

## Lesson 3—Exodus Chapters 5-7

### Part A: Chapter 5, Chapter 6:1-8

#### First Reading: Exodus 5:1-23

A1. What is Pharaoh's reaction when asked to let the Israelites go three days journey into the wilderness to sacrifice to their God?

**Reading Note:** The Isrealite form of animal sacrifice would have been sacrilegious to the Egyptians, since the Ram and Bull were sacred to them. This first request was an easy one to test the heart of Pharaoh.

A2. What new condition came to the workers because of Moses' request and Pharaoh's anger?

A3. Why did the people have no choice but to obey this cruel command and how did it affect everyone?

A4. The conditions under which the people were living weren't concentration camp-like. The killing of male babies had long since stopped. A new pharaoh reigned. The people had gardens and their own animals. Most of the men were forced laborers for Pharaoh's projects, but they were fed and given homes. The leaders among them were made officers that enjoyed the status of working with Pharaoh's overseers, and of not having to sweat like the common people. From their point of view, there were things to like about Egypt.

a) What happened to the "officers of the children of Israel" which had some authority over their countrymen, after the new decree? Cite verse.

b) To whom did these officers go first to seek redress? \_\_\_\_\_

c) What do you learn from this and how did it work out?

A5. a) What accusation do the Israelite leaders make to Moses and Aaron?

b) Does Moses have an answer for them?

A6. a) What good thing or things do you find about Moses' speech to the Lord in Ex 5:22-23?

b) What disappointing things do you find there?

A7. Go back and re-read Exodus 3:18-20, and notice what God had told Moses about his mission when He first spoke to him from the burning bush. What had Moses forgotten?

A8. PERSONAL: God's promises point to the end He has in mind. There is no promise that there won't be setbacks or hardships along the journey to get there. There is certainly no promise that it will always be easy. Have you ever had a discouraging setback in your life, that you can now see as a necessary experience along the way? How has your perspective changed?

A9. Many Christians through the years have seen Pharaoh in the story of Exodus as a *type* or symbol for Satan. Look for ways they are similar. Read 2 Nephi 2:27-29.

a. What is the identical motivation that both Satan and Pharaoh have with regards to God's people?

b. From this passage, what things can one do to live free of Satan's influence?

A10. Can you think of any positive thing that could come from Pharaoh increasing his persecution and hardships upon the whole israelite nation at this time?

### Second Reading: Exodus 6:1-8

A11. Verses 1-8 constitute God's strong answer to Moses' recurring fears and doubts.

a) First read the footnote for v3c. How does it change this verse?

b) When you find the word LORD written in this way with all capital letters, you know that the original Hebrew was YHWH, or Jehovah, as we say it now. Comb through these first 8 verses and count the number of times God uses His name Jehovah in this speech with Moses. \_\_\_\_\_

c) How many times does he use the phrase "I am the LORD," meaning "I am Jehovah?" \_\_\_\_\_

A12. This section has 7 "I will" statements by God, detailing the things He *will do* for Israel. Find them.

1. I will \_\_\_\_\_
2. I will \_\_\_\_\_
3. I will \_\_\_\_\_
4. I will \_\_\_\_\_
5. I will \_\_\_\_\_
6. I will \_\_\_\_\_
7. I will \_\_\_\_\_

A13. God establishes plainly that He was the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob, and that He was a covenant making God. Read Hebrews 11:1,6, 13. How did Abraham, Issac and Jacob fulfill these verses of scripture?

A14. What overall message do you take away from the first 8 verses of chapter 6?

A15. What are some of the promises the Lord has made to you that strengthen you in the present, even though the fulfillment of them may yet be “afar off”? Explain.

**Part B: Chapter 6:9-30, Chapter 7:1-25****First Reading: Exodus 6:9-13**

B1. How did the people respond to Moses and why?

B2. a) Moses immediately goes to the Lord again after this setback, and is told what? (Verse 11)

b) What is Moses' protest this time?

B3. Look up the word *charge* in a dictionary and find the meaning that you think most nearly corresponds with what God gave Moses and Aaron in verse 13.

B4. Has there been anything in your life in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that is comparable to this "charge"? (Not in scope, of course, but in kind.) Expand upon your experience.

**Second Reading: Skim Exodus 14-30 (Look for and mark names you recognize.)**

B.5 CHALLENGE QUESTION: This section begins listing the sons of Jacob, later named Israel, in birth order, from the first, Reuben, to the second, Simeon, to the third, Levi. That's as far as we get with Jacob's 12 sons because the author stops at Levi and enlarges upon their genealogy. Why do you think he focuses only upon the genealogy of this one tribe?

B6. The 6<sup>th</sup> chapter ends with one more anxiety-laden hesitation by Moses. This could be the same one expressed in verse 12, or another instance of the same fear. Does it raise or lower Moses in your estimation that he chose to include these details about himself? Explain.

**Third Reading: Exodus 7:1-25**

B7. What stands out to you about the way God meets Moses' latest protests?

B8. How does God say the hardness of Pharaoh's heart toward Israel plays a *necessary* part in the whole saga of the freeing of the children of Israel through the plagues, etc.? Cite verses.

B9. a) Where could the court magicians have got the power to turn their own rods into snakes? (2 Thessalonians 2:9)

b) What things can a true miracle prove and what can it not prove?

B10. a) Though the symbolism of Aaron's snake devouring the magicians' snakes seems obvious, it didn't move Pharaoh. His magicians gave him a reason not to believe. But how might this little demonstration have been a help to Moses, remembering his fears from such a short time before?

b) If you were Satan, what sort of things would you whisper (2 Nephi 28:22) into Pharaoh's mind that would encourage him to harden his heart against Moses' request? (Use all the dramatic license you like!) Remember how he was brought up, believing himself to be a son of Ra, the sun god, as Pharaohs were supposed to be.

B11. God tells Moses to take the initiative and the next step in the confrontation. He is to return to Pharaoh at the Nile's edge and deliver a new, more aggressive message. The first time Moses made the demand for Pharaoh to let the people go, Pharaoh had replied, "Who is the Lord, that I should let them go?"

a) How does the first plague begin to answer this question?

b) CHALLENGE QUESTION: How does this plague present a challenge to the Egyptian gods?

B12. How does this first plague move the circle of the conflict beyond the three main players and magicians?

B13. THOUGHT QUESTION: Water drawn from the Nile was affected but not water drawn from wells. Apparently the magicians were again able to replicate this plague using some water drawn from a well. Why do you think they couldn't miraculously clean up or restore the water of the Nile?

B14. What things from the chapters we have read so far can be of help when we are forced by circumstances to confront some wicked or worldly power that opposes the things of God?

B15. What is one thing you will "take away" from this lesson?

# The Ten Plagues of Egypt

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1. First Plague

2. Second Plague

3. Third Plague

4. Fourth Plague

5. Fifth Plague

6. Sixth Plague

7. Seventh Plague

8. Eighth Plague

9. Ninth Plague

10. Tenth Plague