

Lesson 4: Exodus Chapters 8-10

Part A: Chapters 8-9:1-12

First Reading: Exodus 8:1-15

A1. From v 1, why do you think the Lord gave Moses the exact words he was to say to Pharaoh?

Reading Note: Heket was the frog-headed goddess of fertility. Every year when the Nile flooded, there was a great influx of frogs and this came to be regarded as an auspicious show of Heket's power to bring fertility and good crops to all of Egypt. Pharaoh was regarded as the representative of all the gods.

A2. a) What is the second plague and how would it have affected life in Egypt?

b) What would have been the effect on the people's faith in their gods and in Pharaoh?

c) What was Pharaoh's reaction, including his promises to Moses?

A3. Moses gave Pharaoh the right to set the time for the frogs to disappear? Why do you think he did that?

Reading Note: The word translated lice is of indeterminate meaning; possibly lice, gnats or even ticks. The text says they afflicted "man and beast." Exasperating, not lethal, they would be impossible to ignore.

A4. Why do you think God sent the third plague of lice/fleas/ticks without warning or opportunity for Pharaoh to agree to any condition set by Moses?

A5. a) What was the magicians reaction to the third plague? Cite verses.

b) What was Pharaoh's reaction to it?

Second Reading: Exodus 8:20-32

A6. Moses is told by God to go to the Nile in the morning and confront Pharaoh once more face to face.

a) What does he ask for?

b) What does he threaten?

Reading Note: The Hebrew text says only *swarms*, translators added *of flies*. The plagues often directly challenge the gods of Egypt. Thus it's possible these were swarms of beetles. They both fly in swarms and crawl on the ground (as in v.21) and were sacred to Khepri, the scarab headed god that represented creation and rebirth and the daily rising of the sun. The scarab is pervasive in Egyptian art and worship.

c) What new condition applies to the fourth plague and why do you think God does this?

A7. a) Notice Ex. 7:16; 8:1; 8:20; etc. Why does God want Pharaoh (or Satan) to “Let my people go?”

b) What compromise does Pharaoh suggest in Ex. 8:25? (*You need to read this verse carefully.*)

c) Does Satan try to get God's people today to make this same compromise? Your thoughts?

d) Moses refuses this offer and reiterates what demand of God in v. 27?

A8. a) In verse 28 Pharaoh tries a new tactic. What is it??

b) If you had to generalize this “compromise” of Pharaoh to one that Satan tries to make with the saints of God today, how would you phrase that in today's language?

A9. How does Moses characterize Pharaoh's dealings with the children of Israel up to this point? Cite verse.

A10. Read John 8:44, which Jesus spoke to his enemies among the Jewish leaders of his day.

a) According to this scripture, would it be true to say that the devil was Pharaoh's father?

b) How does Pharaoh react to the reprieve he gets when the swarms of bugs disappear?

c) What is basically wrong with his character?

d) How is he like his father, the devil?

Third Reading: Exodus 9:1-12

A11. The first plague of Exodus 9 wipes out large numbers of Egyptian livestock. Some would say diseases of livestock occur naturally. What things brought this one into the “miracle” category?

A11. a) What did Pharaoh check to see on the day his livestock was affected by the plague?

b) What things might Satan have whispered (2 Ne.28:22) into Pharaoh’s mind after the actions of Ex. 9:7?

A12. What was different about the 6th plague?

A13. Pharaoh’s heart “was hardened” in verse 7. In verse 12 “the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh.” Ignore, for a moment, the possibility that this was just a scribal error that crept into the text, and think more deeply about the *causes* of “heart hardening.”

a) What actions did the Lord take in these verses? (1-12)

b) How did Pharaoh react to them? Describe what you think was his emotional state.

c) There is an old saying: “The same sun hardens the clay and softens the wax.” If God did something that would infuriate Pharaoh, whose fault is it that Pharaoh became furious?

d) Whose fault is it when *you* become furious? (or any other negative emotional state you want) In other words, can we truly blame outward circumstances for our inward reactions? Your thoughts?

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Part B: Chapters 9:13-35; 10

First Reading: Exodus 9:13=35

B1. Moses gives a lengthy speech to an unrepentant Pharaoh early in the morning (vs. 13-19) after the affliction of boils has affected the Egyptians.

a) What command of God does Moses give one more time?

b) God tells Pharaoh “I will send all my plagues *upon thine heart?*” What do you think this means?

B2. What prophecy does he make directly against Pharaoh that comes true (later)? Cite verse.

B3. CHALLENGE: God explains the purpose of the plagues in this speech of Moses to Pharaoh. What is that purpose and do you think it came to pass? Explain.

B4. a) What is the 7th plague? Name all three (or four) manifestations of it.

b) What were its effects?

b) God provides a “way out” of the 7th plague for any Egyptian who believes in the power of God as it has been manifested through Moses. What was this ‘way out’?

Fourth Reading: Exodus 10:1-29

B5. Moses and Aaron go again to see Pharaoh, who has refused once again to let the people go. They threaten an 8th plague.

a) Read verses 5 and 6 in which Moses describes the plague of locusts. What phrases heighten the dramatic effect of his speech? And what seems to be Moses’ frame of mind as he delivers the message?

b) What was the reaction of Pharaoh’s servants to the threat of this plague?

B6. Pharaoh knows his servants are telling him the truth and he is actually afraid. That’s why he calls Moses and Aaron back into his presence and appears to say, “Yes, you can go.” But he asks who Moses intends to go with. What is Moses’ answer?

B7. Verse 10 is confusing in the King James translation. Here it is in the *God's Word Translation*:
"Pharaoh said to them, 'The LORD would have to be with you if I would ever let you take your women and children along. I know you're up to no good!'" (v10)

a) Why does Pharaoh want the women and children to stay behind?

b) Pharaoh becomes so angry that he has Moses and Aaron thrown out of his presence, something he hasn't done before. Why is letting *all* the Israelite's go so unthinkable to Pharaoh, and why does he call it an "evil plan"?

c) Satan has a big stake in keeping women and children in Egypt, or in other words, under the influences in this world that he controls, so that they cannot "go serve the Lord." Can you identify some of the voices in the world today that are trying to persuade women and children to "stay in Egypt?"

B8. Pharaoh's stubborn anger at the prospect of losing his slave nation entirely, brings the 8th plague down upon his people. What are some of the phrases that describe how terrible this plague was?

B9. Did Pharaoh 'repent' in verses 16 & 17? Explain your answer.

B10. Because of Pharaoh's treachery, the 9th plague is the third one that comes with no warning from Moses. How is this plague described?

B11. a) What offer did the 9th plague, darkness, evoke from Pharaoh?

Reading Note: The plague of darkness was the greatest challenge yet to Egyptian worship, for the most powerful of all their gods was Ra, the sun god, king of the gods, protector of Pharaoh and god of light. Great fear and despair gripped Egypt when all went dark for three days!

- b) How is this plague symbolic of the difference between false religion and true worship?

- c) How can we insure that there is “light in our dwellings?”

B12. How do Moses and Pharaoh part?

B13. What has been the most helpful thing you learned in this lesson?