



The Exodus

Lesson 4: The Ten Plagues, Part 1

(Exodus 7:14-9:35)

God told Moses that Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen and let God's people go. So, God would use Moses to bring ten plagues on Egypt. These ten plagues would show that God is in control and that people should listen to Him.

For the first plague, God told Moses to go to Pharaoh in the morning and meet him by the side of the river. Then, so that Pharaoh would know that God is Lord, Moses and Aaron were to strike the river with the staff. When he did this, all the water from the rivers, ponds, and pools in Egypt was turned into blood. The fish died and the river stunk. Even the water that people had in buckets turned to blood. But, Pharaoh still would not listen to God.

For the second plague, God told Moses to go to Pharaoh. If he would not let God's people go, there would be frogs that covered the land of Egypt. Moses told Aaron to reach his hand and staff over the streams, rivers, and ponds and cause frogs to come on the land. There were so many frogs that they were in people's houses, in their ovens, in their bowls, and on all the people. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and pleaded for them to take away the frogs, saying that he would let the people go. So, the Lord caused the frogs in the land to die and they were gathered in heaps and the land stunk. But, Pharaoh did not let the people go.

For the third plague, Aaron was to stretch his staff out and hit the dust of the land. When he did this, the dust became lice (or, some kind of a biting insect) and filled the land of Egypt. They were on all the people and animals in the land. Even Pharaoh's magicians could not make this happen and knew that this was from the finger of God. Still, Pharaoh's heart was hard and did not listen to God and let the people go.

For the fourth plague, Moses warned Pharaoh that if he did not let God's people go, God would send swarms of flies on Egypt. Flies would cover the land, be in people's houses, and even on the ground. But, no swarms of flies would be in

Goshen (where God's people lived). This would make everyone see that they were God's special people. But, even though Pharaoh said the people could go sacrifice to God (as long as they did not go very far away), Pharaoh would not let the people go whenever the flies were taken away.

For the fifth plague, God promised Pharaoh that if he would not let the people go, then there would be a terrible disease that would come on the livestock in Egypt – their cattle, horses, donkeys, camels, herds, and flocks. But, God would save the Israelites' livestock. So, all the Egyptians' livestock died and not one animal of the Israelites was dead. Still, Pharaoh's heart was hard and would not let the people go.

For the sixth plague, God told Moses and Aaron to take ashes from a furnace and throw it in the air in front of Pharaoh. When they did this, it became fine dust in all the land of Egypt and caused boils to break out on the people and animals in Egypt. Not even the magicians could stand before Moses because of the boils. But, Pharaoh's heart was hard and still would not listen.

For the seventh plague, God told Moses to stretch his hand toward heaven and bring hail on the land of Egypt. But, the people were warned about this. The people who feared the word of God took their livestock and stayed inside. The people who did not take God's word serious stayed outside. When Moses stretched his hand into the sky, God sent thunder, lightning, and hail throughout the land of Egypt. But, He did not send any on His people in Goshen. The hail was so bad that there had never been anything like it before. All the people and animals who stayed outside were killed. It broke the trees in the fields. It hit the plants so that much of them were destroyed. When this happened, Pharaoh said that he had sinned and wanted the hail to stop. But, after it stopped, his heart was hardened and he sinned even more and would not listen to God.

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Study Questions:

- 1) Why did God send plagues on the Egyptians?

- 2) What was the first plague? Did Pharaoh obey God?

- 3) What was the second plague? Did Pharaoh obey God?

- 4) What was the third plague? Did Pharaoh obey God?

- 5) What was the fourth plague? Did Pharaoh obey God?

- 6) What was the fifth plague? Did Pharaoh obey God?

- 7) What was the sixth plague? Did Pharaoh obey God?

- 8) What was the seventh plague? Did Pharaoh obey God?

Memory Verse:

“Thus says the Lord: ‘By this you shall know that I am the Lord. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood’” (Exodus 7:17).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: