

**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.*

### Middle any of the above and...

Psalms 31:1 - *In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness*

### Upper any of the above and...

Psalms 27:1 - *The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?*

## **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)

# 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** - Have the children orally answer these questions.

1. What did Aaron's rod turn into at first?
2. What did God want Pharaoh to do?
3. Why did God want the Israelites to leave Egypt?
4. Why wouldn't Pharaoh listen to God?
5. What happened each time that Pharaoh said, "No"?

6. Describe one plague and how it hurt the Egyptians.
7. How did God show His power to Pharaoh?
8. How does God show His power to us?
9. How could Aaron and Moses do such big miracles?
10. What happened to Pharaoh because he wouldn't listen to God?
11. How do we listen to God?

***God's will is done in our life.***

**Activity Two** - Put a blindfold on children and try to make them find an object. When they can't find it have another student or you direct them to it. Explain that this is like the Egyptians and any person who does not have and listen to God's Word.

## 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.

## Hymn - TLH #517 v. 1

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.

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for using Your power to help me. Help us to listen and obey Your Word. Amen.

# The Plagues

Exodus 5 - 10



# The Story

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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.

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

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to worship.

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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.

# The Plagues

Exodus 5 - 10

The people and animal in the picture are suffering a terrible attack of flies sent by God. Why? That will not be the only suffering sent to the people of Egypt. Let's find out more.



## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Please send Your Holy Spirit into my heart through Your Word which we are about to study. Help me to learn about the plagues You sent on Egypt. Show me how Your will is done at all times. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## The Plagues - a paraphrase of Exodus 5 - 10

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. The Lord told Moses and Aaron that when Pharaoh asked them to perform a miracle Aaron should take his staff and throw it down before Pharaoh and it would become a snake.

Aaron and Moses did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw down his staff in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Pharaoh summoned his wise men, sorcerers, and magicians to perform the same act. Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. They did this by their secret arts. Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron.

The Lord came to Moses and said, "Pharaoh's heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the water. Wait on the bank of the Nile to meet him and

take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. Then say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you; "Let My people go, so that they may worship Me in the desert." But until now you have not listened. This is what the Lord says: "By this you will know that I am the Lord; with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.'"

Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron raised his staff in front of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile and the water was changed into blood. All the fish in the water died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink any water.

Pharaoh's magicians did the same thing by their secret arts. Pharaoh saw all this and was not moved. He went back



into his palace and would not listen to the Word of the Lord.

Seven days passed and the Lord came to Moses and asked him to go speak to Pharaoh again. Moses went to Pharaoh and told him that if he would not let the Israelites go the Lord would send a plague of frogs on the whole country.

The frogs descended upon the land. They came into the palace and into Pharaoh's bedroom. They got into all the water and food. They swarmed up on all the people. The magicians were also able to bring up frogs.

Pharaoh called to Moses and Aaron and said, "Pray to the Lord to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the Lord."

Moses replied, "I leave to you the honor of setting the time for me to pray for you and your officials and your people that you and your houses may be rid of the frogs, except for those that remain in the Nile."

"Tomorrow," replied Pharaoh.

Moses replied, "It will be as you say, so that you may know there is no one like the Lord our God. The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile."

Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh and prayed to God to remove the frogs. God did as Moses asked and there were piles of dead frogs all over the land. When Pharaoh saw that relief had come to his people he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said he would do.

God told Aaron to stretch out his staff over the land and strike the dust on the ground. Throughout the land of Egypt the dust on the ground became lice. They came up on all the people and animals.

Pharaoh's magicians were not able to bring forth lice so they went to Pharaoh and told him that this was the finger of God. But Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen.

God sent Moses to Pharaoh to warn him that if he did not let the people go to worship Him he would send swarms of flies over the land of Egypt. They would fill the houses and cover the people. There would be nothing that would not be covered by flies. However the land of Goshen where the Israelites lived was not swarmed by flies.

The Lord did as He said and swarms of flies ruined the land of Egypt. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land."

But Moses said, "That would not be right. The sacrifices we offer the Lord our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their eyes, will they not stone us? We must take a three day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, as He commands us."

Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the Lord your God in the desert, but you must not go very far. Now pray for me."

Moses answered, "As soon as I leave you, I will pray to the Lord, and tomorrow the flies will leave Pharaoh and his officials and his people. Only be sure that Pharaoh does not act deceitfully again by not letting the people go to offer sacrifices to the Lord."

