

## Exodus

### Lesson #4, Chapters 8-11

In this lesson, we'll take a look at the plagues God sent upon Pharaoh and Egypt. Ask the Lord to help you see His wisdom in sending them and what He wants you to learn from them.

1. We didn't specifically focus on the beginning of the Ten Plagues in the last lesson, so we'll backtrack a bit into Chapter 7 to do so. First, what was God's purpose in sending the plagues on Egypt? See Exodus 3:7-8, 19-22; 6:1, 7; 7:3-5. Also include Genesis 28:15; 48:21.
  
2. What was the *first plague* God gave to Pharaoh and the Egyptians (Exodus 7:20)? What were the results of the plague? See Exodus 7:21, 24. How did Pharaoh and his court respond? See Exodus 7:22-23.
  
3. What was the *second plague* God sent in Exodus 8:1-7?
  - a. What negotiation took place between Moses and Pharaoh regarding this plague? See Exodus 8:8-13. What was God's purpose behind this plan as seen in those verses?
  
  - b. How did Pharaoh respond to the reprieve? See Exodus 8:15.
  
4. What was the *third plague*, its effect upon Egypt, and how did Pharaoh respond in Exodus 8:16-19?

5. We learn about the *fourth plague* in Exodus 8:20-24. What was the plague, yet what distinction was made as it came upon the land?
  - a. More negotiating took place between Moses and Pharaoh. What details are given in Exodus 8:25-32?
  
6. What are the unique details about the *fifth plague* (Exodus 9:1-7)?
  
7. The *sixth plague* affected the Egyptians in a personal way. What was this plague and how did it begin? See Exodus 9:8-12.
  
8. Moses was to deliver a message to Pharaoh before he commenced with the *seventh plague*. What did God want Moses to tell Pharaoh (Exodus 9:13-19)? Why was Pharaoh still alive (verses 14-16)?
  - a. How did some of the Egyptians respond to Moses' warning about this plague? See Exodus 9:20-21.
  
9. The *seventh plague* was described in Exodus 9:22-26. What happened during this plague?

10. What did Pharaoh ask of Moses and Aaron (Exodus 9:27-28)? In spite of this encouraging message, what did Moses know about Pharaoh according to verses 29-35?
  
11. What was God's purpose in hardening Pharaoh's heart in Exodus 10:1-2?
  
12. The pressure upon Pharaoh didn't let up with the commencement of the *eighth plague*. What do you learn about this plague from Exodus 10:3-6?
  - a. What happened when Pharaoh's servants put pressure on Pharaoh to let the Israelites go? See Exodus 10:8. What interaction transpired between the brothers and Pharaoh in verses 9-11?
  
13. What did Pharaoh request of Moses in Exodus 10:16-17? Yet, what do you observe about the true state of Pharaoh's heart (verses 18-20)?
  
14. The *ninth plague* is described in Exodus 10:21-23. What do you learn about this plague?
  
15. What concession was Pharaoh willing to make in Exodus 10:24? Describe what happened to the negotiations between these two men from verses 25-29.

16. What sad, but welcome news did the Lord give Moses in Exodus 11:1?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
17. What task was given to the Israelites in Exodus 11:2-3? How were the Israelites and Moses then viewed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
18. Explain the details of the *tenth and final plague*. See Exodus 11:4-8.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
19. What apparent “difficulty” do we run into between the statements in Exodus 10:28-29 and Exodus 11:8? In light of that information, when does Moses’ final pronouncement of judgment take place (Exodus 11:4-8)?

“The critical approach to Scripture has made a great deal of unnecessary confusion in determining the proper sequence here. It seems clear that 11:1-3 refers to instructions given previously to Moses, while 11:4-8 is the parting warning to Pharaoh, following 10:29.” Charles F. Pfeiffer<sup>1</sup>

“It is more than likely that we should render “the Lord had said to Moses” in verse 1, for verse 4 is obviously the continuation of 10:29, which introduced Moses’ parting words to Pharaoh. Verse 8 suggests that even as the priesthood had collapsed, so now the high court officials were prepared too late to defy their master.” H. L. Ellison

20. As you consider the context from Exodus 10:27-11:8, what possible explanation is there for Moses’ anger with Pharaoh? Take into account what we know about Moses from Numbers 12:3.

---

<sup>1</sup> Charles F. Pfeiffer, *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: Old Testament* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1962).

<sup>2</sup> H. L. Ellison, *Exodus*, The Daily Study Bible Series (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1982), 60.

21. How is Exodus 11:9-10 a fitting epitaph to the section on God's plagues upon Egypt?
  
22. What do you learn about Pharaoh's hard heart from Exodus 7:13, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 12, 35; 10:20, 27; 11:10?
  
23. When did God finally begin to harden Pharaoh's heart? Why did God do this? See Exodus 3:19-20; 4:21; 7:3; Deuteronomy 2:30; Joshua 11:20; Romans 1:28; 9:17-18.
  
24. What attributes about God do you find on display in these chapters? What response do they, or should they, inspire in you?

"His purpose in preventing Pharaoh from giving in too easily and too early was, as will be seen in subsequent parts of the narrative, to allow himself fully to demonstrate his sovereignty over Pharaoh, the Egyptians, the land of Egypt itself, and the gods in which Pharaoh and the Egyptians trusted."<sup>3</sup> Douglas K. Stuart

"Among the natural punishments which God has attached to sin, would seem to be the hardening of the entire nature of the man who sins. If men "do not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gives them up to a reprobate mind" (Rom. 1:28); if they resist the Spirit, he "takes his holy Spirit from them" (Ps. 51:11); if they sin against light he withdraws the light; if they stifle their natural affections of kindness, compassion and the like, it is a law of his providence that those affections shall wither and decay. This seems to be the "hardening of the heart" here intended—not an abnormal and miraculous interference with the soul of Pharaoh, but the natural effect upon his soul under God's moral government of those acts which he willfully and wrongfully committed."<sup>4</sup> H. D. M. Spence-Jones

---

<sup>3</sup> Douglas K. Stuart, *Exodus*, Vol. 2, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006), 146–147.

<sup>4</sup>H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., *Exodus*, Vol. 1, The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 103.