

March 26th, 2023

# The Third Plague: the Finger of God

Exodus 8:16-19

## Re-orientating ourselves

If you are just joining us, we are in the most action packed section of Exodus, the 10 plagues. Through Moses, God commanded Pharaoh to let His people go. He has refused thus far, so God turned the Nile into blood (1st plague), then He sent millions of frogs to invade their bedrooms and kitchens (2nd plague). These are not just neat tricks. In every plague, God is defeating a particular 'god of Egypt, showing that He is Lord of lords and King of kings and that there is no god beside Him or above Him. That's precisely what He does in our time. Both in our personal lives, and in our corporate lives, every time humanity turns to some other savior, some other security, some other 'god' in the end that hope is turned into a plague of death. It is the God of Israel, the God of the Cross who alone can save us. This morning, we look at the third plague. My outline is going to be different than what's in your bulletin. Instead of *Doctrine, Duty* and *Delight*, here are my three points.

★ The Covenant Judgment on Egypt (v.16-17)

★ The Limited Power of Satan (v.18)

★ The Finger of God in Christ (v.19)

No single big idea, but I will have a principle that accompany each point.

## I. The Covenant Judgment on Egypt (v.16-17)

### No warning

Notice how this plague begins. v.16 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.’” What’s missing? In the first two plagues, God threatened Pharaoh first then after Pharaoh wouldn’t listen, He *then* sent the plague. Here there is no threat, no warning, just an immediate and terrible judgment. This pattern is seen with the rest of the plagues as well. In plagues 4 and 5 there are warnings but none in the 6th. In plagues 7 and 8 Moses warns Pharaoh but doesn’t in the 9th. What do we learn from this pattern? **On the one hand**, we learn that God patiently strives with sinful man, warns Him of judgment again and again. In Scripture, God is often depicted as reluctant and slow to judge. Judgment is *His strange work—His alien work*—Isaiah 28:21 says. He does not delight in the death of the wicked.<sup>1</sup>

### “I thought I had more time”<sup>2</sup>

**But** God does not warn and threaten forever. There is coming a day for all wicked men when God’s warnings and threatenings for them will come to an end. Terrible judgment will be all that remains. Ahab and Jezebel were warned over and over again, and then finally judgment came upon both of them. Ahab was shot in battle, Jezebel was thrown out a window and eaten by dogs. The thought of every person in hell is “I thought I had more time.” In this life God is a tender God pleading with the sinner. “...turn back, turn back from your evil

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<sup>1</sup> God did not create the world for the purpose of judgment.

<sup>2</sup> Admonitory Use

ways, for why will you die” (Ezekiel 33:11). But in eternity, the door is shut. God will no longer warn or threaten the wicked, only a fiery judgment and condemnation remains. And they will think to themselves “I thought I had more time.” This particular plague is a warning to the wicked, that there is a time when all warnings will cease.

### **Why the animals?**

Moses and Aaron obeyed the LORD, look at v.17 “And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt.” Even the beasts suffered. This is a theme throughout the plagues. The fish died in the 1st, the frogs in the 2nd, and livestock in the 5th and 7th. Children, boys and girls, imagine you were an Egyptian child and you see your pet dog or cat being afflicted with these plagues and then they die. Wouldn't you ask the question: *why is my pet dying? My pet didn't sin against God.*

### **The innocent Egyptians?**

But more than that, there were lots of 'regular' Egyptians who suffered from these plagues. One author notes:

“Egyptians far removed from the seat of power were afflicted with insects, pestilence, boils and hail. They knew nothing of the conflict between Moses and the Pharaoh...yet their crops were destroyed, their waters turned to blood, their land filled with the stench of death...Those Egyptians who had never personally owned, controlled, or punished a

Hebrew slave were scratching lice day and night...What had they done to deserve this?”<sup>3</sup>

### **The innocent Hebrews?**

But it also seems to me that even the Hebrews themselves were suffering from these first three plagues. It is not until the fourth plague where God makes a distinction between Israel and Egypt and doesn't allow the plagues to afflict His people (4:22). So animals were suffering, 'innocent' Egyptians were suffering, and the Hebrew slaves were suffering. What do we do with this?

