

Exodus 11

Read Exodus 11 Now God tells Moses that this is the last plague; and it will do the trick. Pharaoh will let the children of Israel go. God is pulling his people out of the world's control over their lives. God is underscoring that his people are not the same as the rest of this miserable world. The 400 years were just a treatment and protection from what was going on in Canaan. They belong to him and they have a holy purpose. God will announce to the whole world by this act, that he owns everything.

The nation of Egypt was the most powerful nation, and it has all of the old world fake gods. They are being put on notice that they will just have to cough up God's people. God is informing them that he owns it all. God owns every person and every animal and every harvest. God is now going to extract his *special people* from the bondage of this world's system. He has let the children of Israel experience the brutality that exists apart from godly influences, to produce the effect of becoming appreciative before him.

Not only are the gods of this world going to release God's people, but they will pay each child of Israel on the way out. As the Hebrews left Egypt, they were loaded up with silver and gold. The taskmasters bowed down the Hebrews as they left! The Egyptian people were glad to do it. This seems to be a contradiction to the idea of 400 years of Hebrew slavery. The Egyptian people were never actually the issue. It was Pharaoh's issue. This is similar to the current War of Epic Fury. The regime is hateful and abusive; but most of the people were nice.

Moses told the children of Israel to go out to your Egyptian neighbors and just ask for jewelry and clothing before exiting the country. Each man and each woman were instructed to just go to their neighbor and ask for it. We don't know how much treasure was collected but God added that they were essentially plundered. 400 years of free labor adds up.

By now Moses has gone from fugitive to superstar in Egypt. Moses is speaking for God. According to the bible, God (as creator) owns all things. He settles for a cut (tithe); the firstborn of everything. He is entitled to the first fruits of people, animals and plants, as his cut (so to speak).

13 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine." (Exodus 13:1)

God repeatedly chooses his special people from every group, for his own purposes. Nobody will say a word against them as they leave. The Hebrew people are

almost seen as gods because of their association with these plagues. This all results in a big sign to the whole world. “*Do not mess with my people*”.

¹⁵ “Everything that first opens the womb of all flesh, which they bring to the LORD, whether man or beast, shall be yours; nevertheless the firstborn of man you shall surely redeem, and the firstborn of unclean animals you shall redeem.But you shall not profane the holy gifts of the children of Israel, lest you die.” (Numbers 18)

¹² “Now behold, I Myself have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the children of Israel. Therefore the Levites shall be Mine, ¹³ because all the firstborn are Mine. On the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They shall be Mine: I am the LORD.”
(Numbers 3)

Pharaoh could have simply let them all go; but he did not. Disobedience results in death. If they will not release his people, he will kill all their firstborn Egyptian children and animals.