

Series: Exodus

Title: God Severs His People in His Land

Text: Exodus 8: 20-24

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Exodus 8: 20: And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he cometh forth to the water; and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me. 21: Else, if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thy houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground whereon they are. 22: And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. 23: And I will put a division between my people and thy people: to morrow shall this sign be. 24: And the LORD did so; and there came a grievous swarm of flies into the house of Pharaoh, and into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt: the land was corrupted by reason of the swarm of flies.

In the plague of flies, we see the judgment of God turning a man over to his idolatry by which his entire land is corrupted. How is this a picture of being turned over to idolatry? Pharaoh and the Egyptians worshipped Baalzebub, the god of the flies. So sending the swarm of flies, we see a people and their entire land corrupted with their own idolatry—*“the land was corrupted by reason of the swarm of flies.”*

Psalm 78: 45: He sent divers sorts of flies, which devoured them...50: He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence;

The wrath and judgment upon reprobate men is of God. But the corruption is of themselves when God simply turns them over to their own idolatry. (Turn to Is 24)

Isaiah 24: 5: The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. 6: Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.

But thanks be to God there *are a few men left*. It is because of God's sovereign will and grace. Note the distinction God makes between his people and Pharaoh's people: *verse 20...Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me. 21: Else, if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people,...22: And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. 23: And I will put a division between my people and thy people: to morrow shall this sign be. 24: And the LORD did so;*

Proposition: God puts a division between his people and the rest of this world. Verses 22-24 teach us how and why and in whom this division is made.

BY GOD'S WILL

Exodus 8: 22 And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there;...23: And I will put a division between my people and thy people:...

God himself makes this division by his will. This division is not made by the will of man.

Recently, I had a conversation with an agnostic. I told him the difference between the truth of sovereign grace and all other religions in this world is that by sovereign grace God does all the saving and man does not contribute. His first question was *“how does man's free will harmonize with that.”* My answer was *“man's will is not free!”*

What is it free from? Free from God? Free from sin so as to be capable of willing to believe God? Free so that ultimately salvation is of man's willingness to accept God! Please understand, none of these things is true!

Man's will is never free from God.

Proverbs 16:33: The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.

Proverbs 20:24: Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?

Proverbs 21:1: The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

Jeremiah 10: 23: O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

By the first birth man's will is not free but is under bondage to his sin nature!

Romans 6:20: For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

Ephesians 2: 2: Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

John 5: 40: And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Therefore, man's will is not the determining factor in salvation. Man is entirely dependent upon God's will—who gives who he will a new nature and a new will. In eternity, God chose to save whom he was willing to save.

Romans 9: 10: And not only *this*; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, *even* by our father Isaac; 11: (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12: It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13: As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. 14: What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? God forbid. 15: For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16: So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

So in God's time, all who he chose are born again of God's will.

John 1:13: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Then God teaches us that salvation is by his will in Christ Jesus his Son, not our own.

Acts 22: 14: 14: And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

So everyone in this world is divided between God's children and the children of the devil. And these two will never get along. This, too, is by God's will.

Genesis 3: 15: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

We preach this message to the valley of dry bones—to sinners who cannot make themselves willing to believe on Christ. And through God's gospel he breathes life, makes his people willing in the day of his power and teaches us salvation is entirely by God's will, not our own.

SEVERING THE LAND IN WHICH HIS PEOPLE DWELL

Exodus 8: 22: And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there;...23: And I will put a division between my people and thy people:...

God makes this division by severing the land in which his people dwell. This word sever means to distinctly mark out, separate and distinguish. The land God distinctly marked out, separated and distinguished—the land in which his people dwell—is Christ. Christ is pictured by *the land of Goshen*. The Lord has distinctly marked out, separated and distinguished Christ in whom his people dwell just as he severed the land of Goshen in which Israel dwelled. Speaking of Christ whom God set apart, he said,

Isaiah 42: Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth;...

Psalms 89: 19: Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon *one that is* mighty; I have exalted *one* chosen out of the people.

By God choosing his people in Christ, God's elect dwell in Christ.

1 John 4:13: Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

So the way God puts a division between his people and the devil's people is by God marking out, separating and distinguishing Christ and severing his elect from all other people in Christ.

NO MORE CORRUPTION

Exodus 8: 22: And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there;

In the land in which his people dwell—in Christ—there is no more curse, no more judgment, no more corrupting idolatry. Christ has taken away our curse by being made a curse for us so that in Christ no curse shall come upon his people. Christ has taken away our judgment so that in Christ there is no more judgment upon his people.

Romans 8: 1: *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Christ has taken away our sin and corrupting idolatry, so that in Christ there is no more idolatry upon his people.

Hebrews 9: 26...now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Isaiah 30: 22: [By purging our conscience of sin by his blood, in the new man] Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence.

Therefore, in "*the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there.*"

Isaiah 54: 17: No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

THE PURPOSE FOR THIS DIVISION

Exodus 8: 22....to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.

This division is God executing judgment—that which is just.

Ezekiel 30:19: Thus will I execute judgments in Egypt: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

The judgment God executes is how we know the LORD alone is holy and just! God's chief attribute of holiness is what separates the LORD from all other vain gods.

Psalm 9: 16: The LORD is known *by* the judgment *which* he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgsion. Selah.

God always, only executes just judgment. It is just for God to save and protect those Christ severed from all others because Christ paid our sin-debt and honored God's law. And it is just to reject those who refuse Christ, giving them over to their own depraved will and works of their own hands, by which they are snared.

WHAT GOD PURPOSES FROM THE BEGINNING GOD DOES

Exodus 8: 24: And the LORD did so;

Amen!