

Book	Key Idea	The Nation	The People	God's Character	God's Role	God's Command
Genesis	Beginnings	Chosen	Prepared	Powerful Sovereign	Creator	"Let there be!"
Exodus	Redemption	Delivered	Redeemed	Merciful	Deliverer	"Let My people go!"
Leviticus	Worship	Set Apart	Taught	Holy	Sanctifier	"Be holy!"
Numbers	Wandering	Directed	Tested	Just	Sustainer	"Go in!"
Deuteronomy	Renewed Covenant	Made Ready	Retought	Loving Lord	Rewarder	"Obey!"

Genesis 15:13-16

¹³ And God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve; and afterward they will come out with many possessions. ¹⁵ And as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ Then in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."

Bondage		Redemption				Revelation							
1	Bondage in Egypt	7	Plagues	19	Ten Commandments	25	Plans for the Tabernacle	32	Priests and Levites	35	Golden Calf	40	Completion of the Tabernacle
Incubation of the Nation		Inception of the Nation				Infancy of the Nation							
Preparation		Redemption				Instruction							
Bondage and Oppression		Deliverance and Provision				Law, Pattern and Construction							
God's People Enduring Bondage		God's Grace in Redemption				God's Glory Manifested in Worship							
Israel in Egypt		Israel to Sinai				Israel at Sinai							
430 years (15%)		2 months (30% of Exodus)				10 months (55% of Exodus)							

Redemption and Revelation

Exodus 1-18 The Redemption of God's People from Egypt
Exodus 19-40 The Revelation to God's People in Sinai

Bondage in Egypt (Exodus 1-6)

Exodus 1:1-22 A Deliverer Needed

1:1-7 **The Setting**

1:8-14 **The Slavery**

v8 The Pharaoh

v9-10 The Plot

v11-14 The Persecution

1:15-22 **The Slaying**

v15-16 The Charge

v17 The Contravention

v18 The Consternation

v19 The Cleverness

v20-21 The Commendation

v22 The Command

Exodus 2:1-10 The Deliverer Born

2:1-4 **The Parturition of Moses**

v1 Moses' Parents

v2 Faith of Moses' Parents

v3-4 Moses in a Basket

v5-10 **The Protection of Moses**

v5-6 Pharaoh's Daughter Finds Moses

v7-10 Pharaoh's Daughter Adopts Moses

Exodus 2:11-25 The Deliverer Prepared

2:11-14 **Moses in Egypt**

v11a Moses the Prince

v11b Moses the Deliverer

v12 Moses the Murderer

v13 Moses the Arbitrator

v14 Moses the Accused

2:15-25 **Moses in Midian**

v15 Moses the Refugee

v16-20 Moses the Stranger

v21-22 Moses the Shepherd

v23 Israel's Cruel Bondage

v24-25 God's Covenant Remembered

Exodus 3:1-4:17 The Deliverer Called

3:1-4:17 **Moses in the Wilderness**

v1-3 The Burning Bush

v4-6 Holy Ground

v7-10 Moses Commissioned

v11-14 I AM WHO I AM

v15-17 God's Concern for Israel

v18-22 Egypt will be Plundered

4:1-9 The Signs Given

4:10-17 Moses' Continued Refusal

Exodus 4:18-31 The Deliverer Sent

4:18-31 **Moses in Egypt**

v18 Jethro Blesses Moses

v19-23 The LORD Instructs Moses

v24-26 Zipporah Saves Moses

v27 The LORD Instructs Aaron

v28-30 Aaron Speaks for Moses

v31 The People Worship the LORD

Exodus 5:1-6:27 Pharaoh Rejects

God's Word

- 5:1-4 The First Confrontation
- 5:5-14 Pharaoh's First Act: Increased Workload
- 5:15-23 The First Response
 - v15-19 The Protest before Pharaoh
 - v20-21 The Protest Against Moses
 - v22-23 The Protest before the LORD
- 6:1:8 The Reassurance of the Lord
- 6:9 The Response of the People
- 6:10-13 The Recommissioning of Moses
- 6:14-19 The Records of Reuben, Simeon, Levi
- 6:20-25 The Records of Moses and Aaron
 - v20 Their Parents
 - v21-22 The Uncles and Cousins
 - v23 Aaron's Wife and Sons
 - v24-25 The Next Generation
- 6:26-27 The Reiteration of Moses' Call

Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh Rejects

God's Miracles

- 6:28-7:13 The Second Confrontation
 - 6:28-30 Moses' Discouragement
 - 7:1-5 The Lord's Pronouncement
 - 7:6-7 Their Obedience
 - 7:8-13 The Rod into Serpent
- 7:14-10:29 The Nine Plagues
 - 7:14-25 Water Turned to Blood
 - 8:1-15 Frogs
 - 8:16-19 Dust Turned to Gnats
 - 8:20-32 Swarm of Insects
 - 9:1-7 Pestilence on Livestock
 - 9:8-12 Boils on Man and Beast
 - 9:13-36 Great Hailstorm
 - 10:1-20 Locusts
 - 10:21-29 Darkness

Plague	Ex. Source	Warning	Instruction Formula
1. Blood	7:14-24	Yes	"In the morning," "station yourself"
2. Frogs	7:25-8:11	Yes	"Go to Pharaoh"
3. Gnats	8:12-15	No	None
<hr/>			
4. Flies	8:16-28	Yes	"In the morning," "station yourself"
5. Livestock	9:1-7	Yes	"Go to Pharaoh"
6. Boils	9:8-12	No	None
<hr/>			
7. Hail	9:13-35	Yes	"In the morning," "station yourself"
8. Locusts	10:1-20	Yes	"Go to Pharaoh"
9. Darkness	10:21-23	No	None
<hr/>			
10. First-born	11:4-7	Yes	None; 12:29-30

Scott Grant - <http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/10413/exoplaques.html>

Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

8:1 -15 Second Plague: Frogs

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, '**Thus** says the LORD, "Let My people go, **that** they may serve Me. 2 **But if** you refuse to let *them* go, **behold,** I will smite your whole territory with frogs. 3 And the Nile will swarm with frogs, which will come up and go into your house and into your bedroom and on your bed, and into the houses of your servants and on your people, and into your ovens and into your kneading bowls. 4 **So** the frogs will come up on you and your people and all your servants.'""



Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh Rejects God's Miracles

Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

8:1 -15 Second Plague: Frogs

5 **Then** the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your staff over the rivers, over the streams and over the pools, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.'"

6 **So** Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.

7 And the magicians did the same with their secret arts, making frogs come up on the land of Egypt. 8 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Entreat the LORD that He remove the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, **that** they may sacrifice to the LORD."



Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh Rejects God's Miracles

Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

8:1 -15 Second Plague: Frogs

9 And Moses said to Pharaoh, "The honor is yours to tell me: when shall I entreat for you and your servants and your people, **that** the frogs be destroyed from you and your houses, **that** they may be left only in the Nile?"

10 **Then** he said, "**Tomorrow.**"

So he said, "**May it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.** 11 And the frogs will depart from you and your houses and your servants and your people; they will be left only in the Nile."



Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh Rejects God's Miracles

Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

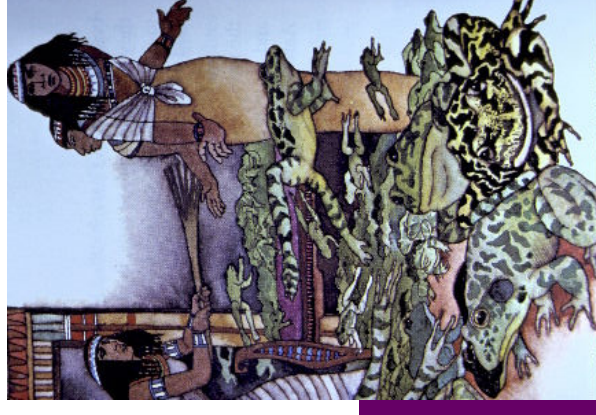
8:1 -15 Second Plague: Frogs

12 **Then** Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the LORD concerning the frogs which He had inflicted upon Pharaoh. 13 And the LORD did according to the word of Moses, and the frogs died out of the houses, the courts, and the fields. 14 **So** they piled them in heaps, and the land became foul. 15 **But when** Pharaoh saw that there was relief, **he hardened his heart** and did not listen to them, **as the LORD had said.**

In the judgment scene from the Book of the Dead, the heart of the deceased is weighed in the balance against a feather (representing Maat, truth and justice) to determine whether the individual will be ushered into an afterlife of happiness or be devoured.

Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh Rejects God's Miracles

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful



The goddess Heget (wife of god Khum and symbol of resurrection and fertility) was envisioned as a frog and assisted in childbirth. The Egyptians wear frog amulets and it was forbidden to intentionally kill a frog, which is regarded as a sacred creature.

The croaking of frogs signaled to farmers that the gods who controlled the Nile's flooding and receding had again made the land fertile. Hapi was venerated on this occasion because he had caused alluvial deposits to come downstream.

One of the principal goddesses of the land was Hekt, the wife of the "creator of the world," who was always shown with the head and the body of a frog.