### **Our 1st Principle: Societies are blessed or judged collectively**

That brings us to our **first principle**: *men (and the creation itself) suffer not only for their own sins but for the sins of their covenant heads*. Consider 3 proofs.

#### **Proof 1: The Covenant of Works**

Adam was the federal head or covenant head of the human race. When he disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit, every human being after him suffered. Romans 5:18 "...one trespass led to condemnation for all men." We are in the mess we are in today because of our federal head Adam. And this effected even the animals - Romans 8:22 "...the whole creation [is] groaning together in the pains of childbirth" because of Adam's sin.

#### **Proof 2: The Covenant of Nations**

Citizens in ancient Egypt, or Rome or America today "suffer and prosper" as one author says "not only by what they do as individuals, but also by the

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<sup>3</sup> Gary North, *Moses and Pharaoh: Dominion Religion Versus Power Religion*, (Tyler, TX.,: Institute for Christian Economics, 1985), pg. 110

decisions of those in authority over them.”<sup>4</sup> When King Zedekiah of Judah broke covenant with King Nebuchadnezzar (and the LORD) it wasn’t Zedekiah alone who suffered. Ezekiel 17:21 “...his troops shall fall by the sword, and the survivors (Judean citizens) shall be scattered to every wind.” Even those Judeans who were faithful to the Lord—like Jeremiah—suffered because of Zedekiah’s treachery and were taken off to Babylon.

### **Proof 3: The Covenant of Families**

King Jehoshaphat was a good king, but he made a horrible decision as the covenant head of his home—which his family suffered for. He joined his son in marriage to Ahab and Jezebel’s daughter, thus joining the worship of Baal to the worship of Yahweh (2 Chronicles 18:1). After Jehoshaphat died, his wicked daughter-in-law murdered all of the king’s sons and grandsons, except one. His “innocent” children suffered because of his decisions.

### **Pharaoh the federal head**

“Pharaoh was the federal head of Egypt.”<sup>5</sup> Now it’s true that the Egyptians as a whole and even the Hebrews were guilty before the LORD for worshipping Egypt’s gods. *But* they were also judged because Pharaoh represented them. All societies (family, church, state) prosper or suffer as a result of those who represent them.

### **Hortatory Use**

Dear congregation, as Christians, we must understand this principle. In the West, we have been influenced by radical individualism. We think in

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<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 110

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 110

individual units—individual rights, individual liberties, individual consequences. And of course, it's true that ultimately every individual is personally accountable to God. But God has designed corporate covenants such that we will suffer or prosper not only according to our own individual actions, but also according to the actions of those in authority over us.<sup>6</sup> So how should we respond to this truth? We pray for those in authority. Just as we saw Moses pray last week for Pharaoh, we ought to pray. And now we have an additional motive. Not only do we pray knowing that King Jesus can clean and heal a land, but we pray knowing that our future prosperity or suffering and that of our children's and grandchildren's and great grand children's prosperity and suffering rest on our ruler's decisions and actions. Do you give yourself to prayer for more than just yourself and your immediate circumstances? Paul says in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." Our rulers—the Pharaohs of our day—desperately need prayer. Don't we believe that God can change their hearts? Don't we believe that God can be glorified or despised by their decisions? Don't we believe that our fellow citizens will prosper or suffer by their decisions? I would encourage you to be very intentional about your prayer life. Pray for yourself, for your family, for your church, for your nation. Pray for covenant heads—for fathers, pastors, and politicians—that the LORD would turn their hearts to Him.