Moses left Pharaoh and prayed that the Lord would take away the flies. The Lord did as Moses asked. However, by the time all the flies had gone, Pharaoh had hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

God sent Moses to Pharaoh to tell him that unless he let the people go to

worship the Lord, He would send a horrible sickness on the livestock in the fields - on the horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep and goats. Yet the Lord would not touch the animals belonging to the Israelites. The next day the Lord sent the disease and it killed all the livestock in Egypt but none of the Israelite's livestock was hurt.

Pharaoh sent men out to investigate and found out what the Lord had said was true. Yet his heart was unchanged and he would not let the people go.

The Lord told Moses and Aaron to take handfuls of ashes from a furnace and have Moses toss it up into the air. The ashes became a fine dust that covered the whole land of Egypt and caused festering boils to break out on all the men and animals. Pharaoh's magicians couldn't even try to copy Moses and Aaron because they were covered with boils. God hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to the words of Moses and Aaron.

God sent Moses to Pharaoh to warn him that if he would not let the people go the Lord would send the full force of His plagues against the land of Egypt. He would do this to show Pharaoh that He had all power. Moses told Pharaoh that tomorrow a horrible hailstorm would strike and those who feared the Word of the Lord should bring their livestock in out of the fields.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that hail will fall all over Egypt - on men and animals and on everything growing in the fields of Egypt." When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, the Lord sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. It was the worst storm Egypt had see since it had become a nation. The only place it did not hail was in the land of Goshen where the Israelites were.

Pharaoh summoned Moses to him and said, "This time I have sinned. The Lord is right, I and my people are wrong. Pray to the Lord for we have had enough thunder and hail. I will let you go; you don't have to stay any longer."

Moses replied, "When I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands in prayer to the Lord. The thunder will stop and there will be no more hail, so you may know that the earth is the Lord's. But I know that you and your officials still do not fear the Lord God."

When Moses had prayed to God and the storm had stopped Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the Israelites go, just as the Lord had said through Moses.

Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh and said to him, "This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says; 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, so that they may worship Me. If you refuse to let them go, I will bring locusts into your country tomorrow. They will cover the face of the ground so that it cannot be seen. They will devour what little you have left after the hail, including every tree that is growing in your fields. They will fill your houses and those of all your officials and all the Egyptians - something neither your fathers nor your forefathers have ever seen from the day they settled in this land till now.'"

After Moses had said this he left Pharaoh. Pharaoh's officials said to Pharaoh, "How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the people go, so that they may worship the Lord their God. Do you not realize that Egypt is ruined?"

Pharaoh brought back Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, worship the Lord your God. But just who will be going?"

Moses answered, "We will go with our young and old, with our sons and

daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we are to celebrate a festival to the Lord."

Pharaoh said, "The Lord had better be with you if I let you go, along with your women and children! Clearly you are bent on evil. No! Have only the men go; and worship the Lord, since that's what you have been asking for." Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh's presence.

The Lord told Moses to stretch his hand out over the land so that the locusts would swarm over the land and devour everything growing in the fields.

Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. Now forgive my sin once more and pray to the Lord your God to take this deadly plague away from me."

Moses prayed and the Lord changed the direction of the wind and not a locust was left in the land of Egypt. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not let the Israelites go.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that the

darkness will spread over Egypt - darkness that can be felt."

Moses did as the Lord told him and a darkness spread over the land of Egypt that lasted for three days. No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

Pharaoh called Moses to him, "Go, and worship the Lord. Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind."

But Moses said, "You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the Lord our God. Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind. We have to use some of them in worshiping the Lord our God, and until we get there we will know what we are to use to worship the Lord."

But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart and he was not willing to let them go. Pharaoh said to Moses, "Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die."

"Just as you say," Moses replied, "I will never appear before you again."

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## Outer Aim - God's will is done for the Children of Israel in Egypt.

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**What the Story Tells Us** - Answer each question. Then open your Bible to Exodus 7 - 10 and find 4 passages from the story that answer each question.

1. How did God show Pharaoh His power?  
Your answer:

Bible answer:

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

2. How did Pharaoh respond to the plagues?

Your answer:

Bible answer:

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

3. What did God finally do?

Your answer:

Bible answer:

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

## What God Tells Us - Discuss the following questions and answers.

1. What happens when unbelievers reject God over and over again as Pharaoh did?
  
2. Compare your answer with what God's Word says in John 12:37-40 - *"But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, {38} that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" {39} Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: {40} "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."*

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**Inner Aim - God's will is done in our life.**

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## 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.

