

Bridgeway Community Church
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Series: Threshold
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THRESHOLD

The Covered Door

Question: What is Goshen? Where is Goshen?

"What kind of doors do we go through that we shouldn't go through or what could come through our door and the doors of our life that we don't want coming through our doors?"

Like heavenly "bouncers" outside a nightclub, the blood of Christ can legally rebuff any force that seeks to get into your life and stop it before it even enters into your world. Like a bouncer the Holy Spirit can just erase and stop anyone trying to come across the path of your life when you're covered by the blood of Christ.

THREE CATEGORIES OF CONVERSATION TO HELP US COMPREHEND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COVERED DOOR

TEXT - EXODUS 11-12

I will address 3 broad categories of conversation from the Exodus story that will help us comprehend the significance of the covered door.

The Exodus is that time when the Israelites were released from the oppression of Pharaoh in Egypt.

After 430 years in slavery in Egypt, God had tapped Moses to go back to Egypt to impress upon Pharaoh to let the Israelites go so they could worship their God freely.

[God] "heard the cry of his people and he says to Moses, 'I want you to go in, back to where you ran from - Egypt, and I want you to tell the Pharaoh to let my people go so that they can worship me.' "

The 3 categories of conversation I would like to discuss is the Pharaoh, the Plagues, and the Passover:

1. THE PHARAOH (Oppression)

Exodus 11:1 NIV84

Now the Lord had said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely

Prophetic/Encouraging Word:

"There maybe some people in your life that are trying to influence you and God will move them from RESISTANCE to INSISTENCE. The very people that were resisting you will now be the very ones to insist that you do exactly what you've been wanting to do."

Exodus 3:21 NIV84

[God speaking] And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people [Israelites], so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed.

Exodus 6:1 NIV84

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country."

God is going to move Pharaoh from RESISTANCE to INSISTENCE.

Exodus 11:5-7 NIV84

So Moses said, "This is what the Lord says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. ⁵ Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. ⁶ There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. ⁷ But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal.' Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel."

"Even when the firstborn of every household is killed, the Israelites will be protected in a place called Goshen. And not a dog will bark at any sound or any animal and the silence and the peace that's happening in Goshen will show that there is a distinction between Egypt, where all the chaos is, and Goshen where the Israelites are. It's so peaceful not even a dog shall bark. What a distinction!"

Exodus 11:8-9 NIV84

All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, 'Go, you and all the people who follow you!' After that I will leave." Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh. ⁹ The Lord had said to Moses, "Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you—so that my wonders may be multiplied in Egypt."

"God is saying, 'Listen. He's not going to listen to you. But as a result of that, my wonders are going to be multiplied in Egypt, so they'll move from RESISTANCE to INSISTENCE. But in that time period, there's going to be a lot of time when Pharaoh is going to not do what you want him to do."

Prophetic/Encouraging Word:

"Some people resist and refuse God's warning however, as always, God's wonders will be seen on the earth. God's miracles will be multiplied on the earth. And even though right now it looks like you're under the gun and even though right now it looks like it's not going your way, if you will hold on and if you will hang in there, God's deliverance will come, his signs and his miracles will happen."

Exodus 11:10 NIV84

Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, but **the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart**, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his country.

What's going on here? You need to understand that this is the 10th plague and after multiple warnings that God gave to Pharaoh, God allowed the RESISTANCE to turn into PERSISTENCE which is the hardening of Pharaoh's heart.

Fact: In these first 12 chapters of Exodus it mentions Pharaoh's heart being hardened 18 times.

The first two times it mentions that God WILL [in the future] harden his heart.

Exodus 4:21 NIV84

The Lord said to Moses, "When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. **But I will harden his heart** so that he will not let the people go.

Exodus 7:3-4a NIV84

[God speaking] **But I will harden Pharaoh's heart**, and though I multiply my miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt, ⁴ he will not listen to you.

In both these cases, God is speaking about what He knows about the future. But the next 10 times, Pharaoh is the one hardening his own heart!

Exodus 8:32 NIV84

But this time also **Pharaoh hardened his heart** and would not let the people go.

Then the last 6 times, God hardens his heart or allows his heart to remain callous and stops working on trying to overtake his free will to resist the Lord.

"You can resist and resist and resist to a point where God finally says, 'Okay, you can have what you want. I knocked on the door, I knocked on the door, I knocked on the door, let me in! I stand at the door and I knock. If any man let me in, I will come in and I will sup with him. He stands and he waits and he's hoping that you'll open your heart, but there comes a time when he says, no more knocks.' "

Revelation 3:20 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

WARNING - We, too, need to be careful that we don't resist the movement of God's Holy Spirit in our lives so that we get to a place where our hearts are hardened!

Hebrews 3:12-13 NIV84

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's

deceitfulness. ¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. ¹⁵ As has just been said: 'Today, if you hear his voice, **do not harden your hearts** as you did in the rebellion.'

Psalm 95:6-9 NIV84

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; ⁷ for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. **Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts** as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert, ⁹ where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did.

So far we have learned that there is an oppressor in the land who enslaved God's people. Pharaoh, the "god-king" of Egypt!

2. THE PLAGUES (Judgment)

God heard the cry of His people and has sent Moses and Aaron, his older brother, to rescue the people of Israel.