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<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 111

## Experimental Use

If you are a covenant head—a father, a pastor, a politician—examine yourself. Do you know that your actions and decisions effect everyone that you represent? Are you following the Lord? Will your children and your congregants and your citizens rise up after you and call you blessed, or will they suffer because of you? That’s our **first point**: *men (and the creation itself) suffer not only for their own sins but for the sins of their covenant heads.*

## II. The Limited Power of Satan (v.18)

### Innumerable gnats

This particular plague would have been just awful. Halfway through v.17 “[Aaron]...struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt.” There are many Biblical associations with that phrase “the dust of the earth.” One association is when God promised Abraham, that His offspring would be as numerous as the dust of the earth. Genesis 3:16 “I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.”<sup>7</sup> So the idea here is that these gnats were beyond number. It was an incalculable, immeasurable number of gnats.

### What were these gnats?

Other translations say this was lice or mosquitoes or sciniphs. Perhaps it was that bug that is affectionately called a *no-see-um*, a biting midge. “The

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<sup>7</sup> cf. Genesis 28:14, Numbers 23:10

females need blood to develop their eggs, they will drink from any nearby humans or animals.”<sup>8</sup> Flying in innumerable swarms you wouldn’t get bit just once at a time, but countless bites, countless times, with no rest. At least with the frogs, you could shew them off your body if they climbed on you. But these biting bugs smaller than a point of a pen, would fly up your nose, into your ears and eyes—there was no relief anywhere. Children think about how bad this was. One summer my family was camping and we got bombarded by a swarm of hornets. They were landing on our food, on our plates, in our cups, on our tables. We finally went into our car and ate so we we wouldn’t be harassed. But there was no where to escape from these biting harassing miserable gnats.

### **The humiliation of Pharaoh**

And this was especially humiliating for Pharaoh, because he was believed to be the divine-human link between the people of Egypt and their gods. Geb was the earth god of the Egyptians. Pharaoh was believed to be the “heir of Geb.” There is an excerpt in the Book of the Dead that says

The Pharaoh says “I am decreed to be the Heir, the Lord of the Earth of Geb... Geb hath refreshed me, and he hath caused me to ascend his throne.”<sup>9</sup>

Geb was a real piece of work. According to this source, Geb was an incestuous (having sex with his sister god and raping his mother god) bisexual man who was constantly depicted as having a goose on his head (because he laid the great egg from which the sun god arose) and green vegetation all over his body. Since Pharaoh was believed to be his heir, all Egypt believed it was “Pharaoh’s

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<sup>8</sup> Source: <https://www.westernpest.com/blog/do-gnats-bite/>

<sup>9</sup> Source: <https://ancientegyptonline.co.uk/geb/> Accessed March 25, 2023.



responsibility to...[control] the climate, [regulate] the seasons, and...[preserve] order in the world.”<sup>10</sup> Geb the lord of the earth—and Pharaoh his heir—were supposed to keep the soil in Egypt fertile and fruitful. But all the soil turned to biting insects that harassed every soul and every beast in the land. This made Pharaoh look impotent and ridiculous to all of Egypt.<sup>11</sup>

### **Non-duplicable power**

His magicians—an extension of Pharaoh’s so-called divinity<sup>12</sup>—were summoned. Look at v.18 “The magicians tried *by their secret arts* to produce gnats, *but they could not*. So there were gnats on man and beast.” Prior to this, the magicians were able to 'duplicate' three of Yahweh’s miracles through their demonic powers—*their secret arts*.<sup>13</sup> But here they could not duplicate the power of God.<sup>14</sup> Here they found themselves completely impotent.

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<sup>10</sup> Philip Graham Ryken, *Preaching the Word: Exodus, Saved for God's Glory*, (Wheaton, IL.: Crossway, 2015), pg. 215

<sup>11</sup> Additionally, Calvin says "For although it would have been painful to sink under a powerful and warlike enemy, yet was it far more sad to be basely destroyed by lice." John Calvin, *Calvin's Commentaries Vol. II*, (Grand Rapids, MI.: BakerBooks, 2009), pg. 164. Certainly this also adds credence to the “de-creation” thesis. Every plague in Egypt was a de-creating, and disordering of Egypt. It was an undoing of the dominion mandate, now the creation was dominating man. cf. Ryken, pg. 213-215

<sup>12</sup> They essentially bore the same relationship to Pharaoh that Aaron bore to Moses.

