

More Plagues

(Exodus 9 - 10)

Introduction

How strong are you? [Teacher, let the children respond.] Who is the strongest man in the world? How do you think he compares to the strength and power of God? This morning we're going to see just how strong our God is.

Opening Prayer

You are an awesome God. This morning I ask You to reveal to our understanding just how powerful and strong and mighty You are. Excite our hearts! Cause us to fall down on our knees and worship You as we never have before. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Memory Verse

*For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
(Matthew 6:13 NKJ)*

Lesson

We've been learning about how God called Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. When Moses asked Pharaoh to let the people go, what did he say? (No!)

Why was Pharaoh so reluctant to let the people go? (The Hebrews were Egypt's free labors – the builders of their great cities. As Egypt's leader, Pharaoh did not easily let such a great resource go.)

Last week, we learned that because of Pharaoh's hard heartedness and stubbornness, God sent 10 plagues upon the Egyptians. We covered the first four last week. Let's review them:

- 1st Plague: Turning the water into blood
- 2nd Plague: Frogs
- 3rd Plague: Gnats
- 4th Plague: Flies

How did Pharaoh's magician's miracles compare to Moses'? (The powers of Satan can't come up with anything new on their own. All they can do is try to imitate the things of God. They couldn't get rid of the plagues, nor could they bring forth gnats.)

Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart against the Israelites? (If Pharaoh let the people go right away, it would have been so easy that Moses could have taken the credit for it. God wanted to prove His mighty power to both the Egyptians and to the children of Israel so that they would have no doubt that He is the only true God, master of the universe!)

So today we're going to learn about the next 5 plagues. Turn with me to Exodus 9.

Fifth plague: diseased livestock

Exodus 9:1-3

“Go back to Pharaoh,” the LORD commanded Moses. “Tell him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so they can worship me. If you continue to hold them and refuse to let them go, the hand of the LORD will strike all your livestock—your horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep, and goats—with a deadly plague.

God sent Moses to Pharaoh to warn him a disease would come and kill all the animals. But, notice in the next verse, God promises that the Israelite's animals would not be touched.

Exodus 9:4

But the LORD will again make a distinction between the livestock of the Israelites and that of the Egyptians. Not a single one of Israel's animals will die!

It happened just as the Lord announced would happen. But still Pharaoh's mind remained unchanged and he would not let the people leave. So, God sends the sixth plague.

Sixth plague: boils

Exodus 9:8-9

Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from a brick kiln, and have Moses toss it into the air while Pharaoh watches. The ashes will spread like fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, causing festering boils to break out on people and animals throughout the land."

Moses might have been getting tired and discouraged about asking Pharaoh time and again to let the people go. But he continued to obey. He didn't give up. He knew it was the right thing to do.

Still Pharaoh wouldn't listen. He continued to be hard hearted and stubborn. So, God sends a seventh plague.

Seventh plague: Hail

Exodus 9:13-14

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh. Tell him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so they can worship me. If you don't, I will send more plagues on you and your officials and your people. Then you will know that there is no one like me in all the earth.'

God continued to prove to Pharaoh that He is the almighty God, ruler of the universe. God is constantly trying to prove His power and strength to us every day, as well. But, too often when we are successful at something, we take the credit, don't we? Like if you get a good grade on a test at school or hit a home run in softball, isn't it easy to think, "Wow, wasn't I awesome?!" We should be thanking God for giving us the ability.

But, Pharaoh still thought that he was a god. Here's what God said to Pharaoh...

Exodus 9:17-18

But you still lord it over my people and refuse to let them go. So tomorrow at this time I will send a hailstorm more devastating than any in all the history of Egypt.

Exodus 9:23

So Moses lifted his staff toward the sky, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed toward the earth. The LORD sent a tremendous hailstorm against all the land of Egypt.

All of Egypt lay in ruins. Everyone in the fields was killed and trees and crops were ruined. The only place where no hail had fallen was where the people of Israel lived.

Exodus 9:25-26

It left all of Egypt in ruins. The hail struck down everything in the open field—people, animals, and plants alike. Even the trees were destroyed. The only place without hail was the region of Goshen, where the people of Israel lived.

God again protected the Israelites from the disaster, just like He promises to put a hedge of protection around us, as well.

Wouldn't you think God had sent enough plagues to make Pharaoh listen? But no, Pharaoh's heart was still stubborn.