The frogs came out of the sacred Nile and Egypt's devotion to them prevented them from dealing with them. They soon had decaying carcasses throughout the land resulting in a stinking horror. It is interesting that the magicians could increase the frogs (in Ex 8:7) but couldn't make them go away.

It is interesting that the climactic war against God in Revelation is assembled by three frog-like spirits: "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Rev. 16:13-14. These unclean spirits will lead the entire world to war against God!



Hekt, the frog goddess

The Lord reveals himself to Moses

Truth has no impact (7:14-25)

In the first plague, though Moses does "as the Lord had commanded" (7:20), the revelation of the power of the Lord through Moses has no apparent impact. There will be times when we believe the truth and speak the truth, trusting in the power of the Lord, and see no impact. It falls of deaf ears. We're rejected.

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/10415/exo008.html>

The Lord reveals himself to Moses

[Truth has limited impact \(8:1-15\)](#)

In the second plague, the plague of frogs, Moses again is instructed to confront Pharaoh but also to convey hope that the future is not fixed, should Pharaoh listen to the Lord. In speaking truth, Moses holds out hope. When we speak truth, we're not to be battering rams. We're to hold out hope in the Lord, hope for change.

In obedience, Moses again confronts Pharaoh with the truth. The results are similar: The magicians duplicate the plague, and Pharaoh hardens his heart. There is a slight difference in Pharaoh's response this time, however. He asks Moses and Aaron to petition the Lord to remove the frogs.

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/10415/exo008.html>

Though Pharaoh's repentance proves to be false, Moses responds with deference and grace. Instead of responding with suspicion, he gives Pharaoh the benefit of the doubt. Similarly, instead of responding with suspicion, we can give people the benefit of the doubt. We can be believers in people, giving them every chance.

Moses then cries out to the Lord on behalf of Pharaoh, his enemy. Similarly, Jesus instructs us to pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44).

Pharaoh cracks a little. He has seen something of the power of the Lord through Moses. The revelation of the Lord through Moses shakes Pharaoh's world just a little, to the point that he seeks out Moses. If we believe the truth and speak the truth faithfully and persistently, over time it will have an impact. It will give people the opportunity to see reality differently, as it gave Pharaoh that opportunity.

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/10415/exo008.html>

7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

8:16-19 Third Plague: Dust Turned into Gnats

16 **Then** the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, that it may become gnats through all the land of Egypt.'" 17 And they did so; and Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff, and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats through all the land of Egypt.

18 And the magicians tried with their secret arts to bring forth gnats, **but** they could not; **so** there were gnats on man and beast.

19 **Then** the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." **But** Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, **as the LORD had said.**



Copyright © Cecilia Perh 2008
www.2Tim2-2.com

Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh Rejects God's Miracles

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The third of the judgments on Egypt came out of the soil in Egypt. The Hebrew word ken is translated "lice" in our English translation, with "sand flies" or "fleas" in some marginal notes. The Hebrew word comes from a root meaning to dig; it is probable that the insect was one, which digs under the skin of men. There was something about lice that freaked them out. They were able to deal with the serpents, the water to blood, and the frogs. When it came to the lice, not only could they not do it, they went to Pharaoh and told him that it was, "the finger of God" So, what was the big deal with the lice?

The priests of the Egyptian system had a big thing about cleanliness. They wore special linen garments, they shaved their head every third day. In order for them to worship according to their system, they had to be totally clean. The infestation of the lice made it impossible for them to worship. The priests themselves could not officiate in agreement with the system that they were following. The bringing of the lice against them made them recognize that God was dealing with them. They went to Pharaoh to point out that this was "the finger of God."

This was an embarrassment to their great god of the earth, Geb, to whom they gave offerings for the bounty of the soil.

Geb, the god of the earth



The Lord reveals himself to Moses **[Truth has a bigger impact \(8:16-19\)](#)**

Once again, Moses obeys the Lord, and once again Pharaoh hardens his heart, but this time the magicians can't duplicate the plague of gnats, and they recognize "the finger of God." The magicians, being tied into the occult, are aware of the spiritual world, and they know power when they see it. Often people involved in cults, the New Age and the occult end up being open to the gospel because, being open to spiritual things, they know about spiritual power....

Here, then, the revelation of God through his servant Moses has a bigger impact. In the first plague, there was no impact. In the second plague, there was some impact. In the third plague, there is even greater impact. The truth believed and spoken faithfully and persistently grows in impact.

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/10415/exo008.html>



Just as significantly, how do the first three plagues impact Moses? He entered them fearful and shaky. But as he faithfully believes the truth and speaks the truth, he's beginning to see impact. He's beginning to see the power of the Lord. As a servant of the Lord, he's beginning to see the power of the Lord through him, that the Lord has distinguished between him and the servants of the Egyptian gods. His faith is growing.

