

EXODUS: GOD'S POWER, PRESENCE, AND PURPOSE REVEALED

Week 5: Exodus 6:28-10:29

Plague & Effect	Warning	Egyptian Deities Involved	Pharaoh's Response	Other Notable Info
<b>Cycle 1 - Irritations</b>				
1) Nile and all surface water turned to blood – fish die, surface water undrinkable (7:21)	M & A go to Pharaoh <i>in the morning</i> , issue command “Let My people go...” (7:15-20)	<i>Khnum</i> – guardian of the Nile <i>Hapi</i> – spirit of the Nile <i>Osiris</i> – Nile was his bloodstream Egyptians understood the Nile itself to be a god – it was Egypt’s greatest landmark and special source of life, they actually sang hymns to it!	<b>“Pharaoh’s heart was hardened</b> , and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said. Then Pharaoh turned and went into his house with no concern even for this.” (7:22, 23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “blood” is a color in Hebrew as well as a substance - hard to determine if water looked like blood or actually blood; either way, the water was polluted</li> <li>- Magicians were able to repeat, but not reverse (7:22)</li> <li>- Sub-surface water not affected (7:24), so this was a major inconvenience but not life-threatening</li> <li>- “seven days passed” (7:25) indicating there was probably space between all the plagues - they most likely spanned several months</li> </ul>
2) Frogs EVERYWHERE – when dead piled into heaps and STUNK (8:3, 4, 13, 14)	M & A “go to Pharaoh”, issue command “Let my people go...” (8:1-6)	<i>Hekt</i> (also written as Heqet or Heqt) – goddess always pictured with the head and often body of a frog – believed to assist women in childbirth, symbol of fertility Frogs were so sacred in Egypt that even the involuntary slaughter of one was a punishable offense	To M & A: “Entreat the LORD that He remove the frogs from me and my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the Lord.” (8:8) “But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, <b>he hardened his heart</b> and did not listen to them, as the Lord has said.” (8:15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Magicians able to repeat, but not reverse (8:7)</li> </ul>
3) Gnats (mosquitos? Lice?) on man and beast through all the	No warning (8:16)	Uncertain; perhaps Geb, the earth god of Egypt, since it is the soil (“dust of the earth”) that becomes gnats	“Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, ‘This is the finger of God.’ <b>But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened</b> , and he did not listen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Magicians try but fail to duplicate (8:18)</li> </ul>

land of Egypt (8:17)			to them, as the Lord has said." (8:19)	
<b>Cycle 2 - Destruction</b>				
4) Great swarms of flies "into the house of Pharaoh and the house of his servants and the land was laid waste...in all the land of Egypt." (8:21, 24)	M & A go to Pharaoh <i>in the morning</i> , issue command "Let My people go..." (8:20, 21)	<i>Uatchit</i> - a god who manifested himself as a fly	He tries to strike a compromise: "Go, sacrifice to your God within the land." (8:25) Moses refuses (8:26, 27), so Pharaoh said, "I will let you go...only you shall not go far away. Make supplication for me." (8:28) Moses prays, God removes swarms "but <b>Pharaoh hardened his heart</b> this time also, and he did not let the people go." (8:31, 32)	- A big deal is made about God setting apart the land of Goshen and protecting His people from this plague (8:22, 23)
5) A very severe, deadly disease on the livestock (9:3)	M & A "go to Pharaoh", issue command "Let my people go..." (9:1)	Many of Egypt's gods and goddesses were depicted as livestock; sacred cows and bulls were an integral part of Egyptian religion <i>Apis, Ptah, Mnrvis, Hathor</i> –Egyptian deities associated with bulls and cows	"But <b>the heart of Pharaoh was hardened</b> , and he did not let the people go." (9:7)	- Distinction made between Israel's livestock and Egypt's livestock. Pharaoh investigates and finds that "not even one of the livestock of Israel died." (9:4, 7) - This is the first plague to bring about death and destroy pharaoh's personal property - Note that "all livestock" (9:6) is better translated "all sorts of livestock" or Egyptian livestock died "all over the place." There were still livestock remaining when the hail fell
6) Boils breaking out with sores on man and beast through all the land of Egypt (9:9)	No warning (v. 8)	Egyptians were well known for their interest in medicine and looked to their religion for healing.  <i>Sekhmet</i> – a lion-headed goddess who allegedly had power to create epidemics	"And <b>the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart</b> , and he did not listen to them, just as the Lord has spoken to Moses." (9:12)	- The impotence of the magicians is fully exposed – they could not even stand before Moses (9:11)

