



Lesson 44

The Plagues of Egypt – Part 2

Story Elements

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

Review

1. 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 _____.¹

"The holiness of God is an attribute of God that is put on display, particularly when he judges (e.g., Lev. 10:1-3, 10). As such, when God judges he reveals himself as a holy God."²

2. The plagues of Egypt are not only aimed at the Egyptians' creature comforts, but the plagues are meant to show Pharaoh and his _____ as weak and powerless before Jehovah.

The Third Plague: Lice

3. (8:16-19) God told Moses to have Aaron stretch out his rod and smite the dust of the land, "that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt." Two interesting observations take place in this part of the story:
 - a. The magicians are unable to mimic the miracle, and they confess, "This is the finger of _____" (v 19). They never again succeed at mimicking Jehovah's miracles.

APPLICATION → Matthew Henry notes, "Sooner or later God will extort, even from his enemies, an acknowledgment of his own sovereignty and over-ruling power.³ **Romans 14:11** For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

- b. A pattern emerges: every third plague comes _____ – no warning is given to Pharaoh.

The Fourth Plague: Flies

4. (8:20-23) Again God sent Moses to Pharaoh with a warning: unless the Hebrews are released, the LORD will send swarms of flies.
 - a. With this plague, the distinction between where the Hebrews lived (Goshen) and where the

¹ The title of Hamilton's book (see below) is an excellent summary of an important theological theme that is an important element of Bible narrative.

² James M. Hamilton, Jr., *God's Glory in Salvation through Judgment* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2010) 55. Emphasis original.

³ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 106.

Egyptians lives would be especially noticeable. The swarms of flies would be obviously marshalled by an Unseen Commander.

APPLICATION → The LORD glorifies himself by distinguishing between his people and the rest. Matthew Henry said, “The Lord knows those that are his, and will make it appear, perhaps in this world, certainly in the other, that he has set them apart for _____. A day will come when you shall *return and discern between the righteous and the wicked* (Mal. 3:18), *the sheep and the goats* (Mt. 25:32; Eze. 34:17), though now intermixed.”⁴

- b. (8:24-32) The swarms were too much for Pharaoh, and he granted the Hebrews liberty to go and worship their God – even acknowledging the Hebrew God at whom he had previously mocked.
 - i. Moses pressed his bargain and asked to go for _____ days journey into the wilderness.
 - ii. Pharaoh relented, but with a compromise: “only ye shall not go very far away.” (v 28)

APPLICATION → Satan seeks to lure the would-be believer with similar compromises: serve God but stay in the world. Be content with just a little devotion. Charles Spurgeon preached, “What a blessing it is when a man can say, - I have done with these compromises; I do not want to serve God and win favor with the world. I do not want to go just a little way from the world. I pray God to divide me from the world by an everlasting divorce, just as with Paul when he said, ‘The world is _____ unto me, and I unto the world.’”⁵

- iii. After the flies went away so did Pharaoh’s permission. “*And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.*”

The Fifth Plague: Murrain on Livestock

- 5. (9:1-4) Moses returned to Pharaoh with another warning: the next plague would be a murrain (a deadly infectious disease on the livestock).
 - a. Again, God distinguished between the Hebrews and the Egyptians by sparing all the Hebrews’ animals.
 - b. This sparing of the Hebrew livestock must’ve made a deep impression on Pharaoh because he sent investigators to confirm it. This certainly struck fear into Pharaoh’s heart because now, not only were the Hebrews numerous, but they were becoming _____ than the Egyptians. And yet, his fearful heart was not a submissive one.

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “know” • 1. judgment • 2. idols • 3. a) God; b) unannounced • 4. a) → himself b) i) three; → crucified • 5. b) wealthier

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.

⁴ Henry, 106.

⁵ Charles Spurgeon, *Metropolitan Tabernacle: Volume 31* (London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1971) 162.