In our lives, the truth believed and spoken has increasing impact over time. This demonstrates the power of God in our lives, which in itself has impact. As we step out into our fears, speaking the truth, we begin to observe the power of the Lord in us, his servants, and our faith grows. The Lord wants to turn us from timid, fearful people into his bold and confident servants.

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/10415/exo008.html>

Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

8:20-32 Fourth Plague: Swarms of Insects

20 Now the LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh, as he comes out to the water, and say to him, '**Thus** says the LORD, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. **21** **For** if you will not let My people go, **behold**, I will send swarms of insects on you and on your servants and on your people and into your houses; and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of insects, and also the ground on which they dwell. **22** **But** on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people are living, **so that no** swarms of insects will be there, **in order that you may know that I, the LORD, am in the midst of the land.** **23** And I will put a division between My people and your people. **Tomorrow this sign shall occur.**"

Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh

Rejects God's Miracles

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The Lord reveals himself to Moses [The Israelites treated differently \(8:22-23; 9:4-7\)](#)

In order to be effective as the Lord's deliverer, Moses not only has to defeat Pharaoh, he has to convince the Israelites to follow him. Moses has been fearful that the people won't believe him, listen to him or follow him (5:1, 10; 6:12). The people were initially receptive (4:31), but hardships imposed by Pharaoh discouraged them (6:9). The first three plagues affected all the land of Egypt, including Goshen, where the Israelites lived, so Moses must view his task in convincing the people as harder than ever. He must be thinking, "Even if I'm effective with Pharaoh, I have a nation of people who won't believe me."

Beginning with the fourth plague, the Lord does something different with Israel. He sets Israel apart. The land of Goshen is spared. This is something that Moses can see.

We'll show up in the life of a brother or sister, seeking to love and serve, and often they'll frustrate us, as people often will. We won't see change or movement in their lives. But if we stick around long enough, we'll usually see something of the Lord in their lives, some way in which he has made a distinction between him or her and the world. We can see God in the life of another, which is one of the biggest joys any believer in Jesus Christ can experience.

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/10417/exo009.html>



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

8:20-32 Fourth Plague: Swarms of Insects

24 **Then** the LORD did so. And there came great swarms of insects into the house of Pharaoh and the houses of his servants and the land was laid waste **because** of the swarms of insects in all the land of Egypt.

25 And Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God within the land."

26 **But** Moses said, "It is not right to do so, **for** we shall sacrifice to the LORD our God what is an abomination to the Egyptians. **If** we sacrifice what is an abomination to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not then stone us? 27 We must go a three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our God **as He commands us.**"

Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh Rejects God's Miracles



[Moses makes no compromise \(8:25-27\)](#)

When Pharaoh bargains with Moses, the easiest thing for Moses to do is to compromise, but he doesn't. When Pharaoh offers Moses a deal that would allow the Israelites to sacrifice to the Lord within the land of Egypt, Moses replies with two reasons why this is not possible. The first is a practical reason and the second a moral reason.

Practically it wouldn't work because sacrificing animals that are sacred to the Egyptians would be an abomination to them and prompt them to stone the Israelites. More importantly, from a moral standpoint, the Lord has commanded that the Israelites sacrifice to him in the wilderness (3:18). Simply, Moses and the Israelites must obey the Lord.

Moses, no doubt, fears Pharaoh, but here it becomes clear that he fears God more. The Lord is working with his once-shaky servant, building into him faith and confidence. Moses trusts the Lord. It's what the Lord does with us as well.

Similarly, when the apostles were commanded by the Jewish officials not to teach about Jesus, Peter and the others answered, **"We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:27-29)**. Earlier, during the trial of Jesus, Peter was more than shaky, having denied the Lord three times.

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/10417/exo009.html>



Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

8:20-32 Fourth Plague: Swarms of Insects

28 And Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, **that** you may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Make supplication for me."

29 Then Moses said, "**Behold**, I am going out from you, and I shall make supplication to the LORD that the swarms of insects may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people tomorrow; only do not let Pharaoh deal deceitfully again in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD." 30 **So** Moses went out from Pharaoh and made supplication to the LORD. 31 **And the LORD did as Moses asked**, and removed the swarms of insects from Pharaoh, from his servants and from his people; not one remained. 32 **But Pharaoh hardened his heart** this time also, and he did not let the people go. chazaq, to be stubborn, to harden (see 4:21)

Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh

Rejects God's Miracles

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The fourth of the plagues were "swarms" ("of flies" is not in the original). The word is `arob, a swarm, possibly suggesting unending motion. The deification of the scarab beetle is still noticeable - even today - in the jewelry and artifacts celebrating ancient Egypt.

