

July 30th, 2023

The Tenth Plague: Death of the Firstborn

Exodus 12:29-32

Prophet, Priest and King

The Exodus is ultimately a book about the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John 5:46 “If you believed Moses, you would believe Me; *for he wrote of me.*” Where is Jesus you ask? He is particularly seen in His works as Prophet, Priest and King. **Prophets** *reveal* God’s will to God’s people. We saw the pre-incarnate Christ appear as the Angel of the LORD in the burning bush. He *revealed* to Moses everything that would come to pass and everything that was required of Moses and Israel. **Priests** offer sacrifices to *reconcile* us to God. The Passover Lamb clearly was a type of Jesus Christ who was the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. The Passover Lamb was slain to *reconcile* Israel to God and rescued them from the hand of the Destroyer. **Kings** rule and defend their people from all their enemies. In this final plague, the Destroyer¹ went out and killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt—the enemies of Israel. Who was this Destroyer? Elsewhere He is called the Angel of the LORD. 2 Kings 19:35 “And that night *the angel of the LORD* went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.”² This angel of the LORD—the same one who appeared to Moses in the

¹ v.23

² In 2 Samuel 24:15-16 we find a Destroyer—the Angel of the LORD—who killed 70,000 rebellious Israelites.

burning bush—is none other than the true King, Jesus Christ.³ God has put all judgment into His hand. John 5:22 “For the Father judges no one, *but has given all judgment to the Son.*”⁴

The final judgment

That is what happened in this last plague, the 10th plague, the most dreadful plague. *Judgment*. Christ the King rose up and conquered His enemies, the same enemies who had persecuted and enslaved and murdered His people. And this points forward to the Final Judgment when all of God’s enemies—all of our enemies—will be brought to the judgment seat of Christ—the great white throne—and they will be finally and irrevocably dealt with. Christ Jesus indeed is our **True Prophet**—*revealing* to us everything we need for salvation. Christ Jesus indeed is our **True Priest**—*reconciling* us to God through His shed blood. But Christ is also our **True King**, and He will not say His sword forever. He who is Faithful has promised that He will conquer all His and our enemies.

³ The Chaldee paraphrase on this passage has, ‘And the Word of the Lord slew all the first-born.’ Many orthodox writers hold this opinion. He was the same Being who appeared to Moses in the bush (ch. ii.2), and indeed, as the whole of those special proceedings were pursued by Him for vindication of the Divine character, and for advancing the scheme of grace, there is no more incongruity with His personal attributes in inflicting the previous plagues, than the terrible catastrophe which closed the series (cf. Rev. xix. 13-15). Robert Jamieson in Rousas John Rushdoony, *Commentaries on the Pentateuch: Exodus*, (Vallecito, CA.: Ross House Books), pg. 141-142

⁴ Revelation 19:11-16 “Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.” Also see 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Timothy 4:1

The Big Idea...

Salvation for God's people *means* the conquering of all His and our enemies

★ Our Doctrine

★ Our Duty

★ Our Delight

I. Our Doctrine

“It is the LORD”

Please look with me at v.29. The **first thing** we read is that this happened *at midnight*. The night, or *darkness* is synonymous with judgment in Scripture. I Samuel 2:9 “He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, *but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness.*”⁵ The **second thing** we read is that it was *the LORD who did this*— “At midnight *the LORD struck down* all the firstborn in the land of Egypt...” Liberal commentators and skeptics try to relegate this plague to a naturalistic explanation, saying it was “...a sudden visitation of an epidemic disease.”⁶ No, a straightforward reading of the text tells us it was *the LORD* who struck them

⁵ Also cf. Isaiah 8:22; 2 Peter 2:4. Hell is a place of perpetual night or darkness - Matthew 22:13; 25:30. There will be no night in Heaven - Revelation 22:5.

⁶ Alleman, Flack, and Brown in Rushdoony, pg. 143. It would be better to claim this didn't happen at all than to claim such a ridiculous absurdity. So this plague only affected the firstborn sons of Egypt and no other? That seems to be a greater miracle than the simply agreeing with what the text says. In their wisdom, they became fools.

down. He prophesied He would do this in 11:4 and He brought it to pass by His own hand.⁷ This was Divine judgment.

