

The Thread

WEEK 9 - DEVOTION 5

“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.”
– Exodus 11:7

Remember what it felt like in elementary school when it was time to pick teams? The waiting was the worst. But being chosen . . . what a sense of relief and belonging! God makes a clear distinction in today’s passage that the Israelites are His people, and under His protection.

Read Exodus chapter 11. The Israelites had come to Egypt in a time of famine and gained refuge under the reign of Joseph. After Joseph’s death, they grew in number and were ultimately subdued into slavery. Now, God had raised up Moses to be the one to lead His people to freedom. Nine previous plagues had revealed God’s power over nature, and Pharaoh still refused to give in. This new threat would create a dividing line between Egypt and Israel that made it clear: for God’s people there was life. Apart from Him there is only death and destruction!

In these days, the firstborn of Pharaoh would have been his successor to the throne. The plague of the firstborn meant not only great anguish to Pharaoh as a father, but a clear threat to his royal line. Preserving the firstborn of the Israelites shows God’s fatherly affection for His children, while still remembering His promise to create in them a great and powerful nation.

Look closely at verses 6-7. Why do you think God went so far as to say that “not even a dog shall growl against” His people?

You can look back at Exodus 7:1-4 and see that God predicted Pharaoh’s response from the beginning of these plagues. So, what do you think was the point of all the plagues, then?

The line has been drawn in the sand. God’s children will live, others will die. And now they wait for Him to show His ultimate power.

Something To Think About . . .

- How does knowing that God has chosen you for His team give you peace when you face frightening situations?