

## Point Two –

### God Would Show Israel Egypt and the World

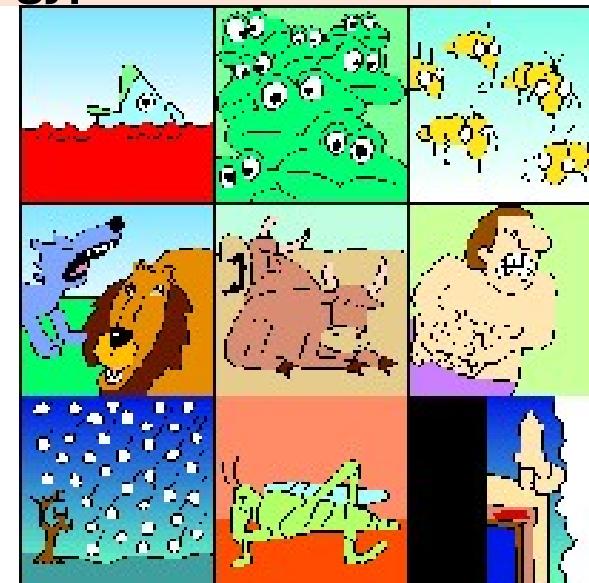
#### II. Who He is by His Power!

God poured out **ten** different plagues on the nation of Egypt.

Each one answered **Pharaoh's question:**

- **“Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD neither will I let Israel go.”** (Exodus 5:2).

KEY: Evangelistical!



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#### “...by His Power

Before you question how stubborn Pharaoh was, consider what we do.

- When we sit in our air-conditioned houses and cars, do we not become like Pharaoh by saying we control our elements and therefore reply, “Who needs God?”
- When a bad storm or hurricane comes near us, and we see great destruction, do we look to Heaven and, on bent knees, realize it is an all-powerful God that we serve?
- When devastation hits America, it should be a reminder of how vulnerable and weak we are.

Instead, we as a nation rejoice in how quickly we can rebuild the damages that the elements have destroyed (as if God is not controlling them).

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“...by His Power

Not only were the plagues **evangelistic** in nature, but they also showed who the true power of this world was!

- We know now that each plague was aimed at the “gods” of Egypt.
- In this epic battle (though it was awfully one-sided), the battle began with the lesser gods.
- It grew until God fully discredited their most powerful “gods.”
  - The oldest son in ancient times was the most powerful in the family, for he would inherit all the family possessions and business.

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PLAGUES	PURPOSE	POINTED TOWARDS	EGYPTIAN “gods”
WATER TO BLOOD: Exodus 7:14-25	All the waters in Egypt: Streams, rivers, ponds, pools of water turned to blood. This included water held in vessels of wood and stone.	Control of water meant control of life itself. This begins the separation of God's people from the world. God gets the attention of His people!	Khnum: guardian of Nile Hapi: spirit of the Nile Osiris: Nile is its bloodstream
FROGS: Exodus 8:1-15	Aimed specifically at the Egyptians. The magicians were able to copy this plague.	This pointed out who were God's people and who were not. <b>There is no middle ground!</b>	Heqt (form of a frog) - god of resurrection.
LICE: Exodus 8:16-19	Over all of Egypt. The magicians were not able to copy this plague.	Broke the backs of those whose polytheistic belief system had taught that they were “God's people”.	None that we know of today.
FLIES: Exodus 8:20-32	Over all of Egypt except in the city of Goshen.	God was calling His people back to Goshen to escape His wrath. The church today is our <b>Goshen!</b>	None that we know of today
DISEASE ON CATTLE: Exodus 9:1-7	Afflicted a “murrain” disease on transportation (asses, camels and horses) & agriculture (oxen and sheep). On the cattle died.	Proved ultimate ownership of material things. All those “blessings” given by the Egyptian “gods” were shown false and discredited.	Hathor: form of a cow Apis (bull): symbol of fertility
BOILS: Exodus 9:8-12	Sores appeared on the Egyptians and beast. The magicians were afflicted with this disease.	Separation of God's people and their wealth from the world's. The religious leaders were all afflicted.	Imhotep: god of medicine
HAIL: Exodus 9:13-35	Animals or servants caught in the field were killed. Herbs and trees were knocked down by thunder & hail.	A very unusual occurrence in Egypt. <b>Salvation came by faith in the Word of God</b> and not by personal understanding.	Nut: sky goddess Isis: goddess of life Seth: protector of crops
LOCUST: Exodus 10:1-20	Ate all the food that was left on the trees and herbs. Short term agriculture source destroyed.	Complete destruction of labor that is not done for God. Only what is done for Christ will last.	Isis: goddess of life Seth: protector of crops
DARKNESS: Exodus 10:21-29	Egypt had no light. The darkness was even felt (sandstorm). Only the Israelites had light.	All the wicked live in spiritual darkness and Hell is a literal and physical place of darkness (Luke 16).	Re, Aten, Atum, Horus: all sun gods
DEATH OF FIRST BORN: Exodus 11:1-12:36	God passed over the house. Only the blood of a spotless lamb placed on the lintel & doorpost would save the oldest child & animal.	Salvation came by the death and shed blood of the Messiah who would be our final sacrifice (Heb. 10:10). It was offered to both Jew and Gentile.	Deity of the Pharaoh Osiris: giver of life

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“...by His Power

**God had to first break their religious view before they could see themselves in the light of the true and revealed God of Israel.**

- This is still true today.
  - The unsaved must see themselves as they really are – sinners with their relationship broken between them and God.
  - The Holy Spirit illuminates this message by showing Jesus as the Christ (Messiah) and Savior, the Passover Lamb pre-pictured.
  - Only then will repentance unto God change their lives

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By His Power – Side Note: Problems in the length of time in Egypt and wondering.

This major miracle of the exodus and the wilderness wanderings was connected to different events causing time problems.

**400 years:**

- Genesis 15:13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall **afflict them four hundred years**;
- Acts 7:6 And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil **four hundred years**.

**430 years:**

- Exodus 12:40-41 Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was **four hundred and thirty years**. (41) And it came to pass at the end of the **four hundred and thirty years**, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.
- Galatians 3:17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, **the law**, which was **four hundred and thirty years** after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

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### By His Power

This major miracle of the exodus and the wilderness wanderings was connected to different events causing problems.

#### 450 years:

- Acts 13:20 And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of **four hundred and fifty years**, until **Samuel the prophet**.

#### 480 years:

- 1 Kings 6:1 "...in the **four hundred and eightieth** year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of **Solomon's reign over Israel...**"

Note: Israel wandered in the wilderness—**40 years**.

- Joshua 5:6 "For the children of Israel walked **forty years in the wilderness**, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, **because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD...**"

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### By His Power

Did you notice the different connections?

1. 480 years - 1 Kings 6:1 – "...after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the **fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel**"
2. 450 years - Acts 13:20 "...he gave unto them judges about the space of **four hundred and fifty years**, until **Samuel the prophet**."
3. 430 years - Gal. 3:7 – "**the law**, which was **four hundred and thirty years** after..."
4. 400 years - Genesis 15:13 "...Abram...thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs...they shall **afflict them four hundred years**"

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## By His Power

During that time in Egypt, they would have absorbed much of the Egyptian philosophy.

- The covenant that God had promised Abraham some 600 years earlier (Genesis 12) had mostly been forgotten, forsaken, or, at best, faint in the people's minds and hearts.