Notice in this next passage God's earnest desire. He wants everyone to know that He is the only true God, that there is no other. He is the King of the universe. No one is as mighty and He deserves our worship...

Exodus 10:1-2

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Return to Pharaoh and make your demands again. I have made him and his officials stubborn so I can

display my miraculous signs among them. I've also done it so you can tell your children and grandchildren about how I made a mockery of the Egyptians and about the signs I displayed among them—and so you will know that I am the LORD.”

God told Moses to tell his children about the miracles he was witnessing. What stories Moses had to tell his grandchildren! It is important to tell others all about God's wonderful miraculous deeds. It encourages others to believe in Him and to trust Him to work in their life, too.

Eighth plague: locusts

Exodus 10:3-5

So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: How long will you refuse to submit to me? Let my people go, so they can worship me. If you refuse, watch out! For tomorrow I will bring a swarm of locusts on your country. They will cover the land so that you won't be able to see the ground. They will devour what little is left of your crops after the hailstorm, including all the trees growing in the fields.

Even the people in Pharaoh's court begged Pharaoh to listen and obey God.

Exodus 10:7

Pharaoh's officials now came to Pharaoh and appealed to him. “How long will you let this man hold us hostage? Let the men go to worship the LORD their God! Don't you realize that Egypt lies in ruins?”

The Egyptian people realized how powerless their own gods were to stop the plagues. They realized that the God of the Hebrews is a living and personal Being, the only true God, and the only God who should be worshiped. God was proving to both the Hebrews and the Egyptians that he alone is the living and all-powerful God.

But, Pharaoh refused...

Exodus 10:13

So Moses raised his staff over Egypt, and the LORD caused an east wind to blow over the land all that day and through the night. When morning arrived, the east wind had brought the locusts.

Exodus 10:15

For the locusts covered the whole country and darkened the land. They devoured every plant in the fields and all the fruit on the trees that had survived the hailstorm. Not a single leaf was left on the trees and plants throughout the land of Egypt.

Exodus 10:20

But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart again, so he refused to let the people go.

Ninth plague: darkness

Exodus 10:21-22

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Lift your hand toward heaven, and the land of Egypt will be covered with a darkness so thick you can feel it.” So Moses lifted his hand to the sky, and a deep darkness covered the entire land of Egypt for three days.

God sent darkness like black, black night so the people could hardly move.

Exodus 10:23

During all that time the people could not see each other, and no one moved. But there was light as usual where the people of Israel lived.

Exodus 10:27

But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart once more, and he would not let them go.

Over and over again God showed Pharaoh how powerful and strong He is. But Pharaoh refused to humble himself before God. We

shouldn't wait until a catastrophe forces us to make a decision to follow Jesus. We should choose to make Him our God and savior today.

God is an awesome God isn't He? He deserves our worship and our obedience. As a closing prayer, this morning, I want to read a passage of scripture to you from 1 Chronicles 29:11-13...

Closing Prayer

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. (1 Chronicles 29:11-13 NIV) Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Go around the class and ask each child to name a plague, adding a new one to the list with each answer. If the child can name one, he gets an opportunity to choose 2 cards from the Plague Concentration Game. (Water turned to blood, Frogs, Gnats, Flies, Diseased Livestock, Boils, Hail, Locusts, Darkness, Death of First Born.)

Or, Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. Who can name the most number of plagues of the nine we've learned about so far? (Water turned to blood, Frogs, Gnats, Flies, Diseased Livestock, Boils, Hail, Locusts, or Darkness.)

2. How was it that the Israelites were not bothered by the plagues that came upon the Egyptians? (God can do anything! He is almighty!)
3. In what way have you noticed that God is the almighty God, ruler of the universe – powerful and strong? (Let the child respond.)
4. Why didn't Pharaoh think he needed to listen and obey God? (He thought he was a god and that he was the most powerful person in the world.)
5. Did the hail fall everywhere? (The hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt...only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.)
6. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart against the Israelites? (If Pharaoh let the people go right away, it would have been so easy that Moses could have taken the credit for it. God wanted to prove His mighty power to both the Egyptians and to the children of Israel so that they would have no doubt that He is the only true God, master of the universe!)
7. Why is it important to tell others about God's wonderful miraculous deeds? (It encourages others to believe in Him and to trust Him to work in their life, too.)
8. What did the Pharaoh's servants ask Pharaoh to do? (Let the people go!)

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