

God Judges Through Plagues:
Plagues song

**God sent Moses to Pharaoh
To set his people free
God sent Moses to tell him,
"Let my people go, that they may serve me."
First he turned the water to blood
The whole Nile, even water in vessels
Of wood and stone became blood**

**God used plagues, plagues, plagues to free his people.
God used plagues to judge those who wouldn't heed his word
God used plagues, plagues, plagues to free his people.
God used plagues to show He alone is God the Lord.**

**God sent Moses to Pharaoh
To set his people free
God sent Moses to tell him,
"Let my people go, that they may serve me."
Second God caused frogs to appear,
Pharaoh's magicians made even more
He wouldn't serve the Lord.**

**God sent Moses to Pharaoh
To set his people free
God sent Moses to tell him,
"Let my people go, that they may serve me."
Third God changed dust to gnats
Pharaoh's magicians could quite match that
"This is the finger of God." So they said...**

Patterns of Plagues:
Read Ex. 7:5-8:19

1. Considering the first three plagues, how is Pharaoh informed of the coming plagues?
See especially Ex. 7:16-18, 20; 8:1-5; 9:16.
 - a.
2. After noting the pattern here, does the pattern continue in the rest of the plagues? See
Ex. 8:20-21, 9:1-3, 9:8-9.
 - a.

3. If you still aren't convinced of the pattern, check out the next three plagues! See Ex. 9:13, 10:3-4, 10:21. What is the significance of God warning Pharaoh first two times and then, after the warnings, sending the third plague in each cycle? What does it say about Pharaoh? What does it say about God?
 - a.

Patterns of God:

1. We see more of God's character in the severity of the plagues. What pattern do you notice in the plagues? How do the early ones compare to the later ones? For the first set of three, see especially Ex. 7:19, 21; 8:6.
 - a.
2. To answer what the plagues say about God's character, also consider the two responses of Pharaoh and his officials:
 - a. See Ex. 7:11, 22; 8:7. What does this say about Pharaoh and his officials?
 - i.
 - b. See Ex. 8:15; 9:27-32; 10:16-20; What does this say about Pharaoh's heart?
 - i.
3. Notice the response when imitation is no longer possible. See Ex. 8:18-19.
 - a.
4. What happens when Pharaoh's servants see that negotiation is no longer possible? See Ex. 10:7-11. Even worse, what does Pharaoh say in Ex. 10:28?
 - a.
5. What does the slowly increasing severity of plagues say about God?
 - a.

A Hardened Heart:

1. Although Pharaoh said in Ex. 5:2, "...I do not know the LORD...", what will God do? Who will know that God is God?
 - a. See Ex. 6:7; 10:2
 - i.
 - b. See Ex. 7:5,
 - i.
 - c. See Ex. 7:17; 8:10, 22; 9:14, 29
 - i.
 - d. Who gets the most of these? Isn't this sad?
 - i.
2. See Ex. 7:13, 14, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 12. How is it that the LORD finally hardens Pharaoh's heart?
 - a.
3. What changes once it is the LORD hardening Pharaoh's heart and not merely Pharaoh? See Ex. 9:14-17. What does this say about God's judgements against those who don't heed his word?
 - a.

Take Home:

There are three things I'd like you to consider this week:

1. Meditate on God's relationship with Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Recall that God condemns those who do not trust in his word.
2. Meditate on your own life. Is there a sin over which you have hardened your heart? Be wary! God takes sin seriously.
3. Although this study is on God's judgement, recall how patient God was. He didn't start off by killing Pharaoh's son or by doing big plagues of hail. He started small in order to give time for people to know that he alone is God. He is patient with you too. Even more than this, he has made a new way of salvation for you in Jesus Christ.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, it can be frightening to reflect on Pharaoh's hardened heart. Many of us have hardened our hearts over and over again to the point of despair. Remind us this week, that you have done something new since Exodus: you sent Jesus Christ to soften even the hardest heart. We are clothed in Christ's righteousness now. Because of Christ, even our most stubborn sins have been forgiven, and you lead us to walk new lives. Lord, we ask that you would comfort us with this your saving grace and let us also know you in your salvation. In Jesus' name, amen.