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## By His Power

The plagues also had an effect on Israel.

- The “**children of Israel**” would not have been taught the Word of God because of this assimilation.
- Jehovah God had Moses write the “**Torah**” to counteract the false teaching Israel had received.
  - “Torah” – means law but also the Five Books of Moses or “Pentateuch.”

The Egyptian pagan influence on the Israelites had caused much harm.

- By presenting the true creation story and calling out a special people, **God laid the foundation for the world to realize His truths.**

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### By His Power

The plagues also had an effect on Israel.

- By removing any doubt as to who the true God was, God, through these miracles, wanted Israel to reconnect with the earlier miracles of Genesis.
- Thus, we see in *Exodus 3:6* - “I am the God of Abraham ...Isaac and ...Jacob.”
- In simple terms, God is reminding Moses that the same God who did all the miracles for Abraham was now directing his path.

### 10 Plagues:

#### How each plague spoke to both Jews and Egyptians:

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### First Plague: (Ex. 7:14-25)

Each plague was aimed at the **“gods”** of Egypt -

- “against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment” (Ex. 12:12).

All water was turned into blood.

- Water is the most precious commodity in this area.
- Control this, and you control life itself.

**It is no coincidence that the first miracle dealt with water!**



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Plague #1 - All water was turned into blood. Exodus 7:14-25

- **Purpose:** All the waters in Egypt: Streams, rivers, ponds, and pools of water turned to blood. This included water held in vessels of wood and stone.
- **Pointed Towards:** Control of water meant control of life itself. This begins the separation of God's people from the world. God gets the attention of His people.
- **Egyptian “gods”:**
  - Khnun: guardian of the Nile
  - Hapi: spirit of the Nile
  - Osiris: Nile is its bloodstream

### Exodus and the Book of Revelation Similarities:

- Water turns into blood – Revelation 8:8; 16:4-5
  - Revelation 8:8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the **sea became blood;**

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PLAQUE #1- Exodus 7:14-25 - Nile River turns into blood

Throughout the Bible, God always gets the attention of His people before dealing with them.

Jesus told Nicodemus, “*You must be born again*” (John 3).

- Nicodemus must have thought, “I have many scholarly “degrees” and taught for years! How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?”

**Jesus had his attention!**

He told the woman at the well, who had come during the heat of the day for water in John 4, “Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again; But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst.”

- Her reply was swift, “Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.” **Again, Jesus had her attention.**

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## PLAQUE #1- Exodus 7:14-25 - Nile River turns into blood

God first must have **your** attention to do work for you.

- A father does not give instructions to his child with his back turned to him. He gets his son's attention by having him look him in the eye and then explain what he wants.
- **The question becomes, Does God have **your** personal attention?**
- This is why we as believers are to have personal devotions and read/study our Bible.
  - 2 Timothy 2:15 **Study** to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**
  - Problem: When devotions become our **only** study?

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## PLAQUE #1- Exodus 7:14-25 - Nile River turns into blood

The world's religious system (Satan) has **some power** with shallowness, slough (moral degradation), and slickness.

- Pharaoh's magicians were able to copy this first plague.
  - Exodus 7:22 And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.
- Religions all over the world have tried to copy God's plan and implement their own beliefs.
- Pharaoh was sufficiently convinced by his magician's powers to dismiss both Moses and Aaron without comment.
  - Exodus 7:23 And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also.

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## PLAGUE #1- Exodus 7:14-25 - Nile River turns into blood

It can also be argued that since Moses **obeyed** Pharaoh by stopping the water from turning to blood, Pharaoh thought (*and we see this same thinking all the way through the plagues*) that he was still in control and, therefore, was still the most powerful god.

- Pharaoh **reasoned that Moses could have continued the plague, but his (Pharaoh's) power stopped it.**
- This is why God stated, “*I will harden his heart*” three different times (4:21; 7:3; 14:4).
  - The first two “harden his heart” were done before the ten plagues, and the last one was before the crossing of the Red Sea.

**God allowed Moses to stop each plague, thereby giving Pharaoh and all of Egypt time to reflect on their theology in relationship to what was happening.**

- Unfortunately, Pharaoh saw Moses’ obedience to his request as an outgrowth of his own power and wisdom.

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## Second Plague: (Exodus 8:1-15) - Frogs



Frogs were over all Egypt but specifically those who were Egyptian (vs. 4).

- Exodus 8:1-5 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me. (2) And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, **I will smite all thy borders with frogs:** (3) And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into thine house, and into thy bedchamber, and upon thy bed, and into the house of thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thine ovens, and into thy kneadingtroughs: (4) **And the frogs shall come up both on thee, and upon thy people, and upon all thy servants.** (5) 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 frogs to come up upon the land of Egypt.**

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## Second Plague: (Exodus 8:1-15) - Frogs

- **Purpose:** Aimed specifically at the Egyptians. The magicians were able to copy this plague.
- **Pointed Towards:** It pointed out God's people and those who were not. There is no middle ground.
- **Egyptian “gods”:** Heqt (a form of a frog) – “god” of resurrection.

**Exodus and the Book of Revelation Similarities:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Plague – an overabundance of frogs – Exodus 8:1-15
- “unclean spirits like frogs” will appear – Revelation 16:13

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## PLAQUE #2-Exodus 8:1-15 - Frogs over Egypt

God wanted no one to question that these plagues were pointed at the Egyptians and their “gods.”

- If you had been in Egypt at this time and thought the first plague was coincidental, this second one would have confirmed God's intention.
- Imagine Israel's surprise and amazement, as all over Egypt, frogs came into their “next-door neighbor's houses” but not theirs.
- If one had denied that he was from the line of Jacob and frogs had not entered his house, all of Egypt (the world) would now know his identity, as no silent witnesses were **allowed**.
  - Using my imagination, I could see some Israelites wanting to be like the world by taking in a “few” frogs into their house as they would have been the latest house design for their kitchen.

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### By His Power - PLAGUE #2-Exodus 8:1-15 - Frogs over Egypt

Yet, Satan has **some** power.

- The magicians reproduce this plague just like they did the first one.
  - Exodus 8:7 And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt.

Scholars have questioned this, as all they seemed to do was add more frogs.

- However, everyone present was satisfied, and a new strategy was developed.

He sought to reestablish his own power with the use of the **strongest force in the arsenal of Satan's command**.

History shows that it was used with Adam and Eve and repeatedly in the line of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob).

- It is Satan's most powerful weapon - **COMPROMISE!**

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### By His Power - PLAGUE #2-Exodus 8:1-15 - Frogs over Egypt

He began with a simple request.

- Before he would not talk with them, he acknowledged Moses' God and asked him to remove the plague.
- This would come as no surprise because Egypt had many "gods," and Moses' "god" was just another one.
- Pharaoh sought to reestablish, for the rest of the plagues, who was the most powerful.

When Moses complied with the request, the frogs died out.

- There were so many of them that they put them together in heaps, and the smell was horrendous (8:14).

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### Third Plague (8:16-19)

**Lice** was overall Egypt.

- Exodus 8:16-19 And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt. (17) And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and **it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.** (18) And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, **but they could not:** so there were lice upon man, and upon beast. (19) Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and **Pharaoh's heart was hardened**, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.



