



PLAGUES IN EGYPT

LESSON 15
Exodus 5-10

Chapter 5

- Initial request (v. 1 & 3)
 - “Celebrate a feast” – “Three days journey”
- “Who is the LORD, that I should obey”
- Directions to the taskmasters (v. 6-9)
 - No straw provided
 - Quota the same
- Foremen beaten (v. 10-14)
- Change in attitude (v. 15-21)
- Moses’ objections continue

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Chapter 6

- Moses dejected at the end of chapter 5
- God responds with a patient reminder and statement of His purposes (v. 1-9)
 - “Now you will see”
 - “Jehovah – Deliverer and Redeemer
 - “I will take you for My people, and I will be your God”
- “They did not listen to Moses” (v. 9)
- Brief genealogy with familiar names (v. 14-27)
- “Behold, the sons of Israel have not listened to me; how then will Pharaoh listen to me, for I am unskilled in speech?” (v. 12 & 30)

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Chapter 7

- “I make you as God to Pharaoh” (v. 1-7)
- Purpose of the plagues
 - God’s honor and exaltation (v. 3)
 - 8:10; 9:16; 14:17-18
 - Judgement (v. 4)
 - Gen. 15:14
 - Identification (v. 5a)
 - 7:17; 8:22; 9:14; 10:2; 11:7; 14:4, 18; Neh. 9:10
 - Deliverance (v. 5b)
 - 12:50-51; Psa. 136:10-12

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- Judgement against the gods of Egypt
 - 12:12... “For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the LORD.”
 - Num. 33:3-4... “The LORD had also executed judgments on their gods.”
- A repeated theme in the prophets at the hand of Babylon
 - Jer. 43:12... “And I shall set fire to the temples of the gods of Egypt”
 - Jer. 46:25... “The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, says, “Behold, I am going to punish Amon of Thebes, and Pharaoh, and Egypt along with her gods and her kings, even Pharaoh and those who trust in him.”

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- “The number of deities worshipped by the ancient Egyptians was indeed staggering, and almost 1500 gods and goddesses are known by name, though fewer are known in detail” (Wilkerson, The Complete Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt)
- “The Egyptians considered sacred the lion, the ox, the ram, the wolf, the dog, the cat, the ibis, the vulture, the falcon, the hippopotamus, the crocodile, the cobra, the scarab, locust and other insects. In addition to these there were anthropomorphic gods; that is, men in the prime of life such as Amun, Atum, or Osiris.” (Davis, Moses and the Gods of Egypt)

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- “Even Pharaoh was a god, always the son of Amon-Ra, ruling not merely by divine right but by divine birth, as a deity transiently tolerating the earth as his home. On his head was the falcon, symbol of Horus and totem of the tribe; from his forehead rose the serpent, symbol of wisdom and life, and communicating magic virtues to the crown. The king was chief priest of the faith, and led the great processions and ceremonies that celebrated the festivals of the gods. It was through this assumption of divine lineage and powers that he was able to rule so long with so little force.” (Durant, Our Oriental Heritage)

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1. Water to blood	Hapi - god of the Nile Osiris - Nile was his bloodstream Khnum - guardian of the Nile
2. Frogs	Heqt - goddess of fertility, often depicted with the head of a frog
3. Lice	Seb - god of the desert Geb - god of the dust of the earth
4. Flies	Khepri - head of a beetle Uatchit - The fly god of Egypt
5. Diseased cattle	Hathor - goddess with cow head Apis - bull god, symbol of fertility Mnevis - sacred bull of Heliopolis
6. Boils	Sekhmet - goddess of epidemics Isis - goddess of health Imhotep - god of healing
7. Hail	Nut - goddess of the sky Shu - god of the wind and air
8. Locusts	Serapia - deity protector from locusts Neper and Nepri - god and goddess of grain
9. Darkness	Ra, Amon-ra, Aten, Atum, Horus - sun gods
10. Death of the firstborn	Min, Heqt - deities of reproduction and birth Isis - goddess who protected children Pharaoh and his son - considered gods

- “I will harden Pharaoh’s heart”

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God Hardened

Pharaoh Hardened

4:21 - Moses leaves Midian, God says "I will harden..."

7:13 – Magicians/rods to serpents, "Pharaoh's heart was hardened"

7:3 - Prior to the first plague, "I will harden..."

"7:14 - Before the first plague, "Pharaoh's heart is stubborn"
7:22 – Magicians/water to blood, "Pharaoh's heart was hardened"'"

9:12 - In response to the boils, "The Lord hardened..."

8:15 - Frogs were removed, "he hardened his heart and did not listen"

"10:1 - Before the plague of locusts, "For I have hardened..."
10:20 - Locusts were removed, "But the Lord hardened..."

8:19 –Magicians said, "This is the finger of God", "Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen"
8:32 - Flies was removed - "Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also"'"

10:27 - Compromise following darkness, "But the Lord hardened..."

9:7 – Israel's cattle untouched, "But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened"

11:10 – After first 9 plagues, "Yet the Lord hardened..."

"9:34 - Rain and hail stopped, "He sinned again and hardened his heart"
9:35 - "Pharaoh's heart was hardened... he did not let the people go"'"

"14:4 - Less direct route of escape, "Thus I will harden..."

14:8 - Army assembled, "The Lord hardened..."

14:17 - Instruction to divide the sea, "Behold, I will harden..."'"

13:15 - When future generations ask the reason for consecration of the firstborn, "When Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go"

- Gen. 3 :6 – Adam and Eve chose disobedience
- Gen. 4:7 – Cain chose to let sin master him
- Gen. 6:9 – Noah chose righteousness
- Gen. 17:1 – Abraham chose to walk before God
- Gen. 19:26 – Lot's wife chose to look back
- Deut. 30:19-20 - "Now choose life"
- Joshua 24:15 – "Choose this day whom you will serve"
- Isa. 55:6-7 – "Seek the Lord" and forsake wicked ways
- Ezek. 18:31 – In a chapter of choices, "Repent and live"
- 1 Cor. 10:13 – Escape for every temptation
- Col. 3:25 – Consequences "without partiality"
- 2 Thess. 2:10-12 – Deception of wickedness vs. Love of truth
- Heb. 3:12 – Unbelieving heart, deceived and hardened by sin
- James 1:13-15 – God tempts no one.

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- Hardened by a command he simply did not want to obey
 - Not an innocent or godly man
 - Stubborn, self-willed, arrogant
 - Prospect of losing free labor not an option
 - Command from the Hebrew God
- Hardened when God relented
 - 8:15... “When Pharaoh saw that there was relief”
 - 9:34... “Hail and thunder had ceased”
- Hardened by the mercy extended
 - 9:13-14... Allowed to remain as God demonstrated His power and proclaimed His name
 - 9:31-32... When some crops were spared – “I know that you do not yet fear the LORD God.”
- Danger remains the same today
- Rom. 2:4ff

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- Pharaoh's magicians (v. 8-13) and their secret arts
 - Able to turn staffs to serpents (although Aaron's ate theirs)
 - Water to blood
 - Frogs
 - Could not bring forth lice
 - Affected by boils

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