Session Five: Salvation Through Plagues (Ex. 8:20-11:10):

“To be My People” Song:

God delivered the people of Israel,
He delivered the people to show who he is.
God, the LORD is all gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. That's who he is.

And he said, yes he said,
I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God
I will take you to be my people,
And you will know that I am the Lord your God."

God delivered the foreigner Gentiles
He delivered the people by sending his Son
Christ delivered all nations from bondage by dying the death every sinner had won

God, the LORD is all gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. That's who he is.

And he said, yes he said,
“I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God
I will take you to be my people,
And you will know that I am the Lord your God."

Read Ex. 8:20-9:35; 11:1-10

1. Recall God's promise to Moses in Ex. 3:7-10; especially 3:19-20; also 6:6-8. Why were the plagues needed for God's act of salvation?
 - a.
2. God used the plagues to show who he is, who his people were, and what was his. See 8:22-23; 9:4; 10:22-23; 11:6-9. What is God up to revealing himself in this way? What does this say about who the redeemer is? Even as he makes himself known as judge, in these verses, how does he make himself known to his people?
 - a.
 - b.
3. Not only is God one who saves *his* people, whom he sets aside, to whom else does he offer salvation? See Ex. 9:18-21.
 - a.
4. How is that a comfort to you? Remember the Israelites were Jews and were God's chosen people, but are you?

a.

Striking Connections in Exodus:

Read Ex. 12:29-32

1. Notice the repetition of the verb “strike.” See Exodus 7:17, 8:17, 9:15 Interestingly, plagues 8 and 9 don’t use the word “strike.” Remember who else did some striking earlier on? See Ex. 2:12.
 - a.
2. But who is the one really doing the striking? See Ex. 12:12. Read Ex. 12:1 to see who is speaking. Also check out Ex. 12:29 to see a final answer. What does this say about Moses? What does it say about God?
 - a.
 - b.

Salvation as Service:

1. Note Ex. 1:13 in the King James Version: “And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour.” This picks up on a significant connection. Who is to be served? See especially Ex. 3:12 and also Ex. 4:23; 7:16; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3.
 - a.
2. Who is the true King in Exodus?
 - a.
3. Who do Pharaoh’s servants admit ought to be served? See Ex. 10:7.
 - a.
4. What does service to God look like? See Ex. 10:24-26.
 - a.
5. What does Pharaoh finally admit? See Ex. 12:31. But how much of God’s signs and wonders did this take?
 - a.
6. What does service to God mean in regards to the way he saves his people?
 - a.

Salvation Through Death:

1. What does Pharaoh say about death?
 - a. See Ex. 10:16-17
 - i.
 - b. See Ex. 10:28-29
 - i.
2. But what does God say about death and Pharaoh?
 - a. See Ex. 11:4-6
 - i.
 - b. Whose word ultimately happens? See Ex. 12:29-30.
 - i.
 - c. What does this say about Pharaoh and God?

i.

3. What other word of God happens, which Pharaoh said would never happen? See Ex. 5:2, 11:1 and 12:31-32; also 3:22 and 12:36.

Take Away:

I urge you to do these things this week:

1. Consider Pharaoh and God and ask yourself, how does God prove he alone is God?
2. Consider the kings in your life. Who is ruling over you? What do you serve? Is it God or something else?
3. Remember that God forgives those who believe in Christ.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we have seen and heard how you saw and heard the Israelites' affliction in Egypt. We have seen and heard how you began to deliver them through your plagues. We ask that you would deliver us today from any false kings we have in our lives. Help us always to trust in you and you only, for you saw and heard our affliction and sent Jesus to deliver us. In Jesus' name, amen.