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**Third Plague (8:16-19) - Lice**

- **Purpose:** Over all of Egypt. The magicians were not able to copy this plague.
- **Pointed Towards:** Broke the backs of those whose polytheistic belief system had taught that they were “god’s people.”
- **Egyptian “gods”:** None that we know of today.

**Exodus and the Book of Revelation Similarities: Pestilence**

- Revelation 6:7-8 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. (8) And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with **death**, and with the beasts of the earth.
- Revelation 18:8 Therefore shall her **plagues** come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. (see also Psalms 91:3-10)

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**By His Power – Plague #3 – Exodus 8:16-19 – Lice upon the Land**

Once Pharaoh refused to do what he promised after the plague ended (which he never intended to do in the first place), the third plague, lice from the dust of the ground (vs. 16), came upon the land both man and beast.

- **A major problem arose!**

The magicians could **not** copy this plague like they did the first two.

- One can even imagine them chanting over and over, possibly cutting themselves as the “prophets of Ba’al.”
  - 1 Kings 18:28 And they cried aloud, and **cut themselves** after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

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### By His Power – Plague #3 – Exodus 8:16-19 – Lice upon the Land

Many different cults, at first glance, seem to do some miracles.

- But when the **truth of the light of the Gospel** is shed on them, they fail in their own mistakes.

Theologians have remarked that the magicians could not reproduce lice because only God can create life.

- To better understand these first three plagues, let's frame them in a modern-day format:

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### By His Power – Plague #3 – Exodus 8:16-19 – Lice upon the Land

Imagine when the magicians were able to copy the first plague. One could see them face the TV cameras on the **“Live with the “Jan & Jam Show”** with the Pharaoh standing behind them, with big smiles. (2 Timothy 3:8 Now as **Jannes** and **Jambres** withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.).

On a nationwide broadcast on “EBC” (Egyptian Broadcasting Company), they show that they can also duplicate what Moses and Aaron had done. They now assure every Egyptian that the Pharaoh and his magicians are still in control. The magicians proclaimed that these wayward servants (Moses and Aaron) were trying to “force their will upon the nation.” They probably exclaimed to the nation that the water they had turned to blood was even redder than what Moses had changed. Egyptian “priesthood” had long ago proved the flaws and fallacy of Israel’s belief in one God.

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### By His Power – Plague #3 – Exodus 8:16-19 – Lice upon the Land

After the second plague, the magicians met with the press again to proclaim their power, claiming that “more frogs came out in their miracle.”

- The Pharaoh, again standing behind them, is all smiles and would quote how a plan is now in place that will stop these renegades who are not even patriots but **separatists** (Jewish Nationalists). All would seem to be satisfied with his new plan.

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### By His Power – Plague #3 – Exodus 8:16-19 – Lice upon the Land

But, after this third plague, the magicians and Pharaoh are no longer in front of the cameras but in the back room. The magicians are wringing their hands in fear. To be wrong or give bad advice to the Pharaoh can put one in a very precarious situation (see the butler or baker, who were in prison because they “...had offended their Lord the king of Egypt”-Genesis 40:1). Their lives hung in the balance. Though they recognized the “God of Moses,” they now sought again to show who is the “superior God”. Their entire theological structure was under attack. To admit doctrinal error, all that they had done, worked for, and believed in would have been in vain, not to mention control of Egypt itself was at stake. No wonder each plague caused them to stubbornly resist from crying “uncle.”

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## Fourth Plague: (Exodus 8:20-32)

Flies would be all over Egypt **except** in Goshen (Genesis 45:10) where Jacob and his family first went.

- Exodus 8:22-23 And I will sever in that day the **land of Goshen**, in which my people dwell, that **no swarms of flies shall be there**; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. (23) And I will put a division between my people and thy people: to morrow shall this sign be.
- Genesis 45:10 And thou shalt dwell in the **land of Goshen**, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast:



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### Fourth Plague: (Exodus 8:20-32) - Flies

- Purpose:** over all Egypt except in the city of Goshen.
- Pointed Towards:** God called His people back to Goshen to escape His wrath. The church today is our Goshen!
- Egyptian “gods”** – None that we know of today.
- Exodus and the Book of Revelation Similarities:**
  - It is the same as the third plague** - Pestilence

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## By His Power - PLAGUE #4-Exodus 8:20-32

### Flies upon the land

Now the battle begins in earnest.

- The first three plagues were a **wake-up** call to the Israelites that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was with Moses.
- The Israelites must have watched in amazement while the battle between Moses and Pharaoh continued. **God had their attention!**

If they were not sure if they were Israelites by the end of the first three plagues, they would have no doubt now.

- One can imagine the Israelites cheering Moses on and others saying, “Yes, I knew Moses, I went to school with him or even knew his family!”
- There would have been much cheer as their “hero” (Moses) was winning the battle.

**But what was God trying to tell the people?**

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### By His Power - PLAGUE #4-Exodus 8:20-32 - Flies upon the land

A personal experience to set up this answer.

- Have you ever been to a “revival” meeting at church where people are walking the aisles, getting saved, or repenting of their sins?

That happened in one of the greatest services this author ever preached, in a church in Florida!

As the invitation began, a man on the second row began to sing.

- Several people came forward initially catching his attention, but he kept singing.
- As more continued, he would turn his head as they walked by him.
- They kept coming, and he kept turning his head to look as over 100 people came down to the front for prayer, salvation, joining the church, or just getting right with God.

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By His Power - **PLAGUE #4-Exodus 8:20-32 - Flies upon the land**

Why did this man get so excited?

- Because he wanted to get in with all these people who were now excited by their walk with the Lord.

Israel would have been saying this same thing as God worked through Moses and Aaron.

- They, too, would have been saying, “What did God want them, personally, to do?”

- Was God trying to tell them something?

This plague answered their prayers.

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By His Power - **PLAGUE #4-Exodus 8:20-32 - Flies upon the land**

Whereas the first three plagues affected only the Egyptians, the fourth plague affected all of Egypt **except Goshen**.

- It was in Goshen that Joseph told his brothers to bring his father Jacob to live.

- Genesis 45:10 And thou shalt dwell in the land of **Goshen**, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast:

**God is telling them to go back to Goshen.**

- If you were listening to the EBC TV channel and heard that a plague of flies was everywhere in Egypt except in Goshen, don't you think the Israelites would have begun to rent “U-Hauls” to move back to their hometown?

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By His Power - **PLAGUE #4-Exodus 8:20-32 - Flies upon the land**

**Today, your church is your Goshen!**

- By serving God and living a God-honoring life, one is shielded from the many plagues of this world.

Think how much a Christ-honoring Christian misses.

- They don't have to worry about all the sexual diseases, alcohol dependency, mind-altering drugs, not to mention the psychological problems that come with each of these problems.

Those who have chosen **not to honor God by being disobedient to His Word** have come upon many plagues that point to such a horrendous lifestyle.

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By His Power - **PLAGUE #4-Exodus 8:20-32 - Flies upon the land**

With guile, the Pharaoh attacks. In his mind, one can see him think, "OK, Moses, your "god' defeated three of our gods;

- "Khun"- guardian of the Nile," our tenth most powerful
- "Heqt" was our ninth most powerful
- Lice was the eighth most powerful "god."

Pharaoh begins a series of compromises to contain the God of Moses.

- It is evident that Pharaoh knew a good deal about the belief system of Moses and what they were required to do.

The Egyptian "wise men" (Exodus 7:11) must have informed him from the sidelines as his new counselors.

