

# Where's Your Chair?

Exodus 11 1-10



Draw near to my soul and redeem me;  
deliver me because of my enemies.  
Psalm 69:20

## **Praising:**

Christ is the world's true light, its captain of salvation, the day-star shining bright, to all in every nation: new life, new hope awakes when we accept his way; freedom her bondage breaks and night is turned to day.

## **Reading:**

Exodus 11:1-10  
The final plague is announced

The background is one of Egyptian imperialism in the years from 1350 to 1200 BC. Ambitious pharaohs have been using Israelite/Hebrew slaves as pawns in their game of world politics. The Lord has already made nine separate attempts to end Egypt's cruelty and secure his people's release from slavery. The death of the firstborn is God's last grim

resort. If their hearts cannot be melted, then God will inflict a punishment which will break their spirits. This punishment will be a sign that Israel has gained God's favour in Egypt – as will the gold and silver given to it by its Egyptian neighbours (predicted earlier in chapter 3). At the centre stands the towering figure of Moses. Moses not only prophetically announces God's liberating action but, as the exodus from Egypt unfolds, Moses will interpret and mediate it.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

We hold before you Lord those who live in slavery

- economic migrants, desperate for work and money who must take whatever they can get
- women and children in the developing world bereft of help, hope or opportunity
- people disempowered and depressed by a benefits-trap or minimum-wage existence

Father: whenever the job feels relentless and the work unrewarding, whenever I see what's left of life for me at the end of it all, make me grateful in Christ that I don't know the half of it. Amen

## **Doing:**

Monday, 01 August 2016