Amon-Ra, the king of the gods, had the head of a beetle. Some of the giant scarabs were even accorded the honor of mummification and entombment with the Pharaohs. This is particularly bizarre since the scarab is actually a dung beetle. The insect is about the size of a nickel and feeds on dung in the fields or the side of the road. When animals defecate, these insects swarm from their holes in the ground and collect the dung for future meals by forming it into round balls about the size of golf balls, which they roll across the ground to their underground dwellings.

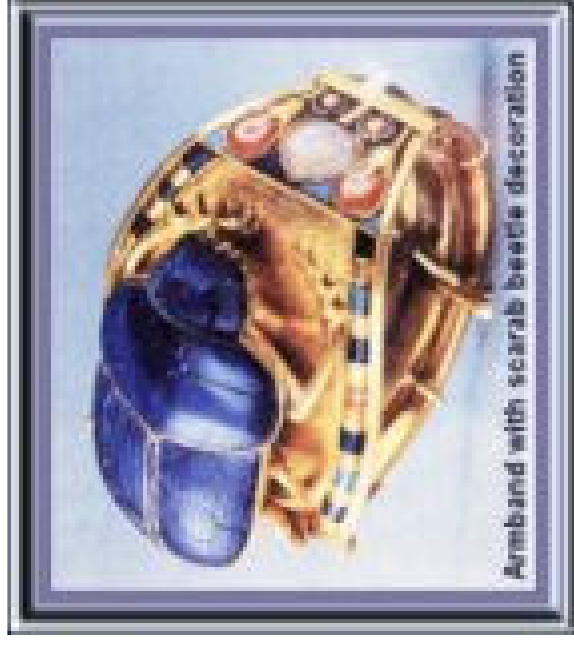
Amon-Ra, the king of the gods

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

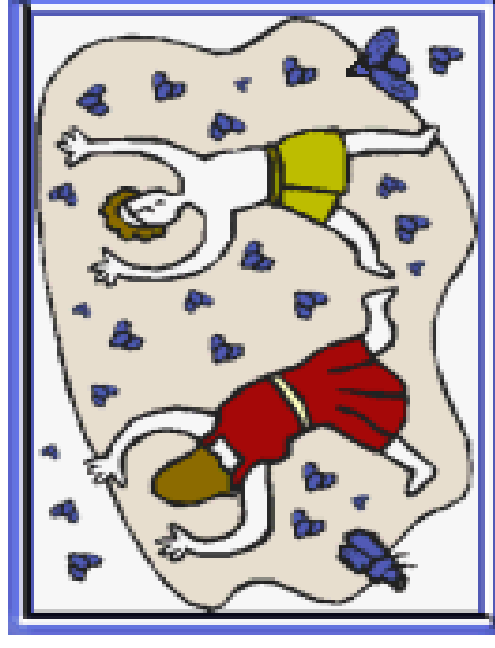
Yep, that's a ball of
dung all
right!



Since they seemed to "come from nowhere," and perhaps because these perfectly round balls were possibly associated with the sun, these beetles became associated with creation. (Also, the Egyptians seem to have had the mistaken notion that the scarabs deposited larvae in the ball, but that is not true.)



The plague of swarms of scarabs, with jaws that could saw through wood and destructive qualities worse than termites, must have caused extreme bewilderment since they were so revered and thus were not to be interfered with!



Amon-Ra, the king of the gods

Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

9:1-7 Fifth Plague: Pestilence on Livestock

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and speak to him, **Thus** says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, "Let My people go, **that they may serve Me.** 2 "**For** if you refuse to let **them go**, and continue to hold them, 3 **behold**, the hand of the LORD will come *with a very severe pestilence on your livestock* which are in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the herds, and on the flocks. 4 **But** the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, **so that** nothing will die of all that belongs to the sons of Israel."'''

Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh Rejects God's Miracles



Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

9:1-7 Fifth Plague: Pestilence on Livestock

5 And the LORD set a definite time, saying, "**T**omorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land."

6 **S**o the LORD did this thing on the morrow, and all the livestock of Egypt died; **b**ut of the livestock of the sons of Israel, not one died. 7 And Pharaoh sent, **a**nd **b**ehold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead. **B**ut the heart of Pharaoh was **h**ardened, and he did not let the people go.

chazaq, to be stubborn, to
harden (see 4:21)

Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh Rejects God's Miracles

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The fifth plague was against the domestic animals of Egypt. It was against Apis, the bull god as well as the cow-headed Hathor, goddess of the deserts. The worship of those gods was so widespread that even the children of Israel had become tainted with it, which led to the disaster of the golden calf in the image of Apis (Ex 32).

