

The Plagues of Egypt: The Plague That Saves Your Life - Part 2

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Nathaniel Bronner: Sometimes the things that we think are so rough, they're our greatest blessings in disguise.

Female: You are listening to BrothersoftheWord.com. This is part three of the series titled, "The Plagues of Egypt" subtitled "The Plague That Saves Your Life Part 2" by Nathaniel Bronner. This sermon is number 5862.

(Music Playing: 00:00:19 - 00:00:31)

Female: And now for The Plagues of Egypt - Part 3: The Plague that Saves Your Life - Part 2.

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the Word.

I am now in the middle of a series called "The Plagues of Egypt". This is a series that God had me to do because the very plagues of Egypt still have a significance in our life today. We still have plagues in our lives today. The first one was entitled simply "Bumps Over Blessings" and how the first plague was really how we have a tendency sometimes to put our trials and our tribulations in our bumps over the blessings that God has given us.

The second one had to do with "The Plague that Saves Your Life" and I preached part one of that particular plague on last week and God says, "This plague takes two parts to even just preach about this plague." The plague that saves your life.

Actually, it begins with Abimelech, who was a king. Abraham had gone into his country and Sarah was a beautiful woman and Abraham knew how beautiful she was. He said, "Because my wife is so beautiful, the men there will kill me and take her. So, let us tell the people that you are my sister and therefore they won't kill me and they'll let me live." That's what they did.

Abimelech saw Sarah and got Sarah. He gave Abraham all this stuff. But there was a plague and curse that came over Abimelech's household. He had a dream and. In the dream, God says, "If you had touched this woman, surely you will be a dead man."

Abimelech went back to Abraham and said, “Why you do this to me? I’m innocent, I don’t know a thing about it. Why you do this to me?” But he ended up giving Abraham all of this stuff.

And then, I took you to the second part of that message, 25 years earlier, when Abraham had gone into Egypt and he had done the same thing. He was worried about the Egyptians killing him and taking his wife and he said, “Let’s tell the people that you are my sister.”

Here, in the first part, Abimelech, Genesis Chapter 20. But that night God came to Abimelech in a dream and told him, “You are a dead man, for the woman you have taken is already married.” And then God had closed up all the wombs of the women in Abimelech’s household.

We go back 25 years earlier in Genesis Chapter 12: Then Pharaoh gave Abraham many gifts because of her—sheep, goats, cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels. But the Lord sent terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. And this actually was the first true plague of Egypt. But the Lord sent terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and his household because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife.

It didn’t enumerate or detail what those plagues are, it just says they were terrible. And when God says it’s terrible, it’s about pretty bad. I don’t know what they were but I’d really rather not have anything to do with terrible plagues, but in this instance, the plague saved Pharaoh’s life. And, if it had not have been for the plagues, Pharaoh could have been killed because he would fool with another man’s wife, but here the plague saved his life. I’m here to tell you not only did the curse save Pharaoh’s life, but it blessed him beyond measure.

I know you’re looking at me strangely and saying, “How? Yeah, I can see it saving his life, but how did it bless him beyond measure? Pharaoh was already the most powerful man in the land and at that time, in the most powerful and the most prosperous country on the face of the Earth, how did it bless him beyond measure? How did a plague bless him beyond measure?” This is why it is entitled, “The Plague That Saves Your Life.” Sometimes the things that we think are so rough, they’re our

greatest blessings in disguise. Some of you are in school right now and you think the teacher that's so terrible.

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I distinctly remember, Mrs. Drew and Mr. Bales. Now, who is Mrs. Drew and Mr. Bales? Mrs. Drew was a teacher of mine in elementary school; Mr. Bales was a teacher in high school. All of the students avoided Mrs. Drew and Mr. Bales because they were the toughest teachers in the whole school, but I learned more from Mrs. Drew and Mr. Bales than all of the other teachers put together.

I remember Mr. Bales in particular and I remember a class. He had a test and I made a 41. Not 42, 41. It's the only grade I can remember in my life but I made a 41 on that test. When I came back and told my mother, she said, "Boy, you what? You don't fail!" I said, "Mama, you don't understand." When Mr. Bales was passing out the test, he said, "I've got to grade these on a curve." You all know a curve means. A curve is not absolute, it's relative, because everybody has done so bad, they got to change the whole scale. Mr. Bale says, "I've got to grade this test on a curve because the highest score in the class was only a 41." That was me. I said, "Mama, I got the highest score in the class." And mama said, "But you failed!"

See, this is the difference between how we view something and how God view -- "Lord, I'm doing better than they are. Lord, have mercy. Thank goodness I am not like that sinner over there because I'm not doing this, I'm not doing that and I'm not doing the other. Thank goodness, I'm not like them." God looked and He said, "But what are you doing? What are you not doing that I have commanded you to do?" See, we sometimes don't understand the tough things that God sends us through. They are the things that save our lives. They are things that teach us.