- It is likely that the head magician was put to death or in jail.

Pharaoh counterattacked and offered two quick compromises.

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By His Power - **PLAGUE #4-Exodus 8:20-32 - Flies upon the land**

### **Compromise #1 - Exodus 8:25 - Go but stay in Egypt**

- Exodus 8:25 And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, Go ye, sacrifice to your God **in the land**.
- This would have seemed harmless.

Pharaoh was letting them sacrifice as Moses asked.

- After all, is it not the “spirit of the law” being obeyed here?
- The **pluralistic** crowd would have argued that the sacrifice would be just as good here as there.
- They would have agreed that Israel would now be able to worship together in unity with Egypt.

Pharaoh was now letting them do in “spirit” what their God had required of them.

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By His Power - **PLAGUE #4-Exodus 8:20-32 - Flies upon the land**

### **Compromise #1 - Exodus 8:25 - Go but stay in Egypt**

Remember the response of Na’aman, who was captain of the Syrian army (II Kings 5:1-12), when told by Elisha to “wash seven times in the Jordan” that he would be healed from leprosy, he complained, “Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel?”

- What was wrong with both Pharaoh and Na’aman was that God was not interested in the “spirit of the law” but in literal obedience to His Word!
- The intent of Pharaoh is, at best, devious.

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By His Power - **PLAGUE #4-Exodus 8:20-32 - Flies upon the land**

**Compromise #1 - Exodus 8:25 - Go but stay in Egypt**

The offering of cows and sheep was an abomination to them and would have caused an Egyptian uprising against the Israelites.

- Genesis 46:34 That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, and also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; **for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.**

He may have hoped that in one swoop, the Israelite leaders would be killed, having agreed to this compromise.

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By His Power - **Compromise #2-Exodus 8:28 - Go a little way but stay close**

- Exodus 8:28 And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only ye shall **not go very far away**: intreat for me.

Pharaoh informs Moses and Aaron that they can now leave (as he did after the first plague), but to sacrifice to their “God,” they had to stay close to Egypt.

- The **religious** crowd must have roared with approval, even though this was not exactly what God had told Moses, it was close.

God had instructed Moses earlier to tell Pharaoh to

- “*Let my people go, that they may serve me,*” (Exodus 8:20 see also 8:1; 7:14;6:1,11),

Did it not, at least in spirit, come near what Moses asked him to do?  
Wasn’t Pharaoh at least allowing them to worship?

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By His Power - **Compromise #2-Exodus 8:28 - Go a little way but stay close**

Yet God's message to His people is always consistent and exact.

- God's plan had already been revealed earlier to Moses,
- "I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites" (Exodus 3:17-18).

This was to be accomplished in the first stage by

- "...let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness."

It would have been easy for Moses to relent and agree.

- The **religious** crowd must have ridiculed Moses by saying he was so **narrow-minded** that he could have looked through a keyhole with both eyes.

But Moses did not hesitate, for he knew God's will and would **not** compromise.

143

## Fifth Plague: (Exodus 9:1-7)



**Disease on cattle** - Their animals were separated between what belongs to Israel or Egypt (v. 4).

- Exodus 9:1-4 Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. (2) For if thou refuse to let them go, and wilt hold them still, (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 murrain. (4) **And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all that is the children's of Israel.**

144

**Fifth Plague:** (Exodus 9:1-7) – Disease on Cattle

- **Purpose:** Afflicted a “murrain” disease on transportation (Asses, Camels, and horses) and agriculture (oxen and sheep). Also, the cattle died.
- **Pointed Towards:** Proved ultimate ownership of material things. All those “blessings” given by the Egyptian “gods” were shown false and discredited.
- **Egyptian “gods” –**
  - Hathor: form of a cow
  - Apis (bull): symbol of fertility

**Exodus and the Book of Revelation Similarities:**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Plague – **Disease on beasts** – Exodus 9:1-17
- “grievous sore...which had the mark of the **beast**” – Revelation 16:2

145

**Fifth Plague:** (Exodus 9:1-7) – Disease on Animals

I remember wondering years ago why God would punish cattle, horses, camels, oxen, and sheep for the fifth plague.

- Those who love animals would ask, “Why would God take His wrath out on poor innocent animals?”
- I understand a plague on man for all his meanness, but why take it out on poor “Elsie” the cow? *What did she ever do to harm Israel or God?* This plague represented the separation of the **wealth** of the nation.
- Those animals were the monetary currency of the people.
- In today’s world, it might be people who have money invested in stocks and bonds versus those who invested money in the Lord’s work, “*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also,*” (Matthew 6:21).

**To strike at the heart of any problem, the money issue must be addressed!**

146

**Fifth Plague:** (Exodus 9:1-7) – Disease on Animals

This plague also affected their mode of transportation:

- asses
- camels
- horses
- Or, in today's world, Ford, Chevy, and the “Cadillac.”

The oxen were used for agriculture and the sheep for food and clothing.

- These animals were infected by a “*grievous murrain*” (vs. 3). The Scriptures do not say that these animals died, they only say they had “*murrain*” or pestilence (contagious disease).
- The disease was short-lived, and the only animals that died were the cattle.

147

**Fifth Plague:** (Exodus 9:1-7) – Disease on Animals

Why only the cattle?

- Egyptians worshiped the cattle form of a “god” called Hathor. Pharaoh was still not impressed.
- He must have thought the defeated Egyptian “gods” were weak or strictly “B-Team”!
- He was confident that his plan would work and Moses would return to the bargaining table.

Pharaoh did not even appeal to Moses to stop the plague as he did in the previous ones.

- Apparently, the disease on the other animals continued until the end of the plagues.

148

**Sixth Plague:** (Exodus 9:8-12) - Boils on Man and Beast - but not on the Israelites. (Moses did not have boils so it is implied).



The sixth plague is a continuation of the lesson God taught during the fifth plague.

- The LORD instructed Moses to grab a handful of “ashes of the furnace” (vs. 8) and sprinkle it to the sky before Pharaoh.
- These ashes would become boils (sores or inflammation on the skin) on all Egyptians and all the animals (not just on those six animals as in the fifth plague).

This continued to separate God’s people and their possessions from the world’s control.

149

**Sixth Plague:** (Exodus 9:8-12) - Boils on Man and Beast

- **Purpose:** Sores appeared on the Egyptians and beasts. The magicians were afflicted with this disease.
- **Pointed Towards:** Separation of God’s people and their wealth from the world’s. The religious leaders were all afflicted.
- **Egyptian “gods”:** Imhotep: “god” of medicine

#### Exodus and the Book of Revelation Similarities:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Plague – **Boils** on men and beasts – Exodus 9:8-12
- **Boils** are sent upon the earth – Revelation 16:2
  - Revelation 16:2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and **grievous sore** upon the men which had the mark of the **beast**, and upon them which worshipped his image.

150

## PLAGUE #6 - Exodus 9:8-12 - Boils on Man and Beast

Notice how the mighty and powerful magicians are now relegated to the back seat.

- The “Jan and Jam” show had been canceled and the leading stars are possibly in prison.
- They were personally affected, for they “could not stand before Moses because of the boils” (vs.11).
- Who would have thought they could fall so quickly?
- Satan’s leaders fell just like the rest of the world’s unlearned and unwashed.

Still, the battle between the “gods” of Egypt and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had only just begun to heat up.