Psalms 31:1-5 - In You, O LORD, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness. Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily; be my rock of refuge, a fortress of defense to save me. For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me. Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, for You are my strength. Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

## 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

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

# The Plagues

Exodus 5 - 10

The people and animal in the picture are suffering a terrible attack of flies sent by God. Why? That will not be the only suffering sent to the people of Egypt. Let's find out more.



## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Please send your Holy Spirit into my heart through Your Word that we are about to study. Help me to learn about the plagues You sent on Egypt. Show me how Your will is done at all times. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## The Plagues - a paraphrase of Exodus 5 - 10

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. The Lord told Moses and Aaron that when Pharaoh asked them to perform a miracle Aaron should take his staff and throw it down before Pharaoh and it would become a snake.

Aaron and Moses did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw down his staff in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Pharaoh summoned his wise men, sorcerers, and magicians to perform the same act. Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. They did this by their secret arts. Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron.

The Lord came to Moses and said, "Pharaoh's heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the water. Wait on the bank of the Nile to meet him and take in your hand the staff that was

changed into a snake. Then say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you; Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the desert. But until now you have not listened. This is what the Lord says: By this you will know that I am the Lord; with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.'"

Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron raised his staff in front of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile and the water was changed into blood. All the fish in the water died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink any water.

Pharaoh's magicians did the same thing by their secret arts. Pharaoh saw all this and did not care. He went back into his palace and would not listen to the Word of the Lord. Seven days passed and



the Lord came to Moses and asked him to go speak to Pharaoh again. Moses went to Pharaoh and told him that if he would not let the Israelites go the Lord would send a plague of frogs on the whole country.

The frogs descended upon the land. They came into the palace and into Pharaoh's bedroom. They got into all the water and food. They swarmed up on all the people.

Pharaoh called to Moses and Aaron and said, "Pray to the Lord to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the Lord."

Moses replied, "I leave to you the honor of setting the time for me to pray for you and your officials and your people that you and your houses may be rid of the frogs, except for those that remain in the Nile."

"Tomorrow," replied Pharaoh.

Moses replied, "It will be as you say, so that you may know there is no one like the Lord our God. The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile."

Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh and prayed to God to remove the frogs. God did as Moses asked and there were piles of dead frogs all over the land. When Pharaoh saw that relief had come to his people he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said he would do.

God told Aaron to stretch out his staff over the land and strike the dust on the ground. Throughout the land of Egypt the dust on the ground became gnats. They came up on all the people and animals.

Pharaoh's magicians went to Pharaoh and told him that this was the finger of God. But Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen.

God sent Moses to Pharaoh to warn him that if he did not let the people go to worship Him he would send swarms of flies over the land of Egypt. They would fill the houses and cover the people. There would be nothing that would not be covered by flies. However the land of Goshen where the Israelites lived was not swarmed by flies.

The Lord did as He said and swarms of flies ruined the land of Egypt. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "GO, sacrifice to your God here in the land."

But Moses said, "That would not be right. The sacrifices we offer the Lord our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their eyes, will they not stone us? We must take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, as He commands us."

Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the Lord your God in the desert, but you must not go very far. Now pray for me."

Moses answered, "As soon as I leave you, I will pray to the Lord, and tomorrow the flies will leave Pharaoh and his officials and his people. Only be sure that Pharaoh does not act deceitfully again by not letting the people go to offer sacrifices to the Lord."

Moses left Pharaoh and prayed that the Lord would take away the flies. The Lord did as Moses asked. However by the time all the flies had gone Pharaoh had hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

God sent Moses to Pharaoh to tell him that unless he let the people go to worship the Lord, He would send a horrible sickness on the livestock in the fields - on the horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep and goats. Yet the Lord would not touch the animals belonging to the Israelites. The

next day the Lord sent the disease and it killed all the livestock in Egypt but none of the Israelite's livestock was hurt.

Pharaoh sent me out to investigate and found out what the Lord had said was true. Yet his heart was unchanging and he would not let the people go.

