
GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE WICKED

EXODUS 9



Why did God let Satan fall from being an angel to becoming the devil? Why didn't God just kill him there and then? Why does God let him have so much power and success in the world? If we haven't asked these questions ourselves, we've surely been asked them at times. In some ways, these are impossible questions to answer. We're left with, "I just don't know," which doesn't help us or anyone else who's asking.

But God's treatment of wicked Pharaoh in Exodus 9 provides some answers—though probably not all the answers—to these awkward and challenging questions.

- **GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR THE WICKED (13-16)**
- **GOD SHOWS HIS POWER IN THE WICKED (16)**
- **GOD IS PRAISED THROUGH THE WICKED (16C)**

LEARNING

GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR THE WICKED (13-16)

Plagues 1-6 only hardened Pharaoh's heart harder (7, 12). When God sent Moses to announce the seventh plague to Pharaoh, he also gave him a mini-sermon to preach (13-19). His first point was, *I'm bigger and better than you* (14). His second point was, *I can kill you at any moment* (15). His third point was, *I'm using you*: **But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth** (16). God raises the wicked up for a purpose and keeps them alive for a purpose.

THE WICKED MAKE THEIR PLANS,
BUT GOD HAS THE MASTERPLAN.

What is God's purpose for the wicked?

GOD SHOWS HIS POWER IN THE WICKED (16)

God didn't leave Pharaoh in the dark as to that purpose was. It was to show his power to the wicked and show his power through the wicked: **for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth** (16).

THE WICKED ARE POWERFUL,
BUT GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL.

Is that God's sole purpose with the wicked, just to show his power?

GOD IS PRAISED THROUGH THE WICKED (16C)

There was no name like Pharaoh's in the ancient world. His name was known everywhere and praised everywhere. But God replaced Pharaoh's name with his own. I'm doing all this, God says, **so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth** (16). Pharaoh, your name will be expunged and eradicated, but my name will be proclaimed and praised.

THE WICKED'S NAMES ARE FADING,
BUT GOD'S NAME IS FAMOUS.

LOVING

Let's honor our God by delighting in his triumphant purpose, his victorious power, and his peerless name. If we see this in Moses's confrontation with wicked Pharaoh, we see it even more stunningly in Christ's confrontation with the devil during his life and in his death. There, in mile-high capital letters, we behold God's triumphant purpose, his victorious power, and his peerless name. There, we hear Christ's answer to all these questions about the devil: I'm showing the world that I'm bigger and better than you, that I can defeat you at any moment, and that I'm using you to advance and achieve my plan.

LIVING

Use the wicked to rejoice in God's triumphant purpose, victorious power, and peerless name.
