

The Plagues

Exodus 5 - 10



The Story

God's people, the Israelites, were slaves in the land of Egypt. God sent Moses and Aaron to see Pharaoh, the great king of Egypt. They said to him, "Let my people go so that they may worship me in the desert."

Pharaoh did not let the Israelites go. So God told Moses and Aaron to go see Pharaoh again. Aaron held in his hand a rod. Aaron threw down his rod as God had told him to and it became a snake. Pharaoh asked his magicians to turn their rods into snakes. Each magician turned his rod into a snake also. But Aaron's snake ate up all the other snakes. Pharaoh saw all of this but he still would not listen to God's Word. He would not let the people go.

God told Moses and Aaron to bring the rod and go see Pharaoh. They told him, "The Lord God has asked that you let His people go. You haven't listened to God. God is going to show you that He is the true God by bringing bad plagues on your land."

Aaron took his rod and hit the Nile River. All the water in Egypt was turned to blood. All the fish in the water died and the Egyptians had no water to drink. Pharaoh still did not listen to God and said that the Israelites could not go to worship.

Moses and Aaron went back to Pharaoh and asked him to let God's people go to worship Him. Once again Pharaoh would not let the people go. This time Aaron held his rod up over the land and thousands of frogs came up from the rivers and covered the land of Egypt. They were even in the people's beds and food!

Pharaoh asked Moses and Aaron if they would take the frogs away. He said that he would let the Israelites go and worship God. So Moses prayed to the Lord that the frogs would die. When Pharaoh

saw that all the frogs had died and his people were OK he changed his mind (hardened his heart) and would not let the Israelites go.

After Pharaoh did not listen to the Lord, God told Aaron to stretch out his rod and hit the ground. When Aaron did this the dust on the ground became little bugs that crawled up on people and animals and bit them. Pharaoh's heart was still hardened and he would not let the Israelites go.

God sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh again. They told him that if he did not let God's people go the Lord would send millions of flies that would be all over the Egyptians but not on God's people, the Israelites. Pharaoh refused to listen again. God sent millions of flies into the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron that if they made the flies go away he would let the Israelites go and worship their God. Moses prayed to God and the flies were taken away. Pharaoh's mind again changed and he would not let the people go.

The next plague that God sent was a horrible sickness to all the cows, camels and sheep in Egypt. All of them got sick and died. Still Pharaoh would not listen to God. He would not let the Israelites go and worship.

God told Moses and Aaron to take handfuls of ash from a fire and throw it in the air. The ash became like dust and covered all the people and animals in Egypt. All the people and animals got sores that hurt all over their bodies. Pharaoh's heart was still hard and he would not release the Israelites to go worship.

After the sixth plague God sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh and told them to say, "If you don't let my people go

I will send three more plagues that will be worse than all of the ones you have seen."

Pharaoh ignored God's Word and said, "No."

So God sent a horrible storm to destroy all the crops and trees in Egypt. Hail, thunder and lightning came from the skies hitting the people and animals, and ruining all the Egyptian crops. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron before him and pleaded that they make the storm stop and he would surely let the Israelites go and worship the Lord God. But once again Pharaoh sinned and changed his mind and would not let the Lord's people go.

God sent another plague on the land of Egypt. This time there were a million grasshoppers that came into the land. They were like a huge storm. They ate everything they saw. Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron and promised that this time he would let the people go. Moses said, "We are going to go with the men, women, children and flocks to worship our God."

Pharaoh didn't want all his slaves to leave. He told Moses and Aaron that they could only take the men of Israel with them

to worship.

So God told Moses to stretch his hand out over the land of Egypt. A great darkness came over the land; a darkness so black and scary that you could feel it. The darkness lasted for three days. The Egyptians were so afraid that they didn't leave their homes. Yet where the Israelites lived they had light to see by.

Pharaoh asked Moses to come and see him again. He said to Moses, "I will let the men, women, and children go worship but they must leave the animals here."

Moses told Pharaoh that they needed their animals to make offerings to the Lord while they worshiped. Pharaoh's heart was hardened again. He said to Moses, "Leave me alone! If I ever see you again you will die."

Moses left at once and never saw Pharaoh again.

God's will is done for the Children of Israel in Egypt.

Activity One - Read each sentence and decide if it is (T)true or (F)alse. If it is FALSE cross out the incorrect word or words and write the correct word on the line behind the sentence.

1. ____ God told Moses and Aaron to go tell Pharaoh to let His people go and worship.

2. ____ God sent 12 plagues, or disasters, to show Pharaoh that He was the true God.

3. ____ The troubles, called plagues, bothered all the people of Egypt and all the Israelites. _____
4. ____ The first plague was the locust. _____
5. ____ The ninth plague was the 3 days of darkness. _____

6. ____ Moses asked Pharaoh after the sixth plague to let all the men, women, children and cattle go and worship. _____
7. ____ The last 4 plagues were the worst God sent. _____
8. ____ Pharaoh changed his mind because God had power over him.

9. ____ Moses and Aaron did these miracles by their own power.

10. ____ Pharaoh was punished because he would not listen to God's Word.

11. ____ God's will is never done. _____
12. ____ God was pleased that Pharaoh did not listen to His Word.

God's will is done in our life.

Passages

Matthew 11:28 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Philippians 1:21 - For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Psalms 37:5 - Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.

Activity Two - You are a journalist in Egypt. Describe one of the plagues that you have witnessed.

The Nile News	

Hymn - TLH #517 v. 1, 2

The will of God is always best and shall be done forever;
And they who trust in Him are blest, He will forsake them never.
He helps indeed in time of need, He chastens with forbearing;
They who depend on God, their Friend, shall not be left despairing.

God is my Comfort and my Trust, My Hope and Life abiding;
And to His counsel, wise and just, I yield, in Him confiding.
The very hairs, His Word declares, upon my head He numbers.
By night and day God is my Stay, He never sleeps nor slumbers.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for using Your power to save me from my sin. Guide me as I learn about You. Help me to listen and obey Your Word in all things. Amen.