<sup>13</sup> Recall that "secret arts" was the power attributed to the cherubim used in keeping man from re-entering the garden (Genesis 3:24). Fallen angels or demons have this same power which is what these sorcerers were tapping into.

<sup>14</sup> This would have also been humiliating to these magicians—these pagan ‘holy men. "In the third plague, lice were sent upon man and beast, and, 'if it be remembered', says Gleig, 'that no one could approach the altars of Egypt upon which so impure an insect harbored; and, that the priests to guard against the slightest risk of contamination, wore only linen garments, and shaved their heads and bodies every third day, the severity of this miracle as a judgment upon Egyptian idolatry may be imagined. Whilst it lasted no act of worship could be performed.'" A.W. Pink, *Gleanings In Exodus*, pg. 103, Source: <https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/pink/Gleanings%20In%20Exodus%20-%20Arthur%20W.%20Pink.pdf>

## Our 2nd Principle: Satan has a limited power

This brings us to our **second principle**: *though Satan's power be great, his power is a limited power.*<sup>15</sup> Recall that this great battle in Egypt was not *merely* between Israel and Egypt<sup>16</sup>, or even Moses and Pharaoh, but chiefly between Satan and God. And what we discover is that Satan's power is great, but his power is limited. Consider how, on the one hand, Satan's power is mighty.

- He is compared to a strong man (Matthew 12:29), a fully armed man (Luke 11:21)
- He is called a lion who roars and devours (1 Peter 5:8), the ancient dragon who wars against the angels (Revelation 17:7) and the saints (Revelation 17:17)<sup>17</sup>
- He can make men mute (Luke 11:14<sup>18</sup>) and inflict them with terrible diseases (Luke 13:16; Job 2:7)
- He can possess animals (Matthew 8:32<sup>19</sup>) and human beings (John 13:27<sup>20</sup>) driving them to madness (Matthew 8:28) unfit for human society (Mark 5:3-4)
- He can disguise himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14)<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> cf. Jonathan Edwards' sermon on Exodus 8:18 at [edwards.yale.edu](http://edwards.yale.edu)

<sup>16</sup> Between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent.

<sup>17</sup> When given permission from the LORD he can control the weather - fire from heaven (Job 1:16) and hurricane winds (Job 1:19).

<sup>18</sup> cf. Mark 9:17

<sup>19</sup> cf. Genesis 3:1

<sup>20</sup> cf. Acts 16:16

<sup>21</sup> Before Christ Jesus came into the world, Satan possessed all the kingdoms of the world (Matthew 4:8-9; John 12:31)

## Satan's limited power

But on the other hand, Satan's power is limited, derivative, confined and under the complete Sovereign control of Almighty Jehovah. Consider...

- **Satan needed permission to touch Job.** Job 1:12 “And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.””
- **The demons needed permission to enter swine.** Matthew 8:31 “And the demons begged him, saying, “If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs.””
- **Whether willing or unwilling they offer themselves to obey His orders.** 1 Kings 22:22 ‘I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’ And [the LORD] said, ‘*You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.*’
- **Whenever Jesus commanded them, they were forced to obey immediately.** Mark 1:25-26 “But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And *the unclean spirit*, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, *came out of him.*”
- **They will ultimately bend their knees to Him.** Philippians 2:10 “so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth *and under the earth.*”

## Consolatory Use

Oh what a comfort this is! Dear child of God, comfort yourself. Consider three unspeakable comforts we have from these truths.