The scope

The **third thing** we see is the scope of this judgment. Halfway through v.29 “...from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne⁸ to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock.” Recall from an earlier message, *the firstborn* doesn’t refer to chronology but to the firstborn son, the heir, the patriarch. As one author says

“The death of the firstborn meant the firstborn of any age, grandfathers, fathers, and sons. The firstborn in much of history has had governmental responsibilities in the family and represented the family's future...”⁹

So Pharaoh’s son—his heir to the throne was slain. God swore to him in 4:22-23 “Israel is my firstborn son...‘Let my son go that he may serve me.’ If you refuse to let him go, behold, *I will kill your firstborn son.*” *But* also “the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon” perished. In other words the highest in society and the lowest in society were judged. What do we learn from this? Judgment comes to all, because all have sinned. The rich do not escape this judgment *because* they are well off, nor do the poor *because* they are worse off. But we also see that the “the firstborn of the livestock” perished. Why this

⁷ Isaiah 37:26 “Have you not heard that I determined it long ago? I planned from days of old what now I bring to pass...”

⁸ cf. *Thomas Goodwin, The Works of Thomas Goodwin Vol. 1*, (Lafayette, IN.: Sovereign Grace Publishers, 2000), pg. 468-469 for a discussion on the custom of eastern nations for kings to have their son sit on the throne.

⁹ Rushdoony, pg. 142

judgment? Remember, the livestock were revered in Egypt as gods, so this plague upon the beasts of the field again demonstrated that Egypt's gods were impotent against Yahweh.

The little dog who couldn't growl

Which brings us to the question: *which Egyptian god was this plague directed against?* When the LORD judges that nations, He also judges their gods. Numbers 33:4 says the LORD executed judgments against Egypt's gods.¹⁰ So which god was it? Well we do have a clue. Look back at 11:7. While Egyptians were dying, the blood of the lamb covered the doors of the Hebrew homes so that the Destroyer passed over them. And we read "But not *a dog shall growl* against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.' *Not a dog shall growl.* Anubis was the Egyptian god of death. He had a dog's head—a jackal's head to be specific. The Egyptian Museum online records

"Jackals were associated with death, because they lurked around cemeteries and would eat decomposing flesh. Therefore, by making Anubis the patron deity of jackals, the Egyptians hoped to protect the bodies from being devoured...as recorded in the *Book of the Dead*...Anubis's other job was to stand in the Hall of the Two Truths and weigh the hearts of people seeking judgment."¹¹

¹⁰ also see Exodus 12:12

¹¹ The human heart was balanced on the scale against Ma'at's feather of truth. If the heart weighed more than the feather, the person's identity would ...cease to exist: the hybrid deity Ammit would eat the heart, and the soul would be destroyed. But if the heart weighed the same as the feather, the deceased would pass through the underworld...and into the Afterlife." Source: <https://egyptianmuseum.org/deities-Anubis> Accessed July 29, 2023

God it seems is using satire and ridiculing their puny god. This great jackal god couldn't even growl against one Hebrew—man or beast. He had zero power over life or death. All belongs to Yahweh.

The great cry in Egypt

Please look at 12:30 “And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead.” All of Egypt was awake in the blackness of the night. Why? Because of all the wailing and weeping. Just like soldiers can't sleep on the battlefield because of the sound of guns and bombs so these Egyptians were forced awake by the terror of screaming moms and dads. Weeping permeated every molecule of air. It was a picture of hell on earth where there is only the sound of weeping and agony. Matthew 25:30 “And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be *weeping and gnashing of teeth*.” Egypt is reaping what it had sown. They threw the Hebrew's baby males into the Nile for the crocodiles and now God is revenging Himself upon them. Earlier in Exodus 3, God heard the great cry of His people, and now He gives all of Egypt over to a great cry. 11:6 says it was such a great cry “as there has never been, nor ever will be again.”¹² This was Egypt's great tribulation.¹³

¹² This was the calamity of all calamities for the Egyptian nation in all the history of the world. Every house shared in the sorrow, for every house suffered lost a firstborn. Either the patriarch of the previous generation, or the current generation, or the generation to come was dead. Not only did loved ones die that night, but hope died in Egypt that night.

¹³ cf. Exodus 11:6 with Matthew 24:21. Egypt's great cry was unparalleled because she lost her firstborn son. Israel's great tribulation was unparalleled because she lost her firstborn status.

He will drive them out

Please look at v.31-32 “Then [Pharaoh] summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, “Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel;¹⁴ and go, serve the LORD, as you have said. ³²Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone...” Now apparently Pharaoh sent this message through his servants, because he already told Moses that he would kill him if he saw him again. And Moses responded in 11:29 “As you say! I will not see your face again.” *But* what is amazing here is that every Word of God is coming to pass. Back in 6:1 the LORD said to Moses “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; *for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land.*” Here we see Pharaoh forcibly driving them out of the land. He first command is “Up”—meaning “get up now, do not wait for morning, wake up immediately and leave my land.” Then three times He commands them to *go*: “Go out..and go..and be gone.” And He doesn’t try to negotiate with Moses like before asking him to leave anything behind. ‘Take all your young, all your old and all your beasts.’ Every Word of God is coming to passed, just as God said. Beloved God’s promises never fail. Men forget them. Men may prove to be unfaithful. But God never forgets and His faithfulness endures forever.

