



Pharaoh refused to listen to God and would not let the Israelites go. With every plague, Pharaoh became more stubborn. The final plague sent by God was the worst of all, and because of it Pharaoh finally gave in. God provided safety for His people from the judgement that fell upon the Egyptians.

## Day #1: Made Known

Last week we looked at the first nine plagues that God sent on Egypt. How many can you name? (The Nile River turned to blood, frogs everywhere, swarms of gnats, clouds of flies, animals died, boils or blisters on people, worst storm ever in Egypt, swarms of locusts, darkness for three days.)

God had told Moses that when He performed His mighty acts in Egypt, the Egyptians would know He was the Lord (Exodus 7:5). And that is exactly what happened. God showed His amazing power to Pharaoh and all the Egyptians, and by the end of the ninth plague, Egypt was almost completely destroyed. Also, God proved that the "gods" that the Egyptians worshipped were not gods at all - they were powerless. And God showed that he favored the Israelites by sheltering them from the plagues. Everyone living in Egypt at that time saw God's mighty power. God gave the people MANY opportunities to listen to Him. Some of the Egyptians listened to God, but many did not. Pharaoh certainly did not.

Several times Pharaoh told Moses he would let the Israelites go, but each time he broke his promise. After the ninth plague, Pharaoh never wanted to see Moses again.

**+** Pharaoh said to Moses, "Get out of my sight! Make sure you don't come to see me again! If you do, you will die." - Exodus 10:28

The Lord had told Moses there would be one more plague. It would be the worst plague of all. It would cause immense suffering. God told Moses the cries of the Egyptian people would ring out. Nothing like it had ever been heard in Egypt and nothing like it would ever be heard again. God promised Moses that after this plague, Pharaoh would actually force the Israelites out of Egypt. Imagine, after all the times Pharaoh refused to let them go, he would soon beg them to leave!

**\*** Because God made Himself known through the powerful plagues (Exodus 7:5), many of the Egyptians came to believe in Him (Exodus 9:20; 12:38). Today, God commands that we make Him known so that those around us will come to believe in Him (Mark 16:15-16). Pray for someone in your life that needs to hear about God's truth. The Maker of heaven and earth deserves to hear praise from every mouth!

## Day #2: The Final Plague

Moses warned Pharaoh about the horrible plague that would come next.

**+** Moses said, "The Lord says, 'About midnight I will go through every part of Egypt. Every oldest son in Egypt will die. The oldest son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, will die. The oldest son of the female slave, who works at her hand mill, will die. All of the male animals that were born first to their mothers among the cattle will also die. There will be loud crying all over Egypt. It will be worse than it's ever been before. And nothing like it will ever be heard again.'

" 'But among the people of Israel not even one dog will bark at any man or animal.' Then you will know that the Lord treats Egypt differently from us.

"All of your officials will come and bow down to me. They will say, 'Go, you and all of the people who follow you!' After that, I will leave."

Moses burned with anger when he left Pharaoh. - Exodus 11:4-8

Remember what the previous Pharaoh had ordered when Moses was a baby?

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River. But you may let the girls live." - Exodus 1:22

The same fate would now be visited on the Egyptian children. (See Exodus 20:5-6.) This is incredibly sad! God had given Pharaoh and the Egyptians MANY opportunities to listen to Him, but they refused. Sin always spoils things. Their choice to disobey God was going to have a terrible consequence. There is no greater anguish than losing a child.

Remember that God is the great Provider (Genesis 22:14). Even as He sent this plague on the Egyptians, He provided a way for the Israelites to escape this tragic judgment. Because God is JUST, He must punish sin. At the same time, He is also perfect in His LOVE. He provided safety for those who would listen to Him, believe in Him, and obey His instructions. We will look at God's plan for His people tomorrow.

**\*** Praise God for His perfect nature. Even though He must punish sin, He loves us and provides escape from punishment for those who trust Him.

## Day #3: God's Provision

God told Moses His amazing plan to spare the Israelite children from the plague of death.

**+** Speak to the whole community of Israel. Tell them that on the tenth day of this month each man must get a lamb from his flock. A lamb should be chosen for each family and home.

The animals you choose must be males that are a year old. They must not have any flaws. You may choose either sheep or goats.

### Day #3 continued:

Take care of them until the 14th day of the month. Then the whole community of Israel must kill them when the sun goes down. Take some of the blood. Put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where you eat the lambs.

