



# Lesson 43

## The Plagues of Egypt – Part 1

### Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Text:</b> Exodus 7:14-12:32</li> <li>• <b>Setting:</b> approx. 1445 B.C. in Egypt</li> <li>• <b>Characters:</b> God, Moses, Aaron, and Pharaoh</li> <li>• <b>Plot:</b> God sends 10 plagues to punish Egypt's idolatry, to display His wrath, and to</li> </ul> | <p style="text-align: right;">facilitate Israel's exodus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Key word(s):</b> " _____ that I am the LORD" (7:5, 17; 8:10, 22; 9:14, 16, 29; 14:4, 18)</li> <li>• <b>Climax:</b> "And Moses said, 'Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more.'" (Exo. 10:29)</li> </ul> |
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### Review

1. In chapter 5, Moses and Aaron's petition for Hebrew liberty was met with mockery, blasphemy, and even punishment from Pharaoh. Discouraged, Moses went to God in prayer. God answered by saying, "Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he \_\_\_\_\_ them out of his land."

### Introduction

2. We are quick to think of God's wrath as something that he displays unwillingly or regretfully; rarely do we think of God's wrath as something that displays his glory. But it does. We may find it difficult to harmonize the mercy and longsuffering of God with his holy wrath, but the Bible teaches us to embrace these attributes of God together. God is glorified by saving his people from the judgment he pours out on his enemies.

"The *holiness of God* is an attribute of God that is put on display, particularly when he \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., Lev. 10:1-3, 10). As such, when God judges he *reveals himself as a holy God*."<sup>1</sup>

3. God had warned Moses that he would harden Pharaoh's heart (4:21; 7:3) and this hardening would escalate the judgments until Pharaoh would not only let the people go, but he would "*drive them out of his land*." This is God's glory in salvation through \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>2</sup>
4. The plagues of Egypt are not only aimed at the Egyptians' creature comforts, but the plagues are meant to show Pharaoh and his \_\_\_\_\_ as the weak and powerless before Jehovah.

### The First Plague: Water is Turned to Blood

5. (7:14-19) God told Moses that since Pharaoh's heart was hardened that it was time for the first plague: the Nile River would be turned to \_\_\_\_\_, killing the fish, and depriving the Egyptians of drinking water.

**APPLICATION** → "The true fountain of the Nile being unknown to them, they paid all their devotions to

<sup>1</sup> James M. Hamilton, Jr., *God's Glory in Salvation through Judgment* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2010) 55. Emphasis original.

<sup>2</sup> The title of Hamilton's book is an excellent summary of an important theological theme that is an important element of Bible narrative.

its streams: here therefore God punished them, and turned that into blood which they had turned into a god. Note, That creature which we idolize God justly removes from us, or \_\_\_\_\_ to us. He makes that a scourge to us which we make a competitor with him.”<sup>3</sup>

6. (7:20-24) Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded, but the magicians were able to mimic a similar miracle. Again, Pharaoh’s heart is hardened when he believes he can \_\_\_\_\_ Jehovah’s unique and holy power.

**APPLICATION** → “This plague of Egypt is alluded to in the prediction of the ruin of the enemies of the New-Testament church, Rev. 16:3, 4. But there the sea, as well as the rivers and fountains of water, is turned into blood; for \_\_\_\_\_ judgments reach further, and strike deeper, than temporal judgments do.”<sup>4</sup>

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## The Second Plague: Frogs

7. (7:1-6) The second plague was an over abundance of frogs which infested every nook and cranny of every Egyptian household.
- (7:7) Once again, the magicians mimicked Moses’ miracle.
  - (7:8) But this time, Pharaoh showed signs of possibly relenting when he asked Moses to \_\_\_\_\_ to Jehovah for the frogs to be removed.
  - (7:9-10) Moses said he would happily pray for relief – all Pharaoh had to do was name the time. Pharaoh asked Moses to pray “to morrow.” Why didn’t he ask for immediate relief? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (7:11-15) Moses prayed, and the frogs died. The Egyptians piled the into huge, stinking piles. Yet, Pharaoh hardened his heart because of the \_\_\_\_\_ from the plague.

**APPLICATION** → Pharaoh’s heart was hardened when the judgment was ended. So it is with any \_\_\_\_\_ heart. Matthew Henry notes, “Till the disposition of the air is changed, what thaws in the sun will freeze again in the shade.”<sup>5</sup>

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**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Answer Key:** Key word(s): “know” • 1. drive • 2. judges • 3. judgment • 4. idols • 5. blood; → embitters • 6. dismiss; → spiritual • 7. b. pray; c. Was he so fond of his guests that he would have them stay another night with him? No, but probably he hoped that they would go away of themselves, and then he should get clear of the plague without being obliged either to God or Moses. <sup>6</sup>; respite → graceless

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**How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study:** (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

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<sup>3</sup> Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 104-105.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* (Whether or not one agrees with Henry on the judgments of Revelation being spiritual, the point remains that the wrath of God portrayed in Revelation are not only similar to the ones described in Exodus but more severe.)

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 106.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*