



Lesson 45

The Plagues of Egypt – Part 3

Story Elements

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| <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) |
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Review

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

The Sixth Plague: Boils

2. (9:8-12) God told Moses to take handfuls of ashes from the furnace (probably a _____ kiln¹) and cast them into the air in the sight of Pharaoh.
 - a. As the ashes settled to the ground, it became a pestilent dust over all Egypt, afflicting man and animal with boils. This was the first plague to directly attack the _____ of people.
 - b. Not only were the magicians unable to mimic this plague, but they were also unable to "stand before Moses." These magicians, who were instrumental in hardening Pharaoh's heart, are never mentioned again in the story.

APPLICATION → The Egyptian magicians (named Jannes and Jambres by Jewish tradition) are used in the New Testament as illustrations of false teachers: they may appear now to successfully oppose the truth, but their time for failure is fast approaching. Matthew Henry wrote, "they were forced to retreat, and could not stand before Moses, to which the apostle refers (2 Tim. 3:9) when he says that their *folly was made _____ unto all men.*"²

- c. For the first time, we see that it is God who is hardening Pharaoh's heart (as God promised he would in 4:21 and 7:3). "If men shut their eyes against the light, it is just with God to _____ their eyes. Let us dread this as the sorest judgment a man can be under on this side hell."³

The Seventh Plague: Hail

3. (9:13-21) God sent word to Pharaoh that even more plagues would be coming unless the Hebrews were set free. Along with the customary warning, God also gave Pharaoh more sobering truths:
 - a. The plagues were being sent for three reasons: so "the Egyptians would recognize that Yahweh was incomparable, that His power would be demonstrated through them, and that His name, character, attributes, and power, would be known _____."⁴

¹ Notice the poetic justice in this plague.

² Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 107.

³ Ibid.

⁴ John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005) 95.

- b. (9:22-26) The hailstorm came – and it was unlike any other in the history of Egypt. The large stones killed anything left outside and _____ ran along upon the ground (perhaps ground lightning, cf Psa. 78:48). Only the Hebrews (and those Egyptians which feared God and heeded Moses’ warnings) were spared.
- c. (9:27-35) Even though Pharaoh begged for mercy, his heart hardened as soon as the storm ceased at Moses’ word.

The Eighth Plague: Locusts

- 4. (10:1-6) Moses returned to Pharaoh with another warning: the next plague would be locusts that would devour whatever vegetation had survived the hailstorm.
 - a. (10:7) This time, even Pharaoh’s _____ began to plead with him to let the people go.
 - b. (10:8-11) Moses and Aaron were summoned before Pharaoh, but only the men were given permission to leave temporarily to worship the LORD.
 - c. (10:12-15) The locust invaded Egypt when Moses stretched out his hand over the land, *“and there remained not any _____ thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt.”*
 - d. (10:16-20) Again Pharaoh begged for mercy, again Moses wrought deliverance, and again God hardened Pharaoh’s heart.

The Ninth Plague: Darkness

- 5. (10:21-24) As with the third and sixth plague, the ninth plague came with no warning for Pharaoh. Darkness *“which could be _____”* descended upon Egypt for three days – but Goshen, where the Israelites dwelt, had normal sunshine.
 - a. Pharaoh relented and granted liberty to Hebrews of every age, but he required that their livestock remain in Egypt.
 - b. Moses would not have this compromise and demanded that their livestock come with them, saying, *“there shall not an _____ be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the LORD our God.”*
 - c. Pharaoh snapped back, *“Get thee out!”* MacArthur noted, *“The ‘get out’ from Pharaoh to Israel’s and God’s spokesmen would be met by the ‘get out’ from the _____ to Israel.”*⁵

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “know” • 1. idols • 2. brick • 3. a. health; ➔ manifest; c. close • 3. a. everywhere; b. fire • 4. a. servants; c. green • 5. felt; b. hoof; c. Egyptians

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.

⁵ Ibid., 98. Emphasis mine