The temperature is about to rise dramatically!

151

### Seventh Plague: (Exodus 9:13-35) Thunder and Hail

Hail & thunder destroyed any animal/man in the field (vs. 19) in all of Egypt (vs. 22).

- Only requirement: *faith in God’s Word*.

“Hail” was not a normal occurrence, and the timing of this plague clearly shows that it was supernatural.

- Even if you obeyed, Hail destroyed all the *“herbs of the field, and brake every tree of the field”* (vs. 25).

Only in Goshen was there no hail.



152

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) – Thunder and Hail

- **Purpose:** Animals or servants caught in the field were killed. Herbs and trees were knocked down by thunder and hail.
- **Pointed Towards:** A very unusual occurrence in Egypt. Salvation came by faith in the Word of God and not by personal understanding.
- **Egyptian “gods”:**
  - Nut: sky goddess
  - Isis: goddess of life
  - Seth: protector of crops

**Exodus and the Book of Revelation Similarities:**

- Terrible **hail and thunderstorms** fall from heaven – Rev. 8:7; 16:21
  - Revelation 8:7 The first angel sounded, and there followed **hail** and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.
  - Revelation 16:21 And there fell upon men a great **hail out of heaven**, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

153

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) - Hail Rains Down on Egypt

**This becomes a watershed plague. - The gloves are now off.**

- The previous plagues were comparatively harmless, maybe discomforting at best.

By now, most of the Israelites had moved to Goshen.

- If not, they must have been in the process.
- If any of God’s people had been procrastinating, this plague, figuratively speaking, would have lighted a fire under them.

However, Pharaoh was not sufficiently impressed and did not change his original plan, hoping that Moses would still take the first offer or maybe make a counteroffer on his compromise.

154

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) - **Hail Rains Down on Egypt**

After reiterating to Pharaoh to let Israel go, the seventh plague combined all the other plagues, “upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people” (vs. 14).

- This plague would strike at every vital nerve of one’s faith in the “gods” of Egypt.

Now, the **theological** crowd would have cried, “How can your God allow this?”

- What about all the Egyptians who did not watch EBC TV or listen to the radio?
- How could they know of the God of Moses and Aaron?

155

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) - **Hail Rains Down on Egypt**

Actually, God does answer their question.

- He responded that the reason he allowed Pharaoh and Egypt to take back the country **was to show that, through Pharaoh, God’s name would be declared throughout the world.**
- **“that thou (Pharaoh) mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth”** (vs. 14).

This has happened because the Passover story continues to be celebrated every year, and the memory of Egypt and what God did to Pharaoh is repeated throughout the Scriptures, even to this present day.

156

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) - **Hail Rains Down on Egypt**

This plague was a precursor to the 10th plague.

- Hail would rain down upon all of Egypt.
- Every Egyptian, cattle, and all crops found in the field (except those in Goshen) would feel the wrath of God, not in a small or uncomfortable way, but in **death!**

God tells them that there is a way not to feel His wrath (unlike the first five plagues).

- All the other plagues set the foundation for the Egyptians to see and understand that Jehovah God, whom Moses spoke about, was the only true God.

157

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) - **Hail Rains Down on Egypt**

The earlier plagues gave the Egyptians a **foundation** to understand their first major test of evangelization.

- He told the Egyptians that they, too (like the Israelites), could escape His wrath.
- They were to fear “...*the word of the LORD*” and **act** on it by having their “*servants and his cattle flee into the houses*” (9:20).
- If they did not believe, their servants and cattle that stayed out would perish (9:21).

**The key was “faith in God.”**

158

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) - **Hail Rains Down on Egypt**

The Egyptians probably did not fully understand what Moses was telling Pharaoh.

- Hail was not a normal occurrence in this part of the world (although it had happened before).
- They must have thought, “If we are obedient to this God, Jehovah, we will lose a day’s work (money) by bringing in our servants and animals!”
- They would be laughed at and scorned by the elite, and the most learned would probably call them “chicken little” (remember the story of the chicken who was always crying the sky was falling in).
- To pile more grievous injury upon the Egyptians, even if they were obedient to Jehovah God, their entire crops still would be struck down by these “missiles” from God.

159

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) - **Hail Rains Down on Egypt**

**If one was saved from this hail, it was because of his faith.** What is faith?

- “Now *faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*” (Hebrews 11:1).

Although they knew that the God of Moses had performed many great miracles that their magicians could not duplicate, hail was not part of their vernacular of life experiences.

- One’s deeds, which were done earlier (as represented by the herbs and trees), were destroyed by the hail and fire.

These destroyed crops **illustrate** what happens to the world’s good deeds and wealth not done for God.

160

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) - **Hail Rains Down on Egypt**

- “*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*” (Matthew 16:26; Rev. 20:11-15 - the unbelievers are judged and thrown into the lake of fire).

Only those in Goshen-who represent the believers and their works-were spared.

- The old saying is still true, “**only what is done for Christ will last.**”

This plague finally brought Pharaoh off the sidelines.

- This plague may have cost him the lives of his own servants, cattle, and crops.
- Pharaoh’s belief system still would not allow him to look at what was happening with **proper** understanding.

161

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) - **Hail Rains Down on Egypt**

When men do not see themselves as sinners, they will not see the **need** for a Savior.

- How could Pharaoh himself have required a Savior when **his theology** taught that he himself is a “god”?

Moses’ halting the plague would have continued this false confidence in Pharaoh’s superiority.

- That Moses’ obedience to him was obtained by lying would have been a small detail of no major importance.

Is it any surprise that once the problem was gone, Pharaoh refused Moses’ request to “let my people go”?

162

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) - **Hail Rains Down on Egypt****Is it any different in our world today?**

- Individuals who are having difficulties with their spouse, business, or health may begin to attend church and profess Christ as Savior.
- When the problem does not go away, they never again darken the church doors.

**But the question lingers: is their profession of faith genuine?**

- The book of James tells us, NO!
  - *“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?”* (James 2:14).

163

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) - **Hail Rains Down on Egypt**

James is not teaching works wrought salvation but revealing that our faith has the power to transform us into servants of the Savior.

- Before Abraham offered up Isaac on Mt. Moriah (Genesis 22), he had put his faith in the Lord (Genesis 15:6).
  - Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

As James points out, our faith causes us to serve our Risen Saviour in good and bad times!

164

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) - **Hail Rains Down on Egypt**

During the time of Christ and until today, the Grecian influence of philosophy on our society was to say, “I believe, therefore, I am.”

- The Judaic/Christian view has always been, “I believe; therefore, I do!”
  - (see Matthew 24:45-46 - “Who then is a faithful and wise servant...whom his lord when **he cometh** shall find so **doing.**”)
- **Ralph Waldo Emerson** (American essayist, poet, and philosopher):
  - “What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say.”

165

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) - **Hail Rains Down on Egypt**

A modern-day convenience can illustrate this biblical view.

- At 17, I was not a good cook and lived on my own. I bought a turkey with a button that would pop up, signaling that it was done.
- This button is connected to a thermometer in the turkey’s cavity and pops up, telling the cook that it is done.
  - The problem: I did not know they packed the “giblet” (heart, liver, gizzard, and neck in paper) inside the turkey.



166

**Seventh Plague:** (Exodus 9:13-35) - **Hail Rains Down on Egypt**

When one is truly born again, the heart has been changed.