Here, Pharaoh was blessed beyond measure by the cure that God sent and you're saying, "How did that curse bless Pharaoh?" You see, we know that Abraham's great blessing and promise from God was his seed, his descendants. God's promise to Abraham was basically, "I will make your descendants like the stars in the sky." That's the main thing we know of Abraham. That's the main part of the Abrahamic promise. It wasn't so much for Abraham, even though he was greatly blessed. God's emphasis

on Abraham was his seed would be blessed and they would be multiplied like the stars in the sky.

Well, what has that got to do with Pharaoh? You know, because it's on your mind right now so go ahead and say it. What has that got to do with Pharaoh? I'm going to tell you what that has got to do with Pharaoh.

You see, the Bible gives you a clue and a key but not the full story. The reason it doesn't give you the full story on a lot of story, because there's too much to write. It's kind of like your own resume. You don't write all your stuff on your resume. Even if you write an autobiography, you can't put all this stuff that happened in your life, you know. It's hard enough for us to get through the Bible as it is. It would fill up a whole book just to write the true details of Abraham's life.

That wasn't all the stuff that happened to Abraham. I tell you a lot of my personal stuff. Trust me, that's not all the stuff that's happened to me, that's the abbreviated, filtered version. So, oftentimes you got the abbreviated, filtered version. That's not the whole story because the Bible just didn't have enough room to write the things that Jesus did, all the books in the Earth couldn't hold it all. You can't put all of those stuff in there, so, some of the stuff is abbreviated and the Bible in particular is the story of the Jews and Jesus. So, a lot of the rest of those stuff is just filtered out, it's cut out because it's just too much to even put in there.

So, the Bible is primarily the history of the Jews and Christ. But in Genesis Chapter 12 beginning at 14th Verse: "And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair." That means pretty. This woman was tough, she was a 10, a brickhouse. And then it says, "The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house."

Now, some version says the officials of Egypt but the King James actually says the more accurate rendition of this word. The word prince in the Hebrew actually is called "nasi". It means an exalted one, a king or a sheik, the son of royalty. So, when it says, the princes of Egypt, it was really talking about Pharaoh's sons saw Sarah and went and told their daddy. Said, "Man, this woman here is just woo." Because the Pharaoh had the toughest women in the kingdom. He was the king.

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So, he had the prettiest women in all of the kingdom and when they saw her, she was so beautiful, they went and told Pharaoh. The same thing that happened with Abimelech, when they just saw a beautiful woman, it was their law, the king got the first shot at her. Because if you took her and the king wanted her, the king will just get you killed. So, you knew if she was that pretty, give that woman to the king.

So, the princes, his sons saw Sarah and went and told Pharaoh and Pharaoh took her into his house and gave Abraham all this stuff. Now, this is the first use of the word “prince” in the Bible. Let me tell you the second use of the word “prince” in the Bible. That’s in Genesis Chapter 17 Verse 20, “And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.”

Now, the question begs, why did God say Ishmael would have 12 princes but He didn’t say that about Isaac? He said Isaac would be the son of a covenant, he would have a blessed nation, but he said Ishmael would bare or he would have 12 princes but he didn’t say that about anybody else. Now see, a prince basically you got to come from a king or a queen. That’s the bottom line. You got to be in the royal bloodline. Abraham was a royal priest but he didn’t say that about Isaac. He didn’t say, “Isaac was going to have two princes.” He said, Ishmael was going to bare 12 princes. Why? And what has that got to do with Pharaoh? Pharaoh gave Abraham stuff.

Genesis 12:16 it says, “And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.” Now, menservants, and maidservants is a politically correct word for slaves. That’s what it boiled down to, when you strip away all of the political correctness, they’re slaves. That’s why in so many of the biblical commands it relates to how you treat your slaves, because slavery was allowed at that time but it wasn’t like American slavery which was a whole different level of inhumaneness. It was a

different type, more of indentured servitude but still slaves and you're born and you died in slavery but they had to treat you decent and fairly.

So here, Pharaoh gave Abraham all of this stuff. And again, you said, but what has that got to do with Pharaoh and how did the curse bless Pharaoh immensely?

Genesis 16, beginning at the first verse, "Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had a handmaiden, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said unto Abram, 'Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her.' And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai. And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife."

Now, first of all, it didn't look like Abraham had a big problem with that. Sarah said, "Look, I can't have any babies take my handmaiden and you go in and sleep with her and make some babies." There are no complaints out of Abraham on that at all. And I'll tell you a little later why there were no complaints on Abraham. But Hagar was Ishmael's mother whom God said would have 12 princes. So, how did Hagar's son produce princes and Sarah didn't produce princes? If Sarah ever wondered about this, it'd be some stuff that makes her hmmm. Why did Hagar produce princes and Sarah did not produce princes? See, they got the same daddy. They different baby mamas but they the same daddy.

