

## Sermon Discussion 2/7/2016

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Exodus 7-10: "The God Who Makes Himself Known" by Drew Hunter

### Overview

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This section of the exodus story, which details most of the plagues Pharaoh and the people of Egypt endure, is included in the Bible to reveal to Israel who Yahweh is. This text answers the question, "Who is God?" in three ways:

- 1) The one, true God
- 2) The creating and judging God
- 3) The saving and gracious God

The result of knowing the one true God, Yahweh, is that we are called to turn away from our idols to instead find shelter in Jesus. We also are called to make Him known, that the name of Yahweh "...might be proclaimed in all the earth." (Exodus 9:16)

### Quotations

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"It's a little scary to think about but I think that's a lesson for our own time and place. All of the things that we worship - power, money, sex, whatever idolatries we have in our time and place, *all* of those idols are going to be defeated. Ultimately, all of those idols are going to let us down, they are going to disappoint us, and they are going to be a source of frustration. This is actually *good* news, because God doesn't want us to worship those things; He wants us to worship Him alone."

-Phil Ryken, *Resisting the Power of Idolatry*, [www.crossway.org/blog](http://www.crossway.org/blog)

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) Explain the significance of the image of a snake to the people of Egypt.
- 2) What was significant about the staff of Aaron, which turned into a snake, eating the other snakes in Exodus 7:8-13?
- 3) Verse 12 says that Aaron's snake "swallowed up" the staffs of the magicians. Where else does this Hebrew word for "swallowed up" appear in the book of Exodus?
- 4) Looking at the nine plagues mentioned in chapters 7-10, explain how these plagues targeted the Egyptian gods. What message do you think this sent to the people of Israel? What message did it send to the people of Egypt? What was the response of both groups of people?
- 5) In what ways was Egypt ruined by the plagues? (four ways mentioned)
- 6) Explain how the plagues can also be thought of as creation unraveling. How were the plagues a reversal of the creation week?
- 7) When God is rejected as creator and creation is worshiped in His place, creation unravels. This is built into the fabric of the world. This is why sometimes the judgment God sends is more of what we (wrongly) think we want. Share a time when you've experienced this personally and/or seen this play out in the lives of someone close to you.
- 8) Who does the text say hardened Pharaoh's heart? Use specific verse references.
- 9) How is God's grace shown to the people of Egypt?