- In Philippians 2:12, Paul exhorts us to show that “pop-up button” by “*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*”

We are to bring out what the Holy Spirit has done in our heart so that, as *Matthew 5:16* speaks,

- “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*”

How are the unsaved to know that a believer has placed his trust in Jesus as the Messiah for salvation **but by our actions?**

167

**Eighth Plague:** (Exodus 10:1-20) - **Locusts Descend on the Crops**

The locust covered the entire land (vs. 12) and ate all the herbs and fruit from the trees left over from the hailstorm.

- Exodus 10:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, even all that the hail hath left.



The **implication** was that Goshen was saved because no hail hit it.

- What was on the ground was eaten by the locust.

168

**Eighth Plague:** (Exodus10:1-20) - Locusts Descend on the Crops

Pharaoh repents:

Exodus 10:16-19 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste; and he said, I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you. (17) **Now therefore forgive, I pray thee, my sin only this once, and intreat the LORD your God, that he may take away from me this death only.** (18) And he went out from Pharaoh, and intreated the LORD. (19) And the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt.

169

**Eighth Plague:** (Exodus10:1-20) - Locusts Descend on the Crops

- **Purpose:** They ate the food left on the trees and herbs. Short-term agriculture sources were destroyed.
- **Pointed Towards:** Complete destruction of labor not done for God. Only what is done for Christ will last.
- **Egyptian “gods”:**
  - Isis: goddess of life
  - Seth: protector of crops

**Exodus and the Book of Revelation Similarities:**

- **Locusts** will be sent – Revelation 9:2-11
  - Revelation 9:2-3 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. (3) And there came out of the smoke **locusts upon the earth**: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

170

### **Eighth Plague: (Exodus10:1-20) - Locusts Descend on the Crops**

The eighth plague actually completed the seventh plague.

- The hail killed all outside, both man and beast, and knocked down the field's trees and herbs.
- The fire and heavy rains also caused much damage.
- It was not a complete destruction for the “*wheat and the rie was not smitten: for they were not grown up*” (9:32).

God reminded Moses (who must have been somewhat frustrated by this time) that He raised up Pharaoh so He could teach Israel and future generations who the “True and Living God” is.

- Though Moses knew God's plan, it would have been hard for him not to want an end to this entire battle in one blast.

171

### **Eighth Plague: (Exodus10:1-20) - Locusts Descend on the Crops**

Pharaoh, upon hearing of the eighth plague, finally gets counsel.

- This time, that it did not come from his magicians or wise men is **poignant**.
- Any wise men or magicians by now had probably heard a new calling to leave the country or go back to school for more studies.
- Like rats in a sinking ship, the spiritual elites must have run for their lives.

Pharaoh (being the chief “god” and would have considered the other “gods” beneath him) was so caught up in the battle that he never thought of any other course of action.

172

### **Eighth Plague: (Exodus10:1-20) - Locusts Descend on the Crops**

Stripped of all his expert help, Pharaoh received counsel from an unexpected source, his servants (l0:7).

- Who would better understand what was going on than one who may have seen a fellow servant die due to being out in the field?
- The ship (Egypt) had already sunk, but the captain (Pharaoh) did not even know it.
- The servants would never have had the courage to give their advice without permission, yet so desperate for Pharaoh to see their dilemma, they cried out, “*knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?*” (l0:7).

But Pharaoh, blinded by his own lust for power, had not sought their lowly advice.

- A light bulb of inspiration came to him.
- He had already compromised twice with Moses.
- He is going to try snatching victory from the jaws of defeat!

173

### **Eighth Plague: (Exodus10:1-20) - Third Compromise - Exodus 10:11**

#### **Leave, but Only the Men Can Go**

- Pharaoh asked who would go if they left?
- Moses tells him that the young and old, sons and daughters, and their flocks and herds would go.

**Pharaoh now opens the trap** in a cunning move, to selectively allow only a portion of what was originally stated.

- Moses and Aaron’s request was always, “let my people go.”
- He justifies it by telling Moses that it was best for them.
- After all, it would not be wise to let your “weaker half and children” go out into the wilderness.

174

**Eighth Plague: (Exodus10:1-20) - Third Compromise - Exodus 10:11**

The “newspapers” would have screamed the next day of the kind heartiness of Pharaoh with such a magnanimous offer.

- The **liberal** crowd in Egypt would have patted Pharaoh on the back for such a major concession.
- Editorials in the paper would threaten that if any man would take his family into the wilderness, he would be guilty of child and spousal abuse.

So assured that Moses and Aaron would finally accept his terms, **he drives them out of the room.**

175

**Eighth Plague: (Exodus10:1-20) - Third Compromise - Exodus 10:11**

Despite the offer and physical pressure, Moses is not fooled.

- Locusts descended upon Egypt **except in Goshen.**
- The locusts ate what was left of the herbs and trees.
- Egypt's long and short-term agriculture is now destroyed.

What a contrast!

- Egypt received God's blessing in obeying God's Word (Joseph).
- Now, with disobedience, Egypt lost everything it had gained.

In modern-day terms, this would be like the crash of America's stock market, banking, and farming industries in one year.

- It is thought that these plagues lasted one year (or seven years).

**Either way, the nation was now tottering on the brink.**

176

**Eighth Plague:** (Exodus10:1-20) - Locusts Descend on the Crops

Pharaoh's reaction upon seeing this plague was to make a quick assessment of his situation.

- With his problems compounding, he sought the same remedy that had worked before.
- This time, he used guile to show his power over Moses and his “God.”

He calls for Moses and Aaron to return quickly to his throne room.

- Since he evidently understood Moses' theology, he admits a mistake - “...forgive, I pray thee, my sin only this once” (l0:17).

177

**Eighth Plague:** (Exodus10:1-20) - Locusts Descend on the Crops

He knew the lingo that outwardly would seem correct.

- Unfortunately, he did not believe a word of it.
- He believed he could pull the wool over Moses' eyes and show he was the superior “god.”
- Like a speeding car coming to a dead end and the map (his theology) showing more highways, the final collision is inevitable.

By the way, what was his sin for which he asked forgiveness?

- Is it the belief in one God? No!
- His belief in Jehovah, the God of Moses? - No!

He most likely repented because he treated Moses and Aaron with disrespect when “*they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.*”

178

### Ninth Plague: (Exodus 10:21-29) – Darkness felt

Darkness “**which may be felt**” (vs. 21) was a three-day combination of a sandstorm and supernatural darkness.

- Exodus 10:21-22 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be **felt**. (22) And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt **three days**:



179

### Ninth Plague: (Exodus 10:21-29) – Darkness felt

The light (oil lamps) could not be lit (sandstorm), for “*They saw not one another*” except “*all the children of Israel, had light in their dwellings*” (vs. 23).

- Exodus 10:23 They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had **light** in their dwellings.



180

**Ninth Plague:** (Exodus10:21-29) - Darkness “**which may be felt**” (vs. 21)

- **Purpose:** Egypt had no light. The darkness was even felt (sandstorm). Only the Israelites had light (Goshen).
- **Pointed Towards:** All the wicked live in spiritual darkness, and Hell is a literal and physical place of darkness (Luke 16:19-31 – The rich man and Lazarus)
- **Egyptian “gods”:**
  - Re, Aten, Atum, Horus: all sun “gods”

#### Exodus and the Book of Revelation Similarities:

- Awful **darkness** – Revelation 16:10; Isaiah 60:2
  - Revelation 16:10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was **full of darkness**; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,
  - Isaiah 60:2 For, behold, the **darkness shall cover the earth**, and **gross darkness** the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

181

**Ninth Plague:** (Exodus10:21-29) - Darkness “**which may be felt**” (vs. 21)

One can see Pharaoh’s mind working.