‘Please bless endorse me’

Finally, we see Pharaoh making one final request. He says at the end of v.32 “and bless me also!”¹⁵ What’s happening here? Was he asking for mercy? Is this repentance? Is this humility on Pharaoh’s part? No. His heart was still as

¹⁴ Commentators have noted this is the first time Pharaoh refers to Israel as a people group—i.e. no longer his slaves, but their own independent nation.

¹⁵ He wanted a Divine blessing, much like we receive at the end of our service. “The LORD bless you and keep you.” The benediction pronounces or invokes God’s favor.

hard as stone. He is a reprobate whose heart God never regenerated (Romans 9:17-18). So *why* is he asking God for a blessing? I think it's because he's negotiating with God.¹⁶ Pharaoh believed he was god over Egypt, and now he's letting Yahweh's people go. He wants a blessing for agreeing to Yahweh's terms. He wanted God's favor and protection since he has 'served' him. As one author puts it here. "He was trying to get God to acknowledge publicly that Pharaoh's act [of releasing the Hebrews, a tribute payment as it were]...entitled him to God's protection...If he could get God's blessing, his payment would wipe the slate clean. God would be testifying to the legitimacy of [Pharaoh's rule]."¹⁷ This request wasn't reverence, it was rebellion. "Ok Yahweh, you are God over Israel, but acknowledge that I'm still God over Egypt." What a picture into the heart of the reprobate. Impenetrable until the very end. The wicked never repent. Even when they are under the most dire judgment. Revelation 16:9 "They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. [But] They did not repent and give him glory." Notice, Moses gives no blessing. God cannot bless the man who will not repent. He would be endorsing the very sin that dishonors the holiness of God. We know what happened after this. In just a few days, Pharaoh chased the Hebrews to the Red Sea where God drowned him and all his army. History records that after these events, the Hyksos people (who some identify with the Amalekites¹⁸) invaded Egypt and enslaved them for more than 100 years. God executed *Lex Talionis* (and eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth) upon Egypt. They killed his sons and enslaved His people, so He killed their sons and enslaved His people.

¹⁶ Much help from Gary North here on this argument. See citation below.

¹⁷ Gary North, *Moses & Pharaoh: Dominion Religion Versus Power Religion*, (Tyler, TX.: Institute for Christian Economics, 1985), pg. 178

¹⁸ *Ibid*, pg. 177

Our Doctrine: the conquering of all our enemies

That brings us to **our doctrine**: *Salvation for God's people means the conquering of all His and our enemies*. Children, boys and girls how does every good story end? The hero rescues the girl, and slays the dragon. That's the Exodus. Christ rescues Israel, and slays the dragon. The reason why this is so vital to see, is that because I fear many of us have an underdeveloped theology when it comes to what Jesus accomplishes for us. Whenever Christ saves His people, He slays her enemies.¹⁹ Consider 3 proofs of this from Scripture.

Proof #1: The Protoevangelium

Please turn to Genesis 3:15. Protoevangelium means *the first gospel*. Immediately after the fall, God promised that He would send Christ would do two things: *save His people and slay her enemies*. Halfway through v.15 we read “He [Christ] shall bruise your head” —Christ would crush Satan’s head on the cross putting to death our greatest foe— *and* “you [the serpent] shall bruise his heel”— in that bloody death of Christ that Satan inspired, we are saved. The cross of Jesus Christ promises not only that we will be saved, but that our mortal enemy the great dragon would be slain. Hebrews 2:14 “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death *he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.*”

Proof #2: The Flood

Please turn to Genesis 7. Two weeks ago the RYS were in Kentucky and we experienced the Ark Encounter—a life size replica of Noah’s Ark. It was

¹⁹ SCQ. 26 How doth Christ execute the office of a king? A. Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

more amazing than I ever imagined. Why did God have Noah build that Ark? Because wickedness filled the earth (Genesis 6:5). God's people were in mortal danger. He had Noah build the Ark to save His people, and He flooded the earth to kill everyone else. Look at v.22-23 says "Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. *He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground*, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark." Noah and his family (the church) was saved. All else perished.