The plague was a "murrain" (severe pestilence), a contagious disease among the cattle. Even the sacred bulls in the temple died. The cattle of the Hebrews, of course, were not touched.



Apis, the bull god & Hathor, cow-headed goddess of the deserts

Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

9:8-12 Sixth Plague Boils on Man and Beast

chazaq, to be stubborn, to harden (see 4:21)

8 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take for yourselves handfuls of soot from a kiln, and let Moses throw it toward the sky in the sight of Pharaoh. 9 And it will become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and will become boils breaking out with sores on man and beast through all the land of Egypt."

10 **So** they took soot from a kiln, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses threw it toward the sky, and it became boils breaking out with sores on man and beast. 11 And the magicians could not stand before Moses **because** of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians as well as on all the Egyptians. 12 **And the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not listen to them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses.**

1st occurrence of hardening (apart from pronouncements in Ex 4:21; 7:3)

Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh Rejects God's Miracles

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The root means "burning." The same word can be translated as leprosy, botch in Egyptian, which was declared to be incurable.

Among the gods to which cures would have been ascribed were Thoth, the ibis-headed god of intelligence and medical learning; Apis; Serapis; and Imhotep.

Here, even the magicians did not escape and could not carry on their priestly duties. It was their custom to take the ashes of human sacrifices and cast them into the air. Borne by the wind over the population, they were viewed as a blessing. Some think that this heathen custom was the source of the practice of putting ashes on the forehead on the first day of Lent.

(Note from Kay: I've had personal experience with boils. I've had four altogether and, fortunately, only one at a time. The ones I had were VERY painful. They swelled up to the size of lemons. I had to have them lanced and... don't read this if you are squeamish...they had lots of purple and yellow pus in them. They left large scars. Someone who had boils all over would not be able to be touched where the boils were. They might not be able to sit down or to lie down. They could be in such pain that they don't even want



Thoth, Apis, Serapis & Imhotep – gods of healing

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The Lord reveals himself to Moses

[The Lord makes a mockery of false gods \(9:10-11\)](#)

Moses stands before Pharaoh, one of the supposed Egyptian gods, but the servants of the Egyptian gods can't even stand before Moses, a servant of the Lord, let alone the Lord himself. When boils cover the Egyptian magicians, who are helpless against the power of the Lord, Moses gets a first-hand look at the failure of their gods when confronted with the true God.

We see such failure all around us - the utter failure of a lives in which Jesus Christ is not the center. We see the failure of idolatry in the broken lives, the empty faces, the lifeless eyes. As much as we can see the life of God pulsating in the lives of those who have made Jesus Christ the center of their lives, we can also see death in the lives who have worshiped other gods that have failed them....

Moses sees how the Lord treats the Israelites and how he treats the Egyptians. He sees that the Lord spares the Israelites, and he sees that the Egyptians' gods are failures. If we are observant, we will see similar stories in the lives we observe. In this way, the Lord is revealing himself to us - his presence in the life of a believer, his absence in the life of an unbeliever.

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/1>

0417/exo009.html



The Lord reveals himself to the Israelites

[The Israelites treated differently \(8:22-23; 9:4-7\)](#)

Despite Moses' preaching, the Israelites did not respond to the word of deliverance because they were despondent over the cruel treatment meted out by Pharaoh (6:9). God's word, which promised deliverance, didn't seem to match up with reality, which looked to be nothing but ever-intensifying slavery. But with the fourth plague, things begin to change. All along the Lord has been forming his people, preparing them to leave Egypt. It just didn't appear that way. Now what's always been true becomes unmistakably clear: The Lord has blessed his people.

It isn't always plainly evident to us that the Lord has set us apart - that he has blessed us. But over time, if we open our eyes, it will become clear that the Lord has truly blessed us, and blessed us tremendously. Even a superficial understanding of the blessings mentioned in Ephesians 1:3-14 ought to stir our souls. The Lord reveals himself to us individually in that he sets us apart, in that he blesses us.

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/10417/exo009.html>

[The Lord reveals himself to the magicians](#)

[The Lord makes a mockery of false gods \(9:10-11\)](#)

The magicians duplicated the first two plagues, but the couldn't duplicate the third, and they then recognized "the finger of God" - his power (8:19). They are featured prominently in the first series of plagues, but they only show up in the second series here.

Because they are described as standing before Moses (9:11), it is likely that they are still hard at work, trying to match Moses plague for plague. They've been working overtime to inspire their lifeless gods. Now, while dueling with Moses, they are covered with boils as Moses summons the Lord to bring on the sixth plague. This scene comically depicts the futility of idolatry. The Old Testament, in fact, specializes in poking fun at false gods (Isaiah 46:1-2).

