



Lesson 26 – The Plagues of Egypt

Based on Exodus 5-10

Aaron, being instructed by angels, went forth to meet his brother, from whom he had been so long separated; and they met amid the desert solitudes, near Horeb. Here they communed together.

- 1) Among other things, what did they converse about?

Exodus 4:28 And Moses told Aaron all the _____ of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him.

Together they journeyed to Egypt; and having reached the land of Goshen, they proceeded to assemble the elders of Israel.

- 2) What transpired there?

Exodus 4:29-30 And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the _____ of the children of Israel: And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the _____ in the sight of the people.

Exodus 4:31 And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and _____.

- 3) What did Moses do in the Hall of Pharaoh?

Exodus 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people _____, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

- 4) Was Pharaoh excited to help?

Exodus 5:2 And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should _____ his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

- 5) What was Moses and Aaron's reply?

Exodus 5:3 And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God; lest he _____ us with pestilence, or with the sword.

- 6) What did Pharaoh accuse Moses of?

Exodus 5:4-5 And the king of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their _____? get you unto your burdens. And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them rest from their burdens.

Tidings of them and of the interest they were exciting among the people had already reached the king. His anger was kindled. Already the kingdom had suffered loss by the interference of these strangers.

In their bondage the Israelites had to some extent lost the knowledge of God's law, and they had departed from its precepts. The Sabbath had been generally disregarded, and the exactions of their taskmasters made its observance apparently impossible. But Moses had shown his people that obedience to God was the first condition of deliverance; and the efforts made to restore the observance of the Sabbath had come to the notice of their oppressors.

- 7) What move did Pharaoh make to bring the Israelites into submission?

Exodus 5:7-8 Ye shall no more give the people _____ to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves. And the tale of the bricks, which they did make heretofore, ye shall lay upon them; ye shall not diminish ought thereof: for they be _____; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God.

The king, thoroughly roused, suspected the Israelites of a design to revolt from his service. Disaffection was the result of idleness; he would see that no time was left them for dangerous scheming. And he at once adopted measures to tighten their bonds and crush out their independent spirit.



8) How were the people treated?

Exodus 5:15-16 Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried unto _____, saying, Wherefore dealest thou thus with thy servants? There is no straw given unto thy servants, and they say to us, Make brick: and, behold, thy servants are _____; but the fault is in thine own people.

Exodus 5:17-18 But he said, Ye are _____, ye are idle: therefore ye say, Let us go and do sacrifice to the LORD. Go therefore now, and _____; for there shall no straw be given you, yet shall ye deliver the tale of bricks.

These officers supposed that their oppression came from their taskmasters, and not from the king himself; and they went to him with their grievances. Their remonstrance was met by Pharaoh with a taunt.

9) They went to Moses next, what did they say?

Exodus 5:21 And they said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be _____ in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.

10) Moses took that to the LORD, what did God reply?

Exodus 6:1-2 Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou _____ what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a _____ hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land. And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD:

Again, he was pointed back to the covenant which God had made with the fathers and was assured that it would be fulfilled.

The elders of Israel endeavored to sustain the sinking faith of their brethren by repeating the promises made to their fathers, and the prophetic words of Joseph before his death, foretelling their deliverance from Egypt. Some would listen and believe. Others, looking at the circumstances that surrounded them, refused to hope. The Egyptians, being informed of what was reported among their bondmen, derided their expectations and scornfully denied the power of their God.

The Hebrews had expected to obtain their freedom without any special trial of their faith or any real suffering or hardship. But they were not yet prepared for deliverance. They had little faith in God and were unwilling patiently to endure their afflictions until He should see fit to work for them. Many were content to remain in bondage rather than meet the difficulties attending removal to a strange land; and the habits of some had become so much like those of the Egyptians that they preferred to dwell in Egypt.

11) Were the Israelites on board with Moses at this point

Exodus 6:9 And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: but they _____ not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage.

12) What did God tell Moses to do next?

Exodus 6:11 Go in, speak unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, that he let the children of Israel _____ out of his land.