Proof #3: The Day of Judgment

Please turn to Revelation 20:11-15. This is the end of all days when the wicked receive their sentence. "Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." That is when our deliverance will be complete. When every

last one of Christ's enemies and our enemies are finally put down. That's **our doctrine**: *Salvation for God's people means the conquering of all His and our enemies.*²⁰

II. Our Duty

Informatory Use

Our **first duty** is to *consider* the songs God has us sing. Why does God command us to sing Psalms? Colossians 3:16 says "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, *singing psalms* and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."²¹ Why do we need to sing the Psalms? One reason is because we need to be able to respond to the truly evil things that happen in this world. That's *why* the imprecatory psalms exist. Imprecatory psalms call down God's curse on the wicked. This morning we sang portions from Psalm 3. In v.3 we sang: "*Rise up, O LORD, and fight, break their jaws, destroy the wicked.*" We sing from Psalm 75 "For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs."²² We sing from Psalm 2 "Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. ♪ You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." How many hymns or contemporary songs can you think of that have words like that? Why does God

²⁰ "God's greatest mercies to his church are attended with the greatest plagues upon their enemies. The salvation of man is the destruction of sin and the devil; the passover was the salvation of Israel and the ruin of Egypt." Stephen Charnock, *The Works of Stephen Charnock Vol. 4*, (Carlisle, PA.: The Banner of Truth Trust, Reprint 2021), pg. 508

²¹ Also see Ephesians 5:19

²² v.8

instruct us to sing songs like that? Because in this world, there are Egyptians that throw Christian children to the crocodiles. As one author puts it:

“There are men who will grin for the camera over the prospect of beheading Christian children, and our response to them should be to pray the words of God back to Him...In the face of the kind of evil that is abroad in the world, evangelical Christians need to stop filling up their worship services with sentimentalist treacle²³ and to start worshipping biblically in a very dark world. We are confronted with a great and growing evil, and we are discovering that we do not have the liturgical vocabulary to respond to it appropriately at all.”²⁴

Certainly this is not an argument against singing other songs, since Scripture tells us to. But we must sing the Psalms, 1) because God says to and 2) because singing Psalms shapes our souls. Mao Zedong the dark father of the People’s Republic of China knew this. He used singing as a way to spread communist propaganda. He knew singing shapes souls. Now think hard for a second. If you were the devil, what is one way you would weaken the church? Have them stop singing the Psalms. The quickest path to worthless pietism is to control the song book of the church. That’s our **first duty**: *consider carefully the songs God has us to sing*. He commands that we would include imprecatory psalms in our song book.

²³ 1. a thick, sticky dark syrup made from partly refined sugar; molasses. 2. cloying sentimentality or flattery.

²⁴ Douglas Wilson, *Mere Christendom*, (Moscow, ID.,: Canon Press, 2023), pg. 227

Celebratory Use

Our **second duty** is *comfort* ourselves with this truth: *God always keeps His promises.* My son asked me yesterday: “Dad what are you preaching tomorrow?” I told him and he said “But dad didn’t you already preach on that?” I’m sure some of you feel the same way, expecting like a part 18 to Passover or something. There was a temptation to lump this in with several other verses because God had already threatened this death of the firstborn in chapter 11, why not just pass by it quickly. Ah, but that would be a mistake. Don’t you see, this is where we find all our comfort. God is not a man that He should lie. Dear congregation. How many chapters in Exodus has God promised deliverance? And would we hurry by the very place where He fulfills His promises?

He *promised* in Exodus 3:20 “I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go.” *Fulfilled here.* Pharaoh let them go and in fact drove them out (cf. 6:1).

He *promised* in Exodus 6:7 “I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God.” *Fulfilled here.* For the first time Pharaoh calls them “the people of Israel” (v.v31) not his slaves, or his property but God’s own possession.

He promised in Exodus 12:13 “When I see the blood, I will pass over you.” *Fulfilled here.* Not one Israelite perished when the Destroyer came.²⁵

²⁵ 22,273 firstborns were saved that night - Numbers 3:40-43. Many more promises could be seen to be fulfilled in this one passage. There are still promises to fulfill which this passage encourages faith in God to believe that He will fulfill all.

Not one of God's promises fell to the ground. In spite of their unbelief, in spite of their sin, and their unfaithfulness God was faithful. Dear congregation, God never lies. What has He promised you? What has He already fulfilled? Look at yourselves. You are free men and free women. If the Son has set you free, you are free indeed. You have been washed, you have been sanctified, you have been justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. Christians should be the happiest of all creatures. We serve a God who fulfills every promise He has ever made. Oh beloved there are greater promises yet to be fulfilled. There is a greater freedom coming. The world is not what it will be. Christ will have the final victory.