**Comfort #1:** *No matter how powerful or cruel Satan is, he is under the careful control of God Almighty.*<sup>22</sup>

Dear congregation, if Satan—that awful roaring lion—was let off his chain he would devour us. We would be swallowed up in utter ruin and despair. We would be brought under the blackest darkness. Think how terrifying it would be to meet the devil in a dark alleyway all by yourself. But how much worse if he were allowed to have you as his own to do with you whatever he wished. You would be utterly destroyed and ruined and made eternally miserable. But God in His mercy, against our merit, against what we deserve has put a chain around that dragon. He can't touch us apart from all wise, all kind permission of our Father in Heaven. Isaiah 54:17 “No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD.”

**Comfort #2:** *Though Satan be such a dangerous enemy to us, He is also an enemy of God.*<sup>23</sup>

Satan is not *merely* our enemy, he is God's enemy. And God hates him. Defeating Satan was one of the main reasons Christ came into the world. 1 John 3:8 “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” Therefore you have nothing to fear from Satan, ever! Never. “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31) “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for [God] you are with me” (Psalm 23:4).

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<sup>22</sup> Petrus Van Mastricht, *Theoretical-Practical Theology Vol. 3: The Works of God and the Fall of Man*, (Grand Rapids, MI.,: Reformation Heritage Books, 2021), pg. 244

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*

**Comfort #3:** *God will cause every demonic attack to ultimately work for your good and further His redemptive purposes.*

The worse that Satan can do you is help sanctify you. Satan's attack on Job *ultimately* resulted in the longest monologue that God has with man recorded in all of Scripture. In Job 38-41, Job gets to hear the voice of God unpacking the mysteries of creation and providence. Glory after glory. Job spoke not only with His Creator but with His Redeemer! When the LORD finishes, Job says "I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you" (Job 42:5). Satan meant evil against Job, but in the end, he did Job the greatest service. His cruelty was instrumental in bringing him face to face with the Living God. Satan helped sanctify Job and instrumentally contributed to a most beloved book in Scripture. Satan furthered the redemptive purposes of God. Don't you see? That's all Satan can do in your life! All he can do is drive you to the arms of the Savior. Deepen your prayer life. Make you more dependent upon God. Make you feel weak so the the power of God is displayed. All Satan can do is further God's redemptive designs in your life.

### **Summa Theologica**

That's what these Satanic sorcerers were doing in Egypt. Though it wasn't their plan, they furthered God's glory. Every sorcery they committed up to this point set the stage for God to manifest His incomparable worth, His inestimable power, His inscrutable wisdom. The Exodus was only *secondarily* about rescuing Israel. God's *primary* goal in the Exodus was to cause His glory to be known by every nation. That all peoples would know that there is not a power in Heaven or on the earth, or under the earth that is equal to His. That's our **second point:** *Satan's power is limited by the unlimited, unsurpassed infinite and unknowable power of the God of Heaven.*

### III. The Finger of God in Christ (v.19)

#### The True and Better Exodus

Loved ones, there is an amazing correspondence between the Exodus in the OT and the True and Better Exodus in the NT.

In the **first Exodus** Moses led the children of Israel out of their slavery from Egypt.

In the **second Exodus**, our Lord Jesus Christ led all the Church (Jew and Gentile) out of their bondage to Satan.

In the **first Exodus**, Moses's first plague was turning the water into blood.

In the **second Exodus**, Jesus first miracle was turning water into wine.

In the **first Exodus**, Moses unleashed frogs (a type representing unclean spirits) onto the land.

In the **second Exodus**, Jesus regularly cast out devils and unclean spirits.

And right here, in the **first Exodus**, the magicians were forced to say "This is the Finger of God" when they could no longer duplicate the plagues.

In the **second Exodus**, Jesus claimed to be the "Finger of God" who had power over all plagues.