13) Was Moses excited to do that?

Exodus 6:12-13 And Moses spake before the LORD, saying, Behold, the children of Israel have not hearkened unto _____; how then shall Pharaoh hear me, who am of uncircumcised lips? And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, and gave them a _____ unto the children of Israel, and unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

Moses and Aaron entered the lordly halls of the king of Egypt. There, surrounded by lofty columns and glittering adornments, by the rich paintings and sculptured images of heathen gods, before the monarch of the most powerful kingdom then in existence, stood the two representatives of the enslaved race, to repeat the command from God for Israel's release.

14) What did Aaron do at the request of Pharaoh?

Exodus 7:10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a _____.



The king demanded a miracle, in evidence of their divine commission. Moses and Aaron had been directed how to act in case such a demand should be made.

15) Was he satisfied with the miracle?

Exodus 7:11-13 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in _____ with their enchantments. For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod _____ up their rods. And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

The magicians did not really cause their rods to become serpents; but by magic, aided by the great deceiver, they were able to produce this appearance. It was beyond the power of Satan to change the rods to living serpents. The prince of evil, though possessing all the wisdom and might of an angel fallen, has not power to create, or to give life; this is the prerogative of God alone. But all that was in Satan's power to do, he did; he produced a counterfeit.

He well knew that Moses, in breaking the yoke of bondage from off the children of Israel, prefigured Christ, who was to break the reign of sin over the human family. He knew that when Christ should appear, mighty miracles would be wrought as an evidence to the world that God had sent Him. Satan trembled for his power. By counterfeiting the work of God through Moses, he hoped not only to prevent the deliverance of Israel, but to exert an influence through future ages to destroy faith in the miracles of Christ.

16) Does the story end there?

Exodus 7:16-17 And thou shalt say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my people go, that they may _____ me in the wilderness: and, behold, hitherto thou wouldst not hear. Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will _____ with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.

The overflowing of the Nile being the source of food and wealth for all Egypt, the river was worshiped as a god, and the monarch came thither daily to pay his devotions. Here the two brothers again repeated the message to him, and then they stretched out the rod and smote upon the water. The sacred stream ran blood, the fish died, and the river became offensive to the smell. The water in the houses, the supply preserved in cisterns, was likewise changed to blood.

17) After seven days of that, what came next?

Exodus 8:5-6 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch forth thine hand with thy rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause _____ to come up upon the land of Egypt. And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and _____ the land of Egypt.

They overran the houses, took possession of the bed chambers, and even the ovens and kneading troughs. The frog was regarded as sacred by the Egyptians, and they would not destroy it; but the slimy pests had now become intolerable. They swarmed even in the palace of the Pharaohs, and the king was impatient to have them removed. The magicians had appeared to produce frogs, but they could not remove them.

18) What was finally extracted from Pharaoh?

Exodus 8:8 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, _____ the LORD, that he may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the LORD.

19) Was it lasting?

Exodus 8:15-16 But when Pharaoh saw that there was _____, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said. And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become _____ throughout all the land of Egypt.

Exodus 8:19 Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the _____ of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.



20) What came next?

Exodus 8:21 if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of _____ upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thy houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground whereon they are.

These flies were large and venomous, and their bite was extremely painful to man and beast. As had been foretold, this visitation did not extend to the land of Goshen.

21) And then...

Exodus 9:3 Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous _____.

A "murrain" is a historical, non-specific term for any highly infectious and fatal plague sweeping through livestock, particularly cattle and sheep. Both the sacred animals and the beasts of burden, kine and oxen and sheep, horses and camels and asses, were destroyed. It had been distinctly stated that the Hebrews were to be exempt; and Pharaoh, on sending messengers to the home of the Israelites, proved the truth of this declaration of Moses. **"Of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one."** Still the king was obstinate.

22) Next...

Exodus 9:8-9 And the LORD said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the _____ in the sight of Pharaoh. And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with _____ upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt.