		and heal; her priests formed one of the oldest medical fraternities in antiquity <i>Serapis</i> – another healing god		
		It was customary for Egyptian priests to take sacrificial ashes and cast them into the air as a sign of blessing. God takes this ritual and turns it into a curse! (9:8-10)		
<b>Cycle 3: Death</b>				
7) A “very heavy (deadly!) hail” (9:22-25)	M & A go to Pharaoh <i>in the morning</i> , issue command “Let My people go...” (v. 13)	<i>Seth</i> – protector of the crops <i>Nut</i> – sky goddess	To M & A “I have sinned this time; the LORD is the righteous one, and I and my people are the wicked ones...make supplication to the LORD...and I will let you go.” (9:27, 28) “But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, <b>he sinned again and hardened his heart</b> , he and his servants. <b>Pharaoh’s heart was hardened</b> , and he did not let the sons of Israel go.” (9:34, 35)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- vv. 14-16 warrant special attention as they convey God’s GLOBAL purpose for the judgements (“earth repeated 3 times, also see Joshua 9:9; 1 Sam. 4:7b, 8). If Pharaoh has any doubt about why God was sending these plagues, here is his answer!</li> <li>- First plague to threaten human life (v. 19)</li> <li>- Some of Pharaoh’s servants “feared the word of the Lord” and their livestock was brought in and spared; others did not (9:20, 21)</li> <li>- No hail in Goshen (9:26)</li> <li>- Moses not fooled by Pharaoh’s fake confession: “But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the LORD God.” (9:30)</li> </ul>
8) Locusts covering and devouring the land (10:2-6)	M & A “go to Pharaoh”, ask “How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my	<i>Isis</i> – the goddess of life <i>Seth</i> – protector of the crops	After the warning, but before the locusts come, Pharaoh attempts another compromise – the men can go, but not the women or children. (10:8-11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This with the hail was a “one-two punch” that wiped out Egypt’s agrarian economy (no food in Egypt – a remarkable reversal of what happened in Joseph’s day!)</li> </ul>

	people go..." (10:1-3)		<p>After the locusts reap their destruction Pharaoh "hurriedly" calls for M &amp; A: "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Now therefore, please forgive my sin once more, and make supplication...that He would only remove this death from me." (10:16, 17)</p> <p>"But <b>the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart</b>, and he did not let the sons of Israel go." (10:20)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pharaoh's servants plead with him to "let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God. Do you not realize that Egypt is destroyed?" (10:7)</li> <li>- Implied, but not directly stated that Israel was exempt</li> </ul>
9) Complete darkness for three days (10:22, 23)	No warning (10:21)	<p>It's hard to overstate the place and value of the sun in Egyptian religion. They served <i>Horus</i> (the god of the sunrise), <i>Aten</i> (the god of the round, midday sun), and <i>Atum</i> (the god of the sunset). The supreme deity in their national pantheon was <i>Re</i>, a solar deity that the Egyptians believed was their creator. Every morning the rising of the sun in the east reaffirmed the life-giving power of the sun god. For the Egyptians, it was a matter of faith that the eternally rising sun could never be destroyed.</p> <p>Pharaoh was regarded as the son of Re, the personal embodiment of the solar deity. As the incarnation of the sun god Re, he was thought to maintain the cosmic order.</p> <p>Darkness represented death, chaos, and the underworld – it was the enemy of all that was safe and good.</p>	<p>Pharaoh attempts his 3<sup>rd</sup> compromise: "Go, serve the Lord, let only your flocks and herds be detained. Even your little ones may go with you." (10:24)</p> <p>After Moses refuses, "<b>The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart</b>, and he was not willing to let them go." (10:27) Then he threatens Moses with death: "Get away from me! Beware, do not see my face again, for in the day you see my face you shall die!" (10:28)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Israelites had light in their dwellings (10:23)</li> </ul>