## The finger of God

Look at v.19 “Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.” The magicians could not cause the dust to become gnats, and they confessed that the only power capable of doing this was “the finger of God.” What’s fascinating here is the other association with *the dust of the earth*. We saw that that phrase was associated with an innumerable multitude. But *dust of the earth* has another association. A.W. Pink explains:

“In the judgment which God pronounced upon disobedient Adam we read that He said, "Cursed is the ground for thy sake" (Gen. 3:17), and again, "for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Gen. 3:19). When Aaron smote the "ground", and its "dust" became [gnats], and the [gnats] came upon the Egyptians, it was a graphic showing- forth of the awful fact that man by nature is under *the curse of a holy God*. Concerning this plague we read, “the magicians tried *by their secret arts* to produce gnats, *but they could not*." (8:18)...Thus it is with Satan himself. His bounds are definitely prescribed by the Almighty, and beyond them he cannot go. Death he can inflict (by God’s permission), and uncleanness he can bring forth freely—as the "magicians" illustrated in the first two plagues; but with the Curse (which the "dust" becoming [gnats] so plainly speaks of) he is not allowed to tamper with.”<sup>24</sup>

In other words, this plague demonstrates that Satan has no power over the curse.

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<sup>24</sup> Pink, pg. 110

### **Our 3rd Principle: Jesus has conquered the curse**

That brings us to our **third principle**: *Jesus Christ alone is the Finger of God that conquers the curse.* Please turn with me to Luke 11:14. Jesus doesn't merely quote Moses, He claims to be the quotes this very passage

“Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. <sup>15</sup> But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” <sup>16</sup> while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. <sup>17</sup> But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. <sup>18</sup> And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup> And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup> *But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*”

Jesus Christ is the finger of God that the Magicians unknowingly were pointing to. Their Satanic powers could not overcome Him. Just as no Satanic power could overcome Christ when He put on flesh and came to rescue us. The magicians had no power over the curse. But Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the one Being in the universe that does.

### **Celebratory Use**

Oh dear child of God. That's who your Savior is. Jesus is not a weak magician. He's not a trickster. He's not some religious figurehead among many. He doesn't perform sleight of hand.



He is **the finger of God** who made the Heavens and Earth. Psalm 8:3 “[the] heavens [are] *the work of your fingers*.”

Jesus is **the finger of God** who gave us God’s perfect law of liberty. Exodus 31:18 “[the] two tablets of the testimony...[were] written with the *finger of God*.”

And He is **the finger of God** who is King over the curse. Luke 11:20 *But if it is by the finger of God* that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

Loved ones.<sup>25</sup> Your Jesus—the Finger of God—is Creator, Lawgiver and Redeemer. He plundered the house of the strong man for You. Satan and his magicians may be **stronger** than you and I, but they are not stronger than our Savior. Colossians 2:15 “He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him” on the cross.

Satan and his magicians may be more **cunning** than you and I, but their greatest intellects are foolishness compared to our Savior. His name is Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6); He is the very wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:30); the Logos made flesh (John 1:14).

Satan may be the god of this rebellious world order (2 Corinthians 4:4), but He 1 John 4:4 promises that “he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

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<sup>25</sup> Much help in this section from Van Mastricht, pg. 245

Satan may be the roaring lion seeking some one to devour (1 Peter 5:8), but Jesus Christ is the true and better Samson who ripped apart that lion with his bare hands (Judges 14:5).

Satan may be the dragon that ancient serpent, but Christ has crushed His head in His death, burial and resurrection.

Jesus Christ is the finger of God, who accomplishes all, triumphs over all, defeats all. That was the confession that God forced out of the magician's mouths.

### **Exploratory Use**

Is that your confession today? Don't be like Pharaoh who hardened his heart. Every human being—both believer and unbeliever alike—will confess on the last day. Philippians 2:10-11 "...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Pharaoh will be forced to confess that, right before He is everlastingly judged. But you can confess Jesus Christ today, and the finger of God will come upon you. He can forgive all your sins, remove all your guilt, save you from the wrath to come, and bring you into His everlasting kingdom. This is the gospel, the good news, that you can be delivered from the darkness and into His marvelous light. If you have not yet done so, call upon the Name of the Lord. Call out to Jesus Christ. Believe on His name. For all who receive Him, who believe in His name, He gives the right to become the children of God.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> John 1:12