

STORY

The Plagues - Exodus 5-10

TEACHER PRAYER

Lord God, thank You for the blessing of giving Your Word to us and our children. It helps us so much to see Your hand in the lives of Your people in former generations. Oh Lord, Your will is always done. For this we praise You every day. Help us always to pray, "Your will is our will, Lord." Fill me with Your Spirit that I may lead those entrusted into my charge willingly and faithfully. Help me to place their hand in Yours as they deal with life in a sinful world. And so may they live to praise You. In our Savior's name I pray. Amen

VOCABULARY

hardened heart - Man hardens his own heart by obstinately resisting God. Finally, God may withdraw His Spirit of Grace from such an individual and abandon him to the sorry perverseness of his own sinful heart. (Cf. Acts 7:51)

OUTER AIM

God's will is always done.

INNER AIM

All who fight against God will be put to shame in time and finally, if they do not repent, eternally.

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht Bible History References, Vol. 1, pp. 156-160)

For Moses and Aaron to meet with Pharaoh was a difficult and dangerous undertaking. Moses and Aaron were of the Hebrew people who were nothing but slaves to Pharaoh. Secondly, there could well have been some officers in the service of Pharaoh who could possibly recognize the man who slayed the Egyptian and then fled. Also, compare this with the difficulties a citizen would encounter in trying to gain an audience with the president of the U.S. not to mention the difficulties of a non-citizen.

For Moses to seek permission for his people to worship in the wilderness, it may not seem like a huge request. Yet, we must realize that the Egyptians had their gods and, generally cared nothing for the Lord God of the Hebrew people. Besides, the Pharaoh who was an absolute monarch certainly felt no obligations to grant such a request to these slaves as minor as it might seem. Actually, it seemed to backfire. Pharaoh used this request as an excuse to increase the work load of the Hebrew people.

If the slaves had time for such things as worship, which he likely considered unimportant, then they must not have enough to do. Straw was used as a binding material to help hold the clay together as the bricks dried in the sun. Secondly, some believe straw was used to fuel huge kilns used to fire the bricks to make them as hard as stone. This took huge amounts of straw and required a tremendous amount of man hours to gather and then prepare it for use in brick making.

This work which had been done by others was now added to the work load of the people of Israel. The people became angry and blamed Moses whose promise of deliverance seemed to be nothing but an idle dream.

The plagues demonstrated the power and judgment of God. The Egyptian sorcerers in league with the devil copied Aaron. This seemed to have an influence on Pharaoh. Yet, when their rods were swallowed by Aaron's, the power of God over the devil and his servants is clearly demonstrated.



1. Ch. 7:14-25 First Plague: Blood
 - a. The Nile was sacred to the Egyptians
 - b. Their lives depended upon it
 - i. Irrigation for crops
 - ii. Deposits of silt for fertilizer
 - iii. Fish for food
 - iv. Water for drinking, cooking, bathing, brick making, etc.
2. Ch. 8:1-15 Second Plague: Frogs
3. Ch. 8:16-19 Third Plague: Lice
4. Ch. 8:20-32 Fourth Plague: Flies
5. Ch. 9:1-7 Fifth Plague: Disease on Beasts
6. Ch. 9:8-12 Sixth Plague: Boils on Man and Beast
7. Ch. 9:13-35 Seventh Plague: Hail
8. Ch. 10:1-20 Eighth Plague: Locusts
9. Ch. 10:21-29 Ninth Plague: Darkness

STUDENT PRAYER

Lord God, thank You for telling me about the troubles and suffering of Your people in another time. By doing this You show me how Your hand is always in the lives of those who are in Your kingdom of love and grace. Help me, Lord, look to You for guidance in my life. And when I must suffer in this world of sin draw me close by Your hands of love in forgiveness and compassion. And so Lord, protect me and love me, unworthy though I am, until that day when You receive us all with open arms into the glories of heaven. Through the merits of Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRESENTATION

God's will shall always prevail. When man sets himself against the one true God of heaven and earth he will always suffer as a result. Unless he repents he will be separated from God for time and for eternity. The only way for us to live a life of peace, happiness and joy for time and eternity is to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt us in due time.

Moses had to learn humility and exercise his faith in the Lord God before he could properly serve God. God used those forty years that Moses spent in Midian as a shepherd to prepare him for His work among His people.

We must always remember that the people of Israel were the carriers of God's promise of the Messiah. Nothing and no one could stand in the way of God Who would bring His people into the land which He had promised to them and which He had predetermined would be the land where He would bring forth the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all. Everything that God did served that one ultimate goal.

APPLICATIONS

In this world of sin we may suffer. There may be Godless people who bring this about. We may suffer because of our own misguided words or deeds. Through it all we must never blame God. He did not bring sin into this world. Man did through the workings of Satan.

We need to realize that in the midst of a sinful world the Lord God is the one sure anchor in which we can and must trust. Nothing else is sure, nothing is certain, but the Lord God is. He will never let us down. (Read Is. 54:10) Notice how Jesus was moved by the suffering of people because of sin. When He witnessed the sorrow

of a sin-laden people in the face of death, we are told "He groaned in the spirit and was troubled." (John 11:33) Indeed, "Jesus wept." (John 11:35) How earnestly and compassionately He pleads with all, "Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

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.*

Psalms 31:1-5; Romans 8:1-39; Psalm 27:1-3

Middle any of the above and...

Upper any of the above and...

HYMN CHOICES

"In The Hour Of Trial" (TLH #516)

"The Will Of God Is Always Best" (TLH #517)

"Commit Whatever Grieves Thee" (TLH #520)

"If God Himself Be For Me" (TLH #528)