- After the locusts drowned in the Red Sea because of a west wind, Pharaoh still would not submit.
- A loud chuckle could probably be heard from the throne room as Pharaoh thought that he had again pulled one over on those dissident second-class servants.
- With the crisis over, his demented mind was back in charge and, in his view, still in command.

182

**Ninth Plague:** (Exodus10:21-29) - Darkness “**which may be felt**”

The sun “god” Ra was one of the chief deities in Egypt.

- This “god” was no second-teamer.
- There was a supernatural blocking of the sun and a darkness “*which may be felt*” (l0:21).
- This darkness speaks of a **possible** eclipse and sandstorm. Archaeological digs point to this time period when people used lamps made of oil to give off light.
- The sandstorm would be so violent that it polluted their oil, so they had no light.
- It was supernatural, for it happened at the exact moment Moses said it would.



183

**Ninth Plague:** (Exodus10:21-29) - Darkness “**which may be felt**” (vs. 21)

Wherever a child of Israel resided (by now, most were in the Goshen area, but there may have been some still traveling), their tent or dwelling place had light.

- Appearing pitch black (except it was daytime) and wind swirling the dirt like a tornado from Kansas causes the **ninth Egyptian “god” to bite the dust** and go down for the count.
- This plague illustrated how all the wicked live in spiritual darkness.
- This darkness is not a deep sleep but a living and physical Hell. In Luke 16, the story of the rich man and Lazarus illuminates the reality that there is such a literal place.

184

**Ninth Plague:** (Exodus 10:21-29) - Darkness “**which may be felt**” (vs. 21)

The term “*children of Israel*” is used 119 times in the book of Exodus (630 times in the Old Testament).

- The word “children” speaks of a relationship.
- It is used singularly to refer to a son.

God refers to Israel as His son - “*Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my first born*” (Exodus 4:22).

- It reflects the birth and the spiritual state of the Israelites.

185

**Ninth Plague:** (Exodus 10:21-29) - Darkness “**which may be felt**” (vs. 21)

Some were new to following Jehovah because of their past assimilation into Egyptian culture.

- Exodus 12:38 And a **mixed multitude** went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle.

Later, this led to Aaron making the golden calf.

- Exodus 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

186

### Ninth Plague: (Exodus10:21-29) - Fourth Compromise - Exodus 10:24

#### Leave, but Your Flocks and Herds Stay

This is his final Compromise, a “take it or leave it” offer.

- Pharaoh is angling to get the only major food source left in his nation (Goshen), he comes one last time to the bargaining table.
- He was boxed in and desperate, yet Moses still would not accept anything but total victory.
- This trap was transparent for how could Israel go without food?

Basically, Pharaoh never “got it.”

- It was God who was going to take Israel out of Egypt.

We fall into a similar trap when we leave God out of our finances.

- Who gives us our money? Our job? Many would say yes!

It is God who gives us our health, wealth, and our very breath.

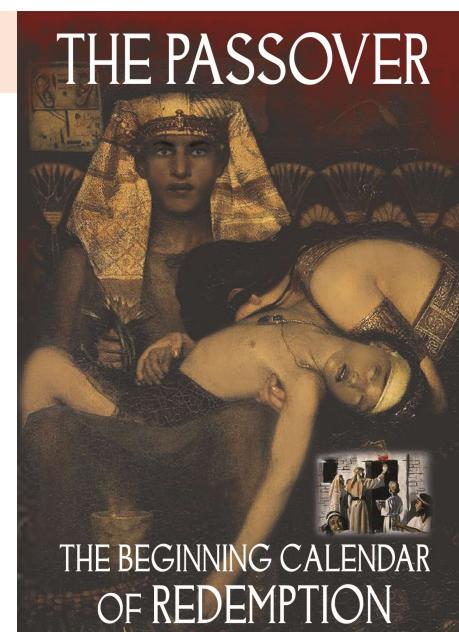
187

### Tenth Plague: (Exodus11:1-12:36)

Death of the first male born is the climax.

- Notice the smiting of the firstborn was overall Egypt.

God did not make a distinction between Egyptian or Israelite on who would die, except whoever **believed** in His Word and **by faith** applied the blood of the lamb on the lintel and doorposts would be saved!



188

### Tenth Plague: (Exodus 11:1-12:36) – Death of First Born

- **Purpose:** God passed over the house. Only the blood of a spotless lamb placed on the lintel and doorpost would save the oldest child and animal
- **Pointed Towards:** Salvation came by the death and shed blood of the Messiah, who would be our final sacrifice (Hebrews 10:10). It was offered to both Jews and Gentiles.
- **Egyptian “gods”:**
  - Deity of the Pharaoh
  - Osiris: giver of life

### Exodus and the Book of Revelation Similarities:

- Many will **die** by the hand of God – Revelation 9:15
  - Revelation 9:15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

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### Tenth Plague: (Exodus 11:1-12:36)

God tells Moses it is the final contest between them.

- “Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt, Afterwards he will let you go...” (Exodus 11:1)

### The victory is guaranteed!

- After a long battle, the victory is sealed, and school is out.
- Pharaoh, no longer the favorite, is beaten beyond recognition, the nation is decimated, and the lowly Hebrew slaves are now in command.

With Israel in control, God commands Moses to tell everybody that it is now payback time.

- After years of slave labor, the Israelites found –
  - Exodus 3:21 And I will give this people **favour in the sight of the Egyptians**: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall **not go empty**:

The LORD had given them a definite identity, and Moses was now elevated to a high rank in the people's eyes.

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**Tenth Plague:** (Exodus 11:1-12:36)

On the surface, it seems unusual that Moses could have risen to such a plateau.

- One must remember that all of the plagues had caused death, destruction, and devastation.

There are at least three explanations that can be pointed out;

1. Moses never takes credit during any of the plagues.
  - It is God who is always magnified, and Moses is only his instrument;
2. The people no longer feared Pharaoh and the Egyptian “gods.”
  - A dictatorial form of government is built on fear of its leadership and its religion. The fear of Jehovah God was stronger;
3. This battle would have brought respect to Moses as the leader of Israel.

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**Tenth Plague:** (Exodus 11:1-12:36)

Why the Egyptians gave the Israelites jewels, silver, and gold can be explained.

- It is the same reason why the Philistines (I Samuel 5:10-11) returned the ark after capturing it.
- Upon seeing their “god” Dagon fall and “emerods” (boils) on the people, they got rid of the offending object.

After all this destruction by the God of Moses, the people’s cry must have been huge—“Get rid of them!”

- Whatever it takes - money, gold, jewels, etc., to pay them off so they will leave-would be worth it.
- In the back of their minds, the Egyptians probably even thought that, since they had cheated the Israelites for years, this was the least that they could do.

Their guilty conscience for putting Israel in slavery finally would be appeased.

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## Overview of the 10 Plagues

**Note:** The **first four plagues**, though unpleasant, did not bring great suffering or material loss.

- The **fifth (cattle disease)** dealt a great material loss in livestock.
- The **sixth (boils)** would inflict severe human suffering.
- The **seventh (hail) and eighth (locust)** caused their total food supply to be exhausted.
- The **ninth (darkness) and tenth (death of oldest)** dealt with Egypt's most powerful "gods" and, therefore, were the most destructive.

