

THE BLOODY NILE
EXODUS 7:14-24

- I. Water transformed to blood is a sign of judgment.
 - A. Water is absolutely essential for life.
 - 1. Without water our bodies quickly die.
 - (a) Dehydration is leading cause of death.
 - (b) May be caused by disease (dysentery) but lack of water kills.
 - 2. In Biblical imagery, water represents life.
 - (a) Old Testament (Isaiah 55:1-3).
 - (b) New Testament (John 7:37-39).
 - (c) The Holy Spirit is described as Living Water.
 - B. The Egyptians associated the waters of the Nile with life.
 - 1. The Nile made their soil fertile.
 - (a) The Nile was the source of their prosperity.
 - 2. They recognized a god of the river Nile, Hapi.
 - 3. Pharaoh was seen as a son of the gods.
 - (a) Pharaoh going to the water may have been a ritual.
 - (b) The "son of the gods" bathing in life-giving Nile.
 - (c) God sends Moses to confront Pharaoh as he exits water.
 - C. Blood represents life and death in the Bible.
 - 1. "The life of the animal is in the blood" (Leviticus 17:11)
 - 2. Shedding of innocent blood is a high crime (Genesis 4:10-11)
 - 3. The rebellion of sin resulted in death.
 - (a) We, in effect, chose death over life.
 - (b) The only way to atone for that choice is with blood (a life).
 - 4. Aaron strikes the river with the staff of God's authority.
 - (a) The "life-giving" river is being smitten by God.
 - (b) The result is death (blood).
 - (c) The fish die and there is the stench of death.
 - (d) God is warning of judgment.
 - (e) "The blood of my people cries out against you."
 - 5. Even water in buckets turns to blood.
- II. God is always just!
 - A. God says, "Pharaoh's heart is unyielding."
 - 1. But God has hardened Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 7:3).
 - (a) Of course, he is unyielding.
 - 2. Is God being just? Yes!
 - (a) How do we know?
 - (b) Not by our feelings, or opinions, or interpretations.
 - (c) By the revealed truth of the Word of God.
 - 3. Justice is an attribute of God; part of who God is (Is. 30:15,18).
 - (a) The Lord loves justice (Psalm 33:5).
 - (b) He is perfectly righteous and just.
 - (c) He is the standard for what is righteous and just.
 - (d) Is there evidence that supports that? (Psalm 97:6)
 - 4. Why do the heavens proclaim his righteousness?
 - B. God's authority to rule is founded upon his justice (Ps. 97:1-2).

- (a) "God's throne" refers to his authority to rule and to reign.
 - (b) The foundation of something is what enables it to stand.
 - (c) His righteousness and justice are the basis of his authority.
 - (d) He has made it that way. It is a reflection of himself.
 - 2. So how do "the heavens proclaim his righteousness?"
 - (a) If it said, "proclaim his glory" it might be about power.
 - 3. How is his righteousness related to what we see in the sky?
 - (a) He is the one who sovereignly maintains order (Col.1:15-17)
 - (b) If God was unrighteous or unjust the foundation crumbles.
 - (c) He would lose his authority; order would become chaos.
 - (d) The orderliness of the heavens proclaim that he is righteous!
 - (e) Righteousness and justice are so fundamental to who he is that he has made everything dependent upon it.
- III. Blood represents the justice of the one who will Judge us.
 - C. It represents the 2 possible judgments.
 - 1. The consequence of death (particularly spiritual death).
 - 2. Or, the provision of grace through a Redeemer
 - (a) Either way, blood is necessary because God is just.
 - (b) The Law is a reflection of his righteousness and justice.
 - (1) In righteousness and justice, he upholds the law.
 - (c) To the kingdom of darkness: blood means condemnation.
 - (d) To the people of God: redemption, forgiveness, grace.
 - D. So, the blood, like the cross, either represents death or life to you.
 - 1. To Pharaoh, it represented death (with the stench of death).
 - 2. But to the Israelites what does the blood of Passover mean?
 - (a) It means life and the joy of freedom!
 - 3. Both of these represent the blood of Jesus.
 - (a) Covenants have signs that represent the curse or the blessing. In this case it represents both.
 - (b) To those who refuse to believe the cross depicts separation.
 - (c) But to we who believe, it depicts our redemption.
 - E. Paul uses this same imagery for his Gospel ministry (2Cor.2:14-16).
 - 1. It can be either the fragrance of life or the stench of death.
 - (a) The distinction between the two is faith, or trust.
 - 2. The bloody Nile warns and prophesies that judgment is coming.
 - (a) The blood of the cross does the same thing.
 - 3. What will be its significance for you, life or death?
 - F. There is life-giving power in the blood of Jesus!
 - 1. It is the power that raised Jesus from the grave (Hebrews 13:20).
 - 2. It is the blood that opened up heaven for us (Hebrews 9:12)
 - 3. It is the blood that redeems us (1 Peter 1:18-19).
 - 4. It is the blood that sanctifies us; that makes us holy (Heb. 13:12)
 - 5. It is the blood that cleanses us and changes our inheritance (Revelation 7:13-14).
 - 6. It is through the blood of Jesus that we overcome (Rev.12:10-11)
 - 7. It is the blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel (Genesis 4:10-11). The bloody Nile cries out like the blood of Abel! It cries out for justice!