/or our obedience to Him?
- Moses’ non-compromising attitude culminates in his appeal to God, by His mercy, to remove the flies? How does God respond to his prayer?
- What applications can be drawn from v31 - *“And the Lord did as Moses asked, and removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh”*?

3. How to Save His People (9:1-7)

- What calamity are the Israelites protected from? By implication, can we say that today as believers we will be spared from all trouble and difficult situations? Why or why not? (Give Scripture references.)
- Read Romans 8:28-39. Summarize this passage in your own words. How do the truths of this passage provide comfort in the midst of the trials and tribulations that we will face in this life?

4. How to Judge the Wicked (9:8-12)

- Describe the details of this plague and list those affected by it. What are some significant differences between this plague and those prior?
- What clues from the passage indicate that this judgement fell only on the Egyptians?
- Reflect on this quote: *“Providence is a Christian’s diary - but not his Bible”*. – T. Watson.
The Israelites are perhaps feeling valued and approved by God simply because they have avoided these plagues; but some of them will fall into despair during trials in the wilderness despite the fact that God’s favor on them hasn’t changed. Why is gauging our value before God based on “good” circumstances flawed? List truths from Scripture that should inform our value before God.