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## Strong Exodus connection in Revelation

Exodus Story – Book of Exodus	Book of Revelation
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God uses <b>2 men</b> to do <b>miracles</b> before their <b>enemy, Pharaoh</b> – Moses and Aaron – 3:10</li> <li>2. Pharaoh's heart was <b>hardened</b> – 7:3</li> <li>3. Magicians <b>copy</b> 1<sup>st</sup> 2 plagues - 7:22; 8:7)</li> <li>4. <b>No plagues</b> in Goshen-Israelites lived – 8:22</li> <li>5. 1<sup>st</sup> Plague – water turns into blood –7:14-25</li> <li>6. 2<sup>nd</sup> Plague – an overabundance of frogs – 8:1-14</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God uses <b>2 men</b> to do <b>miracles</b> before the <b>Antichrist</b> - 11:3</li> <li>2. Wicked will <b>harden</b> his heart – 9:20-21</li> <li>3. Their enemies perform <b>miracles</b> – 13:13-15</li> <li>4. God <b>protects His people</b> – 7:4; 12:6</li> <li>5. Water turns into blood – 8:8; 16:4-5</li> <li>6. “<i>unclean spirits like frogs</i>” will appear- 16:13</li> </ol>

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## Strong Exodus connections in Revelation con't

## Exodus Story – Book of Exodus

7. 5<sup>th</sup> Plague – **Disease on beasts** – 9:1-17
8. 6<sup>th</sup> Plague – **Boils** on men and beasts – 9:8-12
9. 7<sup>th</sup> Plague – Hail and thunder – 9:23
10. 8<sup>th</sup> Plague – **Locusts** over the land – 10:1-20
11. 9<sup>th</sup> Plague – **Darkness** over the land – 10:21-29
12. 10<sup>th</sup> Plague – **Death** of the 1<sup>st</sup> born – 11:5

## Book of Revelation

7. “grievous **sore**...which had the mark of the **beast**” - 16:2
8. **Boils** are sent upon the earth – 16:2
9. Terrible **hail and thunder storms** fall from heaven – 8:7; 16:21
- 10. Locusts** will be sent – 9:2-11
11. Awful **darkness** - 16:10; Isa. 60:2
12. Many will **die** by the hand of God - 9:15

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## Review of the 10 Plagues and Their Effect on Egypt and Israel

Ancient scrolls have revealed that Egyptian families without a male child (thus no heir) would literally buy a son from another family and then adopt him into the family.

- Moses was taken into Pharaoh's daughter's house, and “he became her son” -
  - Exodus 2:10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and **he became her son**. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.
- Even their best animals (the first-born) were killed in this last plague. -
  - Exodus 11:5 And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maid servant that is behind the mill; and **all the firstborn of beasts**.

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### Review of the 10 Plagues and Their Effect on Egypt and Israel

We must also step back from this defining event and look at its impact on the world at that time. Israel was in the process of becoming a nation.

- The destruction of the most powerful nation (Egypt) caused a major vacuum in this part of the world.
- It allowed Israel time to grow and build during this political and physical window of opportunity.
- Egypt never again attained the status it had throughout the rest of the Old Testament and even up to today.

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### Review of the 10 Plagues and Their Effect on Egypt and Israel

Because the Bible is very “Israel-centric” (centers on the history of Israel), many think Israel eventually became a large nation.

- But in reality, at its highest peak and material success during the reign of Solomon, Israel was still a mere speck in size when compared to Egypt, Babylon, or Syria.

Could Israel have withstood Egypt if these events had not this event transpired?

- Humanly speaking, no, but Israel is no standard nation.
- They are “*the apple of his eye*” (Deuteronomy 32:10).

God chose to set Israel “*in the midst of the nations*” (Ezekiel 5:5).

- God gave Solomon more wealth and wisdom than any earthly King (II Chronicle 9:22). **Israel was, is, and will always be a special nation.**

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## The Conclusion of the 10 Plagues

Israel is finally let go as Pharaoh is defeated, deflated, and defamed.

- The wailing of the mothers of Egypt must have been deafening all over the nation.
- After letting Israel go, Pharaoh was still not totally convinced that this was the proper course of action
  - “Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” (Exodus 14:5).

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## The Conclusion of the 10 Plagues

Why did Pharaoh change his mind and go after the Israelites after all this mayhem and chaos?

- It was the same misguiding theology that brought him through the other plagues.
- He must have reasoned that Moses and Aaron were not powerful enough to attack him **personally** and could only kill his firstborn son and animals.
- One can see him thinking to himself, “Those Israelites tricked me! I am the greatest, the strongest, and the meanest.”
- He probably realized that Egypt, being in such shambles, would need the food and wealth that the Israelites had, not to mention their slave labor, to rebuild Egypt.

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### The Conclusion of the 10 Plagues

Pharaoh pursued Israel with all his horses and chariots (including his 600 personal chariots).

- He had his most experienced army with his captains as well.
- One could picture a defiant Pharaoh, with his sword raised, his eyes wild with determination as the wind whipped through his hair, ready for battle with Moses and Israel to finally demonstrate that he, Pharaoh, was the most powerful “god” of them all.

No wonder when Israel saw this powerful armada bearing down on them they became wrought with fear.

- All those mighty miracles that God had done earlier had evaporated like smoke.

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### The Conclusion of the 10 Plagues

It is interesting to see Moses’ reaction.

- It is difficult to know a man until one sees him under extreme pressure, as the Pharaoh’s army bearing down on Israel revealed. Moses had faced his enemy and truly was spiritually hardened.
- One can see Moses in total control, as he assured the nation that the “LORD shall fight for you and ye shall hold your peace” (Exodus 14:14) despite Israel’s complaining.

But the Lord tells Moses to stop praying and get walking

- *“Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward.”*

There is a time to “pray” and a time to “work.”

- Now was the time to put feet to their prayers!

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### The Conclusion of the 10 Plagues

The angel of God went behind the Israelites' camp, which was a cloud of darkness to the Egyptians and light to the Israelites (14:20).

- Moses and the Israelites could cross the Red Sea, but when the Egyptians tried to follow, the wheels of their chariots came off, causing a pileup and the water crashing on them.
  - Exodus 14:25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drove them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.
- This final battle between Pharaoh and the God of Israel was now complete.

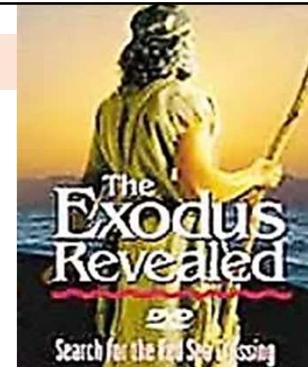
Egypt was nothing more than an empty shell.

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### The Conclusion of the 10 Plagues

On a side note, some interesting research has been done by individuals concerning the route of the Red Sea crossing.

- If you are interested in a video and the book entitled "*The Exodus Revealed - Search for the Red Sea Crossing.*"
- The video of seeing coral-covered chariot wheels, possibly from Pharaoh's army, on the floor of the Red Sea will give one goosebumps!



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This is the typical location of the crossing.

- In the video “Exodus Revealed, they see the cross higher.