This act was deeply significant. Four hundred years before, God had shown to Abraham the future oppression of His people, under the figure of a smoking furnace and a burning lamp. He had declared that He would visit judgments upon their oppressors and would bring forth the captives with great substance. In Egypt, Israel had long languished in the furnace of affliction. This act of Moses was an assurance to them that God was mindful of His covenant, and that the time for their deliverance had come.

23) What message from the LORD told Pharaoh that things were about to get really tough?

Exodus 9:14-15 For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that there is _____ like me in all the earth. For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be _____ from the earth.

There was no exercise of supernatural power to harden the heart of the king. God gave to Pharaoh the most striking evidence of divine power, but the monarch stubbornly refused to heed the light. Every display of infinite power rejected by him, rendered him the more determined in his rebellion. The seeds of rebellion that he sowed when he rejected the first miracle, produced their harvest. As he continued to venture on in his own course, going from one degree of stubbornness to another, his heart became more and more hardened, until he was called to look upon the cold, dead faces of the first-born.

He gives to each an opportunity to correct his errors before they become fixed in the character; but if one refuses to be corrected, divine power does not interpose to counteract the tendency of his own action. He finds it easier to repeat the same course. He is hardening the heart against the influence of the Holy Spirit. A further rejection of light places him where a far stronger influence will be ineffectual to make an abiding impression.

24) What warning did Paul give us?

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also _____.

25) What plague came next?

Exodus 9:18-19 Behold, to morrow about this time I will cause it to _____ a very grievous _____, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now. Send therefore now, and gather thy cattle, and all that thou hast in the field; for upon every man and beast



which shall be found in the field, and shall not be brought home, the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall _____.

Rain or hail was unusual in Egypt, and such a storm as was foretold had never been witnessed. The report spread rapidly, and all who believed the word of the Lord gathered in their cattle, while those who despised the warning left them in the field. Thus, in the midst of judgment the mercy of God was displayed, the people were tested, and it was shown how many had been led to fear God by the manifestation of His power.

Ruin and desolation marked the path of the destroying angel.

26) What did Pharaoh have to say about the devastation that ensued?

Exodus 9:27 And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: the LORD is righteous, and I and my people are _____.

27) Was it lasting?

Exodus 9:35 And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, neither would he _____ the children of Israel _____; as the LORD had spoken by Moses.

28) What was next?

Exodus 10:4-5 Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to morrow will I bring the _____ into thy coast: And they shall cover the face of the earth, that one cannot be able to see the earth: and they shall _____ the residue of that which is escaped, which remaineth unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which groweth for you out of the field:

The counselors of Pharaoh stood aghast. The nation had sustained great loss in the death of their cattle. Many of the people had been killed by the hail. The forests were broken down and the crops destroyed. They were fast losing all that had been gained by the labor of the Hebrews. The whole land was threatened with starvation. Princes and courtiers pressed about the king and angrily demanded, ***“How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?”***

29) Did Pharaoh give the Israelites the freedom for all to leave?

Exodus 10:11 Not so: go now ye that are _____, and serve the LORD; for that ye did desire. And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

Locusts filled the sky till the land was darkened and devoured every green thing remaining. The people of Egypt were ready to despair. The scourges that had already fallen upon them seemed almost beyond endurance, and they were filled with fear for the future. The nation had worshiped Pharaoh as a representative of their god, but many were now convinced that he was opposing himself to One who made all the powers of nature the ministers of His will. The Hebrew slaves, so miraculously favored, were becoming confident of deliverance. Their taskmasters dared not oppress them as heretofore.

30) What came next?

Exodus 10:22-23 And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick _____ in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three _____: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Fear at last wrung from Pharaoh a further concession. At the end of the third day of darkness, he summoned Moses, and consented to the departure of the people, provided the flocks and herds were permitted to remain.

31) What was the last interaction between Moses and Pharaoh?

Exodus 10:28-29 And Pharaoh said unto him, _____ thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in that day thou seest my face thou shalt die. And Moses said, Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy _____ again no more.

Can you see that God gives us many chances?

Would you like to not harden your heart?

When is the time to do the right thing?