Like the magicians, we too work overtime to inspire our lifeless gods - the things we want, the developments we hope for - in an effort to make life work. But it doesn't matter how hard we work to get our gods to work. They simply don't work. Everything we try outside of a trusting, worshipful relationship with God fails us. And every false god is powerless when the true God lifts his finger. God in his grace shows us this - the utter failure of false gods. And in showing us this, he shows us himself

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/10417/exo009.html>



[The Lord reveals himself to Pharaoh](#)

[The Israelites treated differently \(8:22-23; 9:4-7\)](#)

The Lord's stated purpose in treating Israel differently is actually for Pharaoh's benefit, that he may know that the Lord is "in the midst of the land." The Lord is in the midst of Pharaoh's land - the land he rules. The world of Pharaoh, who thinks he's a god, has been invaded by the one true God.

The Lord uses his power here not only to judge the Israelites with these plagues but also to separate Israel. The way that he treats Israel, then, is a witness to Pharaoh. After the fourth plague, Pharaoh had the land of Goshen investigated, and sure enough, the place where the Israelites lived was spared.

Like Pharaoh, the world is watching. The people of the world, hungry to make life work, are looking for a way to make it happen. When they see life, the life of God pulsating through a believer, they take notice.

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/10417/exo009.html>

Bargaining with God (8:25-28)

In trying to cut a deal with Moses, the servant of the Lord, Pharaoh is trying to cut a deal with the Lord. First he says to Moses, "You can sacrifice, but stay where you are." Then he says, "You can sacrifice, but don't go very far."

What motivates his penchant for deal-making? He wants to stay in control. We are wont to cut any deal with God we can to maintain as much control as we can. We'll play mind games in which we offer God one area of our lives if he'll let us keep control over another. It's difficult for us to hear the truth, respond to it and let go, because we're afraid of what God might do.

The grace of God (8:29-31)

The Lord is gracious to Pharaoh and removes the insects. Not even one remained. The plagues represent God's judgment on Pharaoh, but the rescinding of this plague represents God's grace. Pharaoh, then, has the opportunity to recognize God not only in his judgment but in his grace. The kindness of the Lord witnesses to Pharaoh.

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/10417/exo009.html>

[Clear evidence of God \(8:23, 29; 9:5; 8:31; 9:6-8, 10\)](#)

Verses 8:23, 8:29 and 9:5 all contain the word "tomorrow." Not only does the Lord display his power, he successfully predicts when he will display it - namely, tomorrow. These fulfilled prophecies are strong witnesses. The Lord's power is prophetic.

In 8:31, 9:6 and 9:7, the words "not one" appear. Not one of the insects remained when the Lord rescinded the fourth plague, and not one of the animals of Israel was affected by the fifth plague. The Lord's power is not only prophetic, it is complete.

In 9:8 and 10, Moses carries out is actions "in the sight of" and "before" Pharaoh, so that there can be no doubt of the connection between Moses' actions and the plagues. This is clear evidence that the Lord is responsible for the plagues.

The evidence of the presence of the Lord is overwhelming, yet Pharaoh remains unconvinced.

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/10417/exo009.html>

Pharaoh hardens his heart (8:32; 9:7, 12)

After the fourth plague, the text reports that Pharaoh hardens his heart (8:32). After the fifth plague, his heart is hardened (9:7). And after the sixth plague, the Lord himself hardens Pharaoh's heart (9:12). Pharaoh refuses to listen to the truth, and when the Lord hardens his heart, he's just confirming Pharaoh's choice.

The evidence of the presence of God is insurmountable. He separates his people for special treatment, he graciously rescinds the fourth plague, and his power is successfully prophetic, complete and clear. Why does Pharaoh resist such evidence and harden his heart? For the same reason we do. The evidence says that God is in control - something neither Pharaoh nor we, in our flesh, are thrilled with. The evidence points to something we are not pleased with, something that is traumatic: We are not in control. So what do we do with traumatic information? We resist it. We ignore it. We suppress it.

The Apostle Paul in Romans 1:18-23 describes this dynamic better than any modern-day psychologist. Paul says that people "suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18).

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/10417/exo009.html>



Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

9:13-36 Seventh Plague: Great Hailstorm

13 **Then** the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, 'Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 14 **For** this time I will send all My plagues on you and your servants and your people, **so that you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth.** 15 **For if** by now I had put forth My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, you would then have been cut off from the earth. 16 **But, indeed, for this cause** I have allowed you to remain, **in order to show you My power, and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth.**

Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh Rejects God's Miracles



Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

9:13-36 Seventh Plague: Great Hailstorm

17 Still you exalt yourself against My people by not letting them go. 18 **Behold**, about this time tomorrow, I will send a very heavy hail, such as has not been seen in Egypt from the day it was founded until now. 19 **Now therefore send, bring your livestock and whatever you have in the field to safety.** Every man and beast that is found in the field and is not brought home, when the hail comes down on them, will die."