The Lord told Moses and Aaron to take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it up into the air. The soot became a fine dust that covered the whole land of Egypt and caused festering boils to break out on all the men and animals. Pharaoh's magicians couldn't even try to copy Moses and Aaron because they were covered with boils. God hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to the words of Moses and Aaron.

God sent Moses to Pharaoh to warn him that if he would not let the people go the Lord would send the full force of His plagues against the land of Egypt. He would do this to show Pharaoh that He had all power. Moses told Pharaoh that tomorrow a horrible hailstorm would strike and those who feared the Word of the Lord should bring their livestock in out of the fields.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that hail will fall all over Egypt - on men and animals and on everything growing in the fields of Egypt." When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, the Lord sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. It was the worst storm Egypt had seen since it had become a nation. The only place it did not hail was in the land of Goshen where the Israelites were.

Pharaoh summoned Moses to him and said, "This time I have sinned. The Lord is right, I and my people are wrong. Pray to the Lord for we have had enough thunder and hail. I will let you go; you don't have to

stay any longer."

Moses replied, "When I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands in prayer to the Lord. The thunder will stop and there will be no more hail, so you may know that the earth is the Lord's. But I know that you and your officials still do not fear the Lord God."

When Moses had prayed to God and the storm had stopped Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the Israelites go, just as the Lord had said through Moses.

Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh and said to him, "This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says; 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, so that they may worship Me. If you refuse to let them go, I will bring locusts into your country tomorrow. They will cover the face of the ground so that it cannot be seen. They will devour what little you have left after the hail, including every tree that is growing in your fields. They will fill your houses and those of all your officials and all the Egyptians - something neither your fathers nor your forefathers have ever seen from the day they settled in this land till now.'"

After Moses had said this he left Pharaoh. Pharaoh's officials said to Pharaoh, "How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the people go, so that they may worship the Lord their God. Do you not realize that Egypt is ruined?"

Pharaoh brought back Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, worship the Lord your God. But just who will be going?"

Moses answered, "We will go with our young and old, with our sons and daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we are to celebrate a festival to the Lord."

Pharaoh said, "The Lord be with you if I let you go, along with your women and

children! Clearly you are bent on evil. No! Have only the men go; and worship the Lord, since that's what you have been asking for." Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh's presence.

The Lord told Moses to stretch his hand out over the land so that the locusts would swarm over the land and devour everything growing in the fields.

Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. Now forgive my sin once more and pray to the Lord your God to take this deadly plague away from me."

Moses prayed and the Lord changed the direction of the wind and not a locust was left in the land of Egypt. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not let the Israelites go.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that the darkness will spread over Egypt - darkness that can be felt."

Moses did as the Lord told him and a

darkness spread over the land of Egypt that lasted for three days. No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

Pharaoh called Moses to him, "Go, and worship the Lord. Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind."

But Moses said, "You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the Lord our God. Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind. We have to use some of them in worshiping the Lord our God, and until we get there we will not know what we are to use to worship the Lord."

But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart and he was not willing to let them go. Pharaoh said to Moses, "Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die."

"Just as you say," Moses replied, "I will never appear before you again."

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## **Outer Aim - God's will is done for the Children of Israel in Egypt.**

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### **What the Story Tells Us - Answer each question.**

1. How did God show Pharaoh His power?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How did Pharaoh respond to the plagues?

3. What did God finally do?

**What God Tells Us** - Divide into three groups. Each group select one **IDEA** from the story. Then discuss each idea in reference to the three **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** that follow.

**IDEAS:**

1. To show Pharaoh that He was the true God, God sent horrible plagues on the Egyptians.
2. Pharaoh continued to harden his heart.
3. God hardened Pharaoh's heart so that he could not repent.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. List passages from Scripture that teach us this idea.
2. Why do you think that the Holy Spirit wrote this information for us, and why is it relevant for us today?
3. How can we apply what the Lord is teaching us here to our own personal lives?

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## **Inner Aim - God's will is done in our life.**

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### **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.

Psalms 31:1 - In You, O LORD, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness.

Psalms 27:1 - The Lord is my Light and Salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

## The Conclusion to the 10 Commandments (Sydow Catechism © 2000)

*What does God say about all of these commandments?*

He says, "I, the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

*What does this mean?*

God threatens to punish all who do not obey these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His anger and not do anything against what He commands. God also promises grace and every blessing to those who obey these commandments. Therefore, we should love and trust Him and willingly do what He commands.

## 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.

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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

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.