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I had to put this stuff where you'll understand. They different baby mamas but they the same daddy. So, why is it that one baby mama produced princes and the other produced a son of the covenant but God didn't call him prince? Why did one produce princes and the other didn't? What was the difference between Sarah and Hagar? Let me tell you what that difference was.

Hagar was Pharaoh's daughter. That's why Hagar produced princes and Sarah didn't. Hagar was Pharaoh's daughter.

Now, this is not detailed in the Bible. You actually have to go to the Midrash, which is Jewish rabbinical literary tool that explains and espouses upon the Torah. The Bible just didn't have enough room to explain all of this stuff and it's not the story of Ishmael, it's the story of Isaac. So, sometimes when you're telling your own story, you don't need to put the other folk in there. It's not the story of Ishmael, it's mainly the story of the lineage that flows through Isaac. But Hagar was Pharaoh's daughter.

Now, again the question begs, why would Pharaoh give Abraham his daughter to be a slave? Why? I mean this is the most powerful man on the face of the Earth. Why would he put his daughter in slavery to another man? Why would Pharaoh do that? Because Pharaoh didn't do it. But wait a minute, wait a minute. This doesn't make any sense. If Pharaoh didn't do it and Hagar is the daughter of Pharaoh, how did Hagar get to be the slave of a handmaiden to Sarah? If Pharaoh didn't do it, how did Hagar get to be there? Because Hagar asked to be there.

I told you this is some deep stuff. Let me read this. According to the Midrash, a collection of Jewish rabbinical literature, Hagar was the daughter of King Pharaoh of Egypt. When she saw the miracle which God performed for the sake of Sarah to save her from the hands of her daddy during Abraham's visit there, she said, "It is better to be a slave in Sarah's house than a princess in my own." That's deep.

Now let me give you just a little bit of an interpretation or expounding on what happened here with the plagues that hit Pharaoh's house. It's just like what happened with the traditional plagues of Egypt. First thing Pharaoh did was to call for his magician, for his wiseman, for the priest, for all of the folk who knew all of this stuff, because Pharaoh had all this folk around. So, don't you think when the plagues hit Pharaoh's house, he didn't call all of his wise folk. He said, "Why is this stuff happening to me? What's happening here? Man, tell me the reason."

They said, "Because of this woman, her God is bringing all this stuff." Then Pharaoh said, "Well, stop it! Stop it! Get these plagues out of my house! Stop this stuff!" And his magicians, his sorcerers, all his priests; all they can say was, "King, we're sorry, but her God is stronger than we are. We can't do nothing with this. These plagues are so strong. She's got a force. She's got

something protecting her. Yeah, we're powerful. We got a lot of knowledge. We are the wise folk of Egypt. We can build the pyramids. We can do all of this. But Pharaoh, we can't do a thing with her God. This is beyond our ability. So, all we can advise you is you better get this woman out of the palace, get this woman back to her husband. Don't you touch this woman because the force that is protecting this woman is beyond us."

Hagar saw all of that and Hagar said, "Whoever Sarah serving, whoever Abraham is serving is way more powerful than my daddy because my daddy can't do a thing with this stuff. My daddy is the most powerful human on the face of the Earth. And my daddy cannot do nothing with this."

See, there are some things, people, and you're relying on your earthly daddy, and your earthly daddy is limited. Some of us, it's not our earthly daddy, we are relying on earthly stuff. Some of us, we rely on our education, we rely on our money, we rely on our physical body, and those stuff are going to fail you. You can't do anything in the face of an all-powerful God. And Hagar said, "I would never be a slave in a house that's serving the true God than a princess in this palace." That's deep, that's deep, that's deep.

So, when Hagar went with Abraham to be a slave -- that's why sometimes, people, it's better for you to be low in a company that's righteous than high in a company that's unrighteous.

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And see, sometimes that's why you got to learn to even ask yourself with some things, what is my purpose, what is my divine destiny, what is the spirit of this place? Sometime all we think about is just the money. "Oh, they're paying me \$100,000 a year. As long as they are paying me \$100,000, they can be anything they want to be." And sometimes, all our (00:20:16) "As long as he looked good, he can do anything he want to do, as long as he's driving a sharp car."

See, sometimes our criteria of why and where we are is based on the wrong stuff. She said, "I would rather be a slave in the house of somebody serving the true God than a princess in this house. I'm going to leave the palace to be a handmaiden." Do you understand the level and the wisdom involved in that? So, here Hagar goes 10 years later. Sarah says, "Go, into my husband and

make children.” The reason Abraham didn’t complain, that’s the daughter of Pharaoh. Pharaoh has the finest, prettiest women in the land and a very pretty woman produces a very pretty daughter. Hagar wasn’t ugly.