20 The one among the servants of Pharaoh who feared the word of the LORD made his servants and his livestock flee into the houses; 21 but he who paid no regard to the word of the LORD left his servants and his livestock in the field.

In Egypt, the cattle was sent to pasture in the open country from January to April when the grass is abundant. They are kept in stalls for the rest of the year. Rain falls occasionally between January & March.

Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh Rejects God's Miracles

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

9:13-36 Seventh Plague: Great Hailstorm

22 Now the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that hail may fall on all the land of Egypt, on man and on beast and on every plant of the field, throughout the land of Egypt." 23 And Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt. 24 So there was hail, and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very severe, such as had not been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. 25 And the hail struck all that was in the field through all the land of Egypt, both man and beast; the hail also struck every plant of the field and shattered every tree of the field. 26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the sons of Israel were, there was no hail.

Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh Rejects God's Miracles

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

9:13-36 Seventh Plague: Great Hailstorm

27 **Then** Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "I have sinned this time; the LORD is the righteous one, and I and my people are the wicked ones. 28 Make supplication to the LORD, **for** there has been enough of God's thunder and hail; and I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer."

29 And Moses said to him, "**As soon as** I go out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the LORD; the thunder will cease, and there will be hail no longer, **that you may know that the earth is the LORD's.** 30 **But** as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the LORD God." 31 (Now the flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud. 32 **But** the wheat and the spelt were not ruined, **for** they ripen late.) In Northern Egypt, the barley ripens & flax blossoms about the month of February or at the latest, early in March and both are gathered in before April when the wheat harvest begins.

Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh

Rejects God's Miracles

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Exodus 7:14-10:29 - The Nine Plagues

chazaq, to be stubborn, to harden (see 4:21)

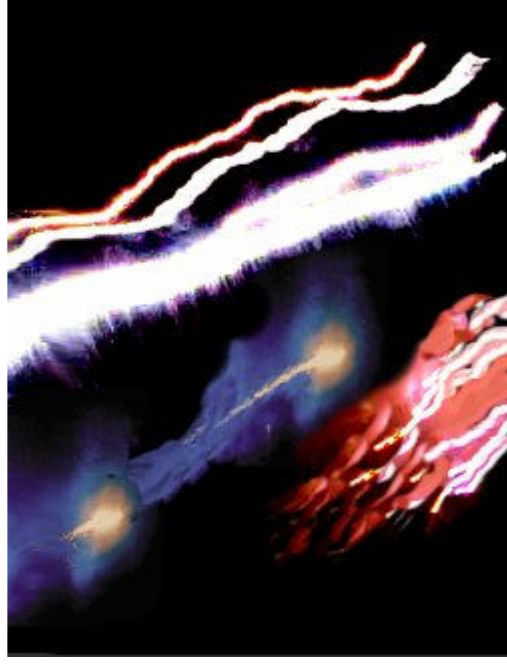
9:13-36 Seventh Plague: Great Hailstorm

33 So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread out his hands to the LORD; and the thunder and the hail ceased, and rain no longer poured on the earth. **34 But when** Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he and his servants. **35 And Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not let the sons of Israel go, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses.**

Exodus 6:28-10:29 Pharaoh Rejects God's Miracles

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Egypt is a sunny land with practically no rain. The seventh plague was a tempest of hail and fire. Where was Shu, the wind god, and Nut, the sky goddess? Where was Horus, the hawk-headed sky god of upper Egypt?



It is interesting to note that when Pharaoh confessed his sin and the sin of his people, he even used the Hebrew names for God: "I have sinned this time: the Lord [YHWH] is righteous, and I and my people are wicked. Intreat the Lord [YHWH] that there be no more mighty thunderings ["voices of Elohim"]." (Exodus 9:27,28)

Shu, the wind God, Nut, the sky goddess, Horus, the sky god



The Lord distinguishes between himself and everyone else. In the first six plagues in the book of Exodus, the narrative has been moving toward this conclusion. In the first series of three plagues, the Lord distinguished between his servant, Moses, and the servants of the Egyptian gods, the magicians. In the second series of three plagues, the Lord distinguished between his people, the Israelites, and the people of the world, the Egyptians. The purpose in each case was to reveal himself, particularly his power. That purpose becomes the focal point in plagues 6 through 9, where he reveals himself by showing that "there is no one like me in all the earth" (9:14).

<http://www.pbbc.org/files/messages/10419/exo010.html>