And though this world, with devils filled,
 Should threaten to undo us,
 We will not fear, for God hath willed
 His truth to triumph through us:

Nothing can stop Him. Pharaoh couldn't stop Him. The Canaanites couldn't stop Him. The Pharisees couldn't stop Him. Satan couldn't stop Him. Eventually all of mankind will surrender to Him. Isaiah 45:23 "By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: "To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance." What are you facing right now? What challenge? What hardship? Certainly God understands, God knows, and His Spirit will comfort you. But do not be dismayed! The LORD God Almighty cannot be stopped. He cannot lie. He cannot be unfaithful. He can never fail you. He can never leave you or forsake you. Every promise God has made you was sealed in the covenant blood of Christ Jesus. That's why Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:20 "For all the promises of

God find their Yes in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.” That’s our **second duty**: *comfort yourself with God’s promises*. If God fulfilled His promises to His covenant people then, certainly He will fulfill His promises to you His covenant people now.

III. Our Delight

Elentic/Evangelical Use

Our **first delight** to be able to answer one of the most difficult objections this passage raises. Unbelievers have looked at this passage and have said “*I just can’t believe that a good God would kill innocent children. What kind of a God is this?*” **First** there are no such thing as innocent children. The Egyptian children were not innocent, neither were the Hebrew children, neither are our children. When Adam sinned—all of us sinned in him. Romans 5:12 says “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, *and so death spread to all men because all sinned.*” Everyone soul in Egypt was a sinner. Death was coming to every single one of them. The only question was when? When would God carry out the sentence? The Sovereign King of the universe has the right to determine how long we shall live, whether that be 1 hour or 100 years. God was not putting innocent children to death in Egypt. There was no such thing. **Second**, God has only put one innocent child to death. His child—His Son—the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as our text says that the LORD struck down (נָכַח nāḵâ) the firstborn of Egypt, so the LORD struck (נָכַח nāḵâ) down His only Son. Isaiah 53:4 “Surely He took on our infirmities and carried our sorrows; yet we considered Him stricken by God, *struck down* (נָכַח nāḵâ) and afflicted.”

Pharaoh's firstborn son the prince of Egypt died, but an infinitely greater death occurred for our sake—Christ the King of Heaven was struck down. He is the only innocent person in the history of the world that has ever been put to death. I'm not saying there haven't been victims of horrendous crimes. There have been. Many have wrongly been put to death by wicked men. But every human being that has ever been put to death was still a sinner.

Holy, harmless and undefiled

But not so with Jesus Christ. He was holy, harmless and undefiled. He loved God with all of His heart, soul, mind and strength. He not only loved His neighbor as Himself, but He loved enemies of God like you and me as though we were His own flesh and blood. Never has the world seen such love such mercy such pity. And God struck down this Man, this God-man not because Jesus had sin, but because we have sin. We have been defiled since birth. We were those who had the death sentence hanging over our heads. The Destroyer's footsteps could be heard coming to the door of our homes. Surely we were set to perish with the rest of mankind, *but God* in the fullness of time sent His Son into the world, born of woman, born under the law to redeem us. Father struck Him down in our place. We were under the curse of sin, and Jesus Christ became a curse for us. Galatians 3:13 "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.""

The deeper magic

This story isn't about a God who puts innocent children to death. This story has a deeper magic. This story is about a God who is slow to anger, reluctant to judge. It was only after 9 previous plagues that God finally

unleashed this judgment. But there is a warning here for those who do not believe. God's patience will come to an end. Like Pharaoh, every unbeliever that hears my voice has seen the wonders of God again and again and again. Don't perish as Pharaoh did. Turn to God and live. "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."²⁶ "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."²⁷

Hortatory Use

Our **last delight** is that *we can look at the future with hope*. The church in America today finds itself very much in the same place as Israel did while they were enslaved to Egypt. Our nation has rebelled against the LORD of Heaven. Our nation serves multiple gods. The gods of the ancient world have been resurrected in our day. We worship Molech (abortion), we worship Baal (climate change), we worship Ashterah (sex). What will become of us? The destruction of firstborn in Egypt gives us the answer. It will not be the church that will perish. The Destroyer will not come near us. The gates of hell shall not prevail. There may be hard times ahead, we may be woken up in the middle of the night to flee, but the angel of death will not come near the saints of God. Christ our King reigns in. And He must reign until He conquers all His and our enemies.

²⁶ John 3:17

²⁷ John 3:36