Now see, if Hagar had been ugly, Abraham might as well, “Hold up, wait a minute, wait. Hold up, wait a minute.” See, Hagar was the daughter of Pharaoh. She was the daughter of the prettiest women in the land. So, that meant by genetic probability Hagar was beautiful herself. So, when Sarah said, “Look, take my handmaiden.” Abraham was, “Ohhh, Lord!” That’s why Abraham didn’t make any complaints.

So, you know the story that Hagar bore Ishmael who God said would produce 12 princes and there became a strife between Sarah and Hagar. That’s another whole sermon dealing with all of that, but Abraham had to then put Hagar out of the house. And God told Abraham, “Listen to your wife.” And she said, “This woman got to go.” So, Hagar was put out of the house, sent out into the wilderness. An angel came to her, ministered her in all this stuff. And years down the road, Sarah died. Abraham died at 175 but Sarah died at 130. It’s unusual for a man to outlive the woman. Abraham lived to 175, Sarah died at 130.

Now, the other part that’s in the Midrash is this. Isaac, the chosen son, when his mama died, went to the wilderness and got Hagar and brought her back for his daddy. Abraham then married Hagar but her name was changed. Her name was changed from Hagar to Keturah. That’s why you read in the Bible, “and Abraham took a wife of Keturah.” That was Hagar.

So, Hagar recognized the blessing that was on the house of Abraham, said, “I would rather be a slave in this house than a princess in the palace,” went there, served as a handmaiden, got cast in the wilderness, but was brought back in charge.

When you do what you’re supposed to do and when you follow a divine leading and sometimes when we walk away -- and people looked at Hagar, “Is this woman crazy? She’s going to leave being a princess in the palace to go and be a slave under another woman. That’s crazy.” Some of the things that God will lead you to do may look crazy, and I say it blessed Pharaoh beyond measure because Ishmael became the Islamics. That’s where the religion of Islam comes from. That’s why when you read the

Koran, it reads basically identical to the Bible. It all came from the same root of Abraham.

So, Ishmael became the nation of the Islamic and right now when you go to Egypt, Egypt is predominantly Islamic. It's Pharaoh's seed. So, his seed that went out through Hagar because of the curse, the same thing that God promised Abraham happened to Pharaoh, because it's more Islamic than it is Jews, way more.

The Jews dominate one country, Israel; the Islamics dominate 50 countries of which Egypt is just one. Pharaoh because of the curse that God sent him, and see God orchestrates all of this stuff because he shut up Sarah's womb. If he hadn't shut the womb up, Sarah would have never sent another woman into her husband. So, God orchestrated all of this.

People, the point is, when you listen and follow the orchestration of God, you will go through some tough things. God just didn't send you just all to bits of ease.

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God's path has some bumps, it's got some rough spots, but I can look back over all of my bumps and I still got some bumps. When I'm following God, I don't worry about the bumps because I know it's going to all workout, and I know it's going to all be blessed, and I know as long as I follow what God is saying and God is showing, even when I got to go through some stuff, even when it looks like other folk say, "Why in the world would you do this? Why would you leave all this palace and why would you be a slave? Why would you do this? Why would you really? Why would you go here? What kind of sense does that make?" Because I'd rather be with God as a slave than with the devil as a prince.

So, when you understand some things and when you know what end everyone just called the rest of the story -- So, when you know the rest of the story you see how God's orchestration covers everything and the curse that Pharaoh thought was going to be his greatest curse turned out to be the thing that spread his seed throughout the earth, and it was through the daughter, Hagar who went out understanding it is better to serve God than the princes of man.

When you come to that realization in your life you're heading for greater blessings. You're heading for blessings bountiful. When you come to that realization in your life it is better for me to serve God -- I mean that real realization. Sometimes that's so hard because the children of Israel, so many times, they went back to the golden idols and the calves. They went back to stuff. When you understand it is far better to serve God than stuff, it will change your whole world and some of you are going to have to submit.

Do you know what it took for a princess to submit to be a slave, to be a handmaiden? Look, this woman went from having handmaidens to being a handmaiden. Do you know what the daughter of Pharaoh, the privileges she would have had? She had folk waiting on her. She went from folk waiting on her. She went from people bringing her water to bringing Sarah water. Do you know what that took? But when you make a decision that I'm going to be where God is, you will always be greater blessed in the end.

So, I tell you, some of the things that God has placed in your life that you think is a curse, that you think is a terrible thing, not only saving your life, it's saving the life of your seed and you don't understand it and you may not see it until way down the road. Stay and be with wherever God is.

I thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word. You can go to brothersoftheword.com and you can listen to the entire series called "The Plagues of Egypt" absolutely free. Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the word. Amen, amen.

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