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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Bo – God’s Judgment

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Bo, which is Hebrew for “Come,” and it goes from Exodus 10:1 to Exodus 13:16.

This parashah tells the story of the last three plagues that God sent upon Egypt.

It also tells the story of the first Passover when Israel put the blood of the lamb on their doorposts to be spared from the last plague—the death of the firstborn.

We also read about the Exodus from Egypt.

The parashah concludes with God giving instructions for Passover, Unleavened Bread, and the consecration of the firstborn.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to present just a thought on God’s judgment.

Exodus 10:1-2

Then the Lord (YHWH) said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them, and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord (YHWH).”

According to this passage, it’s God’s desire that we come to know that He is the Lord. The word “know” is translated from *yada* in Hebrew, which simply means to clearly understand.

And how do we come to know, or clearly understand, that He is the Lord? Well, one way is to remember this story of the plagues that He sent upon Egypt, as the passage says. These plagues stand as a testimony of God’s judgment and wrath, and their story is to be passed down from generation to

generation.

Perhaps something we don't often think about is that truly knowing God must include knowledge of His wrath and judgment. After all, isn't that what this passage commands us to remember and pass on to our children and grandchildren? Knowing God is not all flowers and butterflies.

Why is it important that we recognize God's wrath and judgment? Well, for one, it teaches us that the choices we make in this life matter. There are consequences— *eternal* consequences—to our actions. This is important, because without consequences, it really doesn't matter what we do. Without them "good and evil" have no real meaning or value.

Some might object and say that this concept of God bringing judgment and wrath is only in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, God is only about grace and love! That idea only comes from a selective reading of the Scriptures. Both the Old Testament and New Testament testify of God's amazing grace and mercy for His people as well as His judgment and wrath. There is no inconsistency.

So it's clear that God's wrath is part of who He is. And therefore, truly knowing God includes knowing this aspect of His character. He is holy and just and He punishes evil and wickedness.

Now some people might be uncomfortable with this reality. After all, isn't God supposed to be all good and loving? Well, He is. Think about it for a minute. If there is no judgment for sin, it means that God is unjust. It means that unrepentant rapists and murderers just get away with the evil atrocities that they've committed. How is that good and loving?

Furthermore, without God's wrath and judgment, there's really no point to God's grace and mercy. We all deserve God's wrath, but if we've repented we've been forgiven. Grace and mercy would literally mean nothing if there was no judgment. Salvation would mean nothing if there was nothing to be saved from.

Everyone who cares about truth, morality, and justice ought to agree that God's wrath and judgment are necessary. And we should know about this aspect of who God is in order to really *know* that He is the Lord. Knowledge should energize us to share the Gospel so that people know that there is hope for salvation if they repent.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching.

*Remember, continue to test everything.
Shalom!*

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

EMAIL: Info@119ministries.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/119Ministries

WEBSITE: www.TestEverything.net & www.ExaminaloTodo.net

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