

# Exodus: Lesson 4

## Plagues and Purposes

CBCSD/LG

# Plagues and Purposes

Exodus 7:1 – 10:29    **Introduction**

- 1) Exodus– God fulfills **His promise** to Abraham.  
People, Land and Nation.
- 2) The Lord’s instruction to Moses and Aaron (7:1-2)  
- Tell Pharaoh to “**Let my people go**”.
- 3) The first 9 plagues – Plagues means blow, strike.

# Pattern (Sequence of event)

- 1) Commanding – “Let my people go” (repeated word)
- 2) Warning – “If you refuse”, “or else”
- 3) Relenting – “sorry”. Sometimes no relenting
- 4) Praying and Confessing
- 5) **Hardening of Heart**

# Exodus 7:1-7

And the Lord said to Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet.

2 You shall **speak** all that I command you, and your brother **Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people** of Israel **go** out of his land.

3 **But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart**, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, 4 Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of **judgment**.

5 The **Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord**, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them.” 6 Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the Lord commanded them. 7 Now Moses was **eighty years old**, and Aaron **eighty-three years old**, when they spoke to Pharaoh.

# Triplets of the First 9 Plagues

## First 3 plagues

- Blood (dead fish), Frogs, Gnats
- Magician duplicates first 2
- Distressful plagues (**Disgusting**)
- Magician testified: “This is the finger of God” (8:19)





# Triplets of the First 9 Plagues

Second 3 plagues (land)

- Flies, Livestock, Boils
- **Bothersome** plagues (Painful and costly)
- Distinguishing between Egypt and Israel



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# Triplets of the First 9 Plagues

Third 3 plagues – Hail, Locusts and Darkness

- **Natural Disaster**
- Dangerous and Destructive



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| THE<br>PLAGUE                 | EGYPTIAN<br>DEITY | THE EFFECT ON<br>PHARAOH                                                             |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <b>BLOOD</b> (Ex 7:20+)     | Hapi              | Pharaoh hardened (Ex 7:22+)                                                          |
| 2 <b>FROGS</b> (Ex 8:6+)      | Heqt              | Pharaoh begs relief, makes promise (Ex 8:8+) then is hardened (Ex 8:15+)             |
| 3 <b>GNATS</b> (Ex 8:17+)     | Hathor,<br>Nut    | Pharaoh hardened (Ex 8:19+)                                                          |
| 4 <b>FLIES</b> (Ex 8:24+)     | Shu, Isis         | Pharaoh bargains (Ex 8:28+) but is hardened (Ex 8:32+)                               |
| 5 <b>PESTILENCE</b> (Ex 9:6+) | Apis              | Pharaoh hardened (Ex 9:7+)                                                           |
| 6 <b>BOILS</b> (Ex 9:10+)     | Sekhmet           | Pharaoh hardened (Ex 9:12+)                                                          |
| 7 <b>HAIL</b> (Ex 9:23+)      | Geb               | Pharaoh begs relief (Ex 9:27+), makes promise (Ex 9:28+) then is hardened (Ex 9:35+) |
| 8 <b>LOCUSTS</b> (Ex 10:13+)  | Serapis           | Pharaoh bargains (Ex 10:11+), begs relief (Ex 10:17+), but is hardened (Ex 10:20+)   |
| 9 <b>DARKNESS</b> (Ex 10:22+) | Ra                | Pharaoh bargains (Ex 10:24+), but is hardened (Ex 10:27+)                            |

# The gods (idols) of the Egyptian

God is dismantling the false gods of the Egyptians  
(James Montgomery Boice)

- 1) Hapi (Nile god) flood, fertility, abundance
- 2) Heqet (Nile, frog) – goddess of fertility in childbirth, regeneration
- 3) Hathor (land, gnats) – goddess of love, beauty, music, joy
- 4) Shu (land, flies) - god of light, peace, air and wind
  
- 9) Ra (sun/sky god, darkness) – Egyptian sun god and creator of life





# Discuss

1) Give example of idols people worship today similar to the Egyptian gods?

2) What are the common idols we experience today?

Spurgeon (morning and evening) list of gods:

- Mammon (2 Tim. 3:1-2, lovers of money)
- Pride (proud)
- Self, flesh (lovers of self, pleasure v4)
- Our Children

Read Romans 1:21-24

# Romans 1:18-21

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

21 For although **they knew God**, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.



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# Pharaoh's Hardened Heart

- 1) God first promised to harden Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 4:21, 7:3)
- 2) Pharaoh hardened his own heart (Exodus 8:15,32)
- 3) Then God hardened his own heart more (Exodus 9:12)
- 4) Then Pharaoh hardened his own heart more (Exodus 9:34)
- 4) Then God hardened his heart more (Exodus 10:1,20)

# Discuss

- 1) What is a hardened heart?
- 2) How do you address the issue of God hardened a sinner's heart? (Rom 1:28)
- 3) Can you share with your group someone dear to you but have a very hard heart toward God. Can we pray for them?
- 4) Any hope of people with a hardened heart? (Read Eze. 36:26-27)

# Hardened Heart

- 1) An **unrepentant heart** against God (Eph 4:17-19) Deliberately disobeyed God's Word.
- 2) A heavy (Kabed) heart. God just let them be (Rom 1:28)
- 3) Any hope for people with a hardened heart? (Read Eze. 36:26)

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

# Purpose of Plagues?



## Purpose of Plagues

# “You will know me”

(8:22, 9:14,29)

- **Yahweh** is above all false gods. There is only one true God on Earth. No one like Him. The God of the Hebrews is not what Pharaoh thinks.

- Both the **Egyptian and Israelites** will know Him.

# Purpose of Plagues

## “Let my people go”

- God’s Redemptive Power for His people

(Note: Not even the most powerful king can stop Him.)

- Can you recall how God saved you from your sinful nature by His power? How God snatched you out of the hand of the devil.

# Warning and Judgement

- Warning against persistent disobedience and rebellion.

“Or else”, “if you refuse”

- A preview of God’s ultimate judgement to come (Revelation)

- Today is the day of salvation. Don’t wait.

**Do not harden your hearts.**

(Ps 95:7-11)

Purpose of  
Plagues

# Purpose of Plagues



1) “You will **know** me”. Worship the only God. (Idols)

2) God’s **redemptive power** of salvation. (Let my people go)

3) **Warning and Judgement**  
(Separate believers from non-believers)

## Warren Wiersbe's -

"See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily . . . so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" ([Heb. 3:12-13](#)).

When a person has an erring heart and a disbelieving heart, the result will also be a hard heart. This is a heart that is insensitive to the Word and work of God. So hard was the heart of Israel that the people even wanted to return to Egypt! Imagine wanting to exchange their freedom under God for slavery in Egypt! Of course, all this history spoke to the hearts of the readers of this letter, because they were in danger of "going back" themselves. Believers who doubt God's Word and rebel against Him do not miss heaven, but they do miss out on the blessing of their inheritance today, and they must suffer the chastening of God.



# How to protect your Heart

The great Puritan writer [John Flavel](#) wrote that...

The heart of man is his worst part before it is regenerated,  
and the best afterward;  
it is the seat of principles, and the fountain of actions.

The eye of God is, and the eye of the Christian ought to be, principally fixed upon it.

The greatest difficulty in conversion, is to win the heart to God;

and **the greatest difficulty after conversion, is to keep the heart with God.**

# How to protect your Heart

- 1) Hebrews 3:12 **See to it.** Check up. Examine it. Confess and repent.
- 2) Hebrews 3:13 But **exhort one another every day**, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.