That same night I will pass through Egypt. I will strike down every oldest son. I will also kill all of the male animals that were born first to their mothers. And I will judge all of the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood on your houses will be a sign for you. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. No deadly plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. - Exodus 12:3, 5-7, 12-13

Sadly, Pharaoh's heart was too hard to let the Israelites go and it happened just as God had warned.

At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. Pharaoh, and all his officials, and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead. - Exodus 12:29-30 (NIV)

Pharaoh did not wait until morning. He called Moses and Aaron in the middle of the night and told them to take the Israelites and leave Egypt right away. The Israelites left so quickly they didn't even have time for their bread dough to rise. God told Moses to instruct the Israelites to go to their neighbors and ask for items made of silver and gold. God caused the Egyptians and the officials to respect Moses and think well of the Israelites, so they gave them what they asked for.

The Israelites journeyed from Ramses to Succoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. Many other people went up with them, as well as large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds. - Exodus 12:37-38 (NIV)

Who could these other people have been? They must have been the Egyptian people who had come to believe in God (Exodus 7:5)! We will see that even after this horrible event, Pharaoh once again changed his mind, and more destruction followed.

 God spared the children of all those who followed His instructions. The children were blessed by the obedience of their parents (Exodus 20:6). When the fathers placed the blood around their doorframe, it was **proof** that they trusted God. Simply **saying** they trusted God, but not following His instructions would NOT do. Remember, those who truly trust God, obey Him (John 14:23-24).

## Day #4: Provision for All

God was perfectly "just" and had to punish Pharaoh and the Israelites for their disobedience. God must still punish sin today. The Bible tells us that the punishment for sin is death (Romans 6:23) - eternal separation from God in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15). But just as God provided a way for the people who listened to Him in Egypt, God has provided an escape from punishment for those who will listen to Him today!

Look carefully at the requirements that God gave for His people:

- take a lamb (Exodus 12:3)
- male (Exodus 12:5)
- without any flaws (Exodus 12:5)
- kill the lamb (Exodus 12:6)
- do not break any of its bones (Exodus 12:46)
- put the blood on the door of the house (Exodus 12:7)
- and I will pass over (Exodus 12:12,13)

### Day #4 continued:

The Passover Lamb was a **picture** of the provision God would make for all people through His Son, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 5:7):

- The Bible calls Jesus, "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)
- Jesus was a male (Matthew 1:21).
- Jesus was without flaws because He never sinned (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Jesus was killed on a cross (Romans 5:8).
- When Jesus died on the cross, none of His bones were broken (John 19:36).
- 1 John 1:7 tells us, "The blood of Jesus, God's Son, purifies us from all sin." If we place our trust in Jesus, His blood makes us right with God. Then God's judgment will not fall on us, and we will have eternal life.

 We are made right with God by putting our faith in Jesus Christ. That happens to all who believe. It is no different for the Jews than for anyone else. Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory. The free gift of God's grace makes all of us right with Him. Christ Jesus paid the price to set us free. God gave Him as a sacrifice to pay for sins. So he forgives the sins of those who have faith in his blood. - Romans 3:22-25

 Thank God for His awesome provision for you through His Son, Jesus. The Bible makes it very clear that there is NO other way for us to gain forgiveness for our sins (Romans 3:27-28).

## Day #5: Set Against God

Imagine a boxing match between the heavy weight champion of the world and...an ant. This sounds ridiculous. The boxing champ could take off his boxing glove and squish that ant with his pinky finger! He would not break a sweat. He would barely have to move! This is a silly example, but it was even more ridiculous for Pharaoh to set himself against the God of the universe.

Pharaoh refused to obey God because he did not want the Israelites to leave, but in the end, what happened? The Israelites left! The very thing that Pharaoh did NOT want to happen DID happen. And look at all the misery that came along the way because of his hard heart: animals died, the money system and farming system were crushed, people suffered terribly, and worst of all, thousands of children died. Ironically, Pharaoh lost more than just the Israelites because many other people left with them. And the Israelites even "plundered" the Egyptians because the Egyptians gave all their valuables to them (Exodus 12:36). Pharaoh thought he could thwart God's plan. He thought he could stand against the almighty God. He did not fear God. And he did not understand that there are serious consequences when we do not obey God.

 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. - Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)

The fierce anger of the Lord will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of His heart. - Jeremiah 30:24 (NIV)

If after all this you will not listen to Me, I will punish you for your sins seven times over. - Leviticus 26:18 (NIV)

 Discuss what might have been the outcome for Pharaoh and his people if he had respected God and obeyed His command. What might have happened to Pharaoh if he had chosen to set God's people free from slavery? (Remember God's promise to Abraham, "I will bless those who bless you.")