This rescue is not a Rambo-type rescue or a Liam Neeson kind of rescue with a "special set of skills".

This was a man and his brother with a shepherd's staff in his hand and a message from God! "Let my people go so they may worship me."

Ten Plagues

1. WATER - **Blood** (no fish or clean water) Nile River (Exodus 7:14-24)

2. LAND - **Frogs** (amphibians) (Exodus 8:1-15)

Exodus 8:6 NIV84

So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and **COVERED the land**.

3. AIR - **Gnats** (insects - pests! Pestilence. (Exodus 8:16-19)

4. AIR & LAND - **Flies** (the land was ruined (Exodus 8:20-32) - but NOT GOSHEN

Exodus 8:22 NIV84

[God speaking] But on that day I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I, the Lord, am in this land.

5. WEALTH - **Livestock** (economy & food) (Exodus 9:1-7)

6. HEALTH - **Boils** (skin disease on their body) (Exodus 9:8-12)

7. WEATHER - **Hail** (thunderstorms to wipe out everything) (Exodus 9:13-35) - but NOT GOSHEN

Exodus 9:19, 26 NIV84

Give an order now to bring your livestock and everything you have in the field to a place of shelter, because the hail will fall on every man and animal that has not been brought in and is still out in the field, and they will die...The only place it did not hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were.

8. FOOD - **Locusts** (destruction of vegetation - food) (Exodus 10:1-20)

Exodus 10:5, 15 NIV84

They [locust] will COVER the face of the ground so that it cannot be seen...They COVERED all the ground until it was black. They devoured all that was left after the hail - everything growing in the fields and the green on the trees. Nothing green remained on tree or plant in all the land of Egypt.

"Sometimes God doesn't really have judge you. All he has to do is let consequences of your own behavior take you out. Then you're crying, 'Mercy, mercy! Okay Lord!' God doesn't even have to judge you. He just gotta let you live!"

9. LIGHT - **Darkness** (3 days of darkness, but there was light for the Israelites) (Exodus 10:21-29)

Exodus 10:22-23 NIV84

So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness COVERED all Egypt for three days. ²³ No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

Similarly, Jesus was in the grave for 3 days. From the darkness of the tomb, on the 3rd day, light of resurrection broke through.

If you compare the plagues with the creation story in Genesis, you can see God unraveling his own creation in judgement.

10. HUMAN LIFE - **Death to firstborn sons** (like the creation order, from life in the water to life on land, to humankind God's judgment) (Exodus 11:1-10)

Romans 6:23 NIV84

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

NOTE:

- God's judgment is progressive, not impulsive
- God is patient and gives many warnings
- God's judgment does start with blood and ends with blood.

"What God wants us to see is that it begins with the blood and it ends with the blood. The very first plague was about blood and now the very last plague is about blood. What God wants us to see: it's not just about Pharaoh, it's not just about the plagues, but the third category of conversation is where it culminates, it's about the Passover."

3. THE PASSOVER (Deliverance)

"What God is now saying is, 'Now listen! I'm going to tell you something. That every firstborn son in the Egyptian household is going to be killed. But because you're in Goshen, because you're in God, because you are covered, the blood of the lamb will be your bouncer to keep the destroying angel from coming into your house and destroying that which you love.'"

It is because of the blood of Christ that we are cleansed, covered, and connected to almighty God.

Exodus 12:3-4 NIV84

[God speaking] Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat.

The 3rd saying of a Gracist: **I will share with you!** Engaging in community care and corporate responsibility.

Exodus 12:7 NIV84

[God speaking] Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.

"In this world, it's about to get nasty out there. You think it's bad now, when the judgement of God comes to hit the earth, it's going to get nasty out there. But if you're in God, if you're in Goshen, you might hear it. You might see it. You might shake in your boots a little bit because you hear so much going on around you but he tells them to paint the door."

Exodus 12:12-13 NIV84

[God speaking] On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³ **The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.**"

Exodus 12:21-23 NIV84

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³ When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, **he will see the**

blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

Exodus 12:29-30 NIV84

At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. ³⁰ Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, for there was not a house without someone dead."

"When the blood of Jesus Christ - this is just a type, this is just a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world - cleanses us of our sins, covers us so when death comes, when the enemy comes, our homes can be passed over."

John 1:29 NIV84

The next day John [the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

"The beauty of being covered by the blood of Christ, is that no matter what happens in Egypt, as long as you're in Goshen, protected by the blood of the lamb. As long as you're behind the covered door, the angels may they be commanded concerning you to protect you to walk where you walk, to stand before the door of your life, to stand before your family, before your sons, before your daughters."

Psalms 91:11 NIV84

For he [God] will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways

May he be the Holy Spirit bouncer and the blood of the lamb, whenever that which is evil comes against you, there's a bouncer in heaven that says, 'you better go to another house! Because the angels have been assigned to this life, to this generation, to your grandson, your granddaughter, to your family members, no disease is going to come. No pestilence is going to hit you.' There's a lot going on out there in Egypt but as long as you're behind the covered door there is a bouncer name Jesus Christ and the blood of the lamb is going to protect you and cover you so fear not, for the Lord thy God is with you!"

Isaiah 41:10 NIV84

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.