

## Bible Study January 8, 2025

### Exodus 7 The Beginning of the Plagues

Exodus 7: 1-7 The Lord transmits His message through His prophet Moses through Aaron to Pharaoh. God affirms Moses by reminding him that He will use Aaron as the one to confront Pharaoh (as Moses had requested), that Pharaoh's heart will be hardened, and that the hand of the Lord will deliver Israel. This will enable the Egyptians to understand that the Lord is the Lord of all, all through the work of 80-year-old Moses and his 83-year-old brother.

Exodus 7: 8-13 The Lord orders Aaron to throw down his staff before Pharaoh. It becomes a snake. In Hebrew the word translated snake is really monster, or crocodile (same word is used in Ezekiel 29: 3 as a designation for Egypt and her Pharaoh). Pharaoh called his wise men and sorcerers, and they threw down their staffs, which also became snakes. Then the "monster" of Aaron swallowed all the snakes of the men of Pharaoh.

How did this happen? Two of the magicians are named in 2 Timothy 3:8, Jannes and Jambres. Was it by sleight of hand or by demonic power or a combination of the two? Regardless, the staff of Aaron by God's power, has authority overall.

Exodus 7: 14-25 Then the Lord said to Moses...

This is how each sequence of three plagues begins. Nile to blood, frogs, and gnats. Then Flies, death of livestock, boils. Then hail, locusts, darkness. Then death of firstborn.

Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded. The water turned to blood in the Nile, canals, ponds, even in vessels of wood and stone. The fish died and the Nile stank. The magicians and sorcerers did the same thing by their magic arts.

What caused the water to turn to blood? Flooding in Ethiopia? Red algae – Crimson Tide? Actual blood?

Seven full days passed after the Lord had struck the Nile.

### Exodus 8 Frogs, Gnats, and Flies

Exodus 8: 1-15 Second Plague: Frogs

Moses reports to Pharaoh the command of the Lord: "Let my people go..." Frogs come up from the Nile onto the land, houses, bedrooms, ovens, kneading bowls, onto the people and the servants. Magicians do the same. This time Pharaoh pleads that the Lord take away the frogs. They died, and stank, and Pharaoh hardened his heart again.

Exodus 8: 16-19 Third Plague: Gnats

Gnats came up from the ground. The magicians told Pharaoh this was the hand of God, but his heart was still hard.

Exodus 8: 20-32 Fourth Plague: Flies

The Lord repeats the order to meet Pharaoh by the river. This time only the Egyptians are plagued by flies. This time Pharaoh relents but tells Moses to not go far away. Pharaoh again hardens his heart.

How do we respond when we ask things of God?

Exodus 9: 1-7 Fifth Plague - Egyptian Livestock Die – This is the second plague to make a distinction between Israel and Egypt. Pharaoh is told again: “the Lord, the God of the Hebrews” demands the release of His people. If not, “the hand of the Lord will fall.”

Exodus 9: 8-12 Sixth Plague – Boils – Dust from the kilns is thrown into air. All Egypt, including the magicians, are miserable with boils and sores.

Exodus 9: 13-35 Seventh Plague – Hail – The Lord warns all to take cover, or they will die. Some heed the advice, others do not. Hail destroys all who are out in the storm, all die except those in the land of Goshen. This time Pharaoh acknowledges his sin and asks that the hail be stopped by the Lord. Moses stretched out his hands and the storm stops. But Pharaoh hardens his heart again when he sees he still has a wheat crop coming up and refuses to release the children of Israel.

Exodus 10: 1-20 The Eighth Plague – Locusts – The plague of locusts is foretold. This time, the People of Egypt go to Pharaoh and requests the people of Israel be let go. Pharaoh then argues with Moses over who can leave. Moses says all, Pharaoh, just the men. The Lord sends locusts from the east. They destroy all vegetation. Pharaoh relents but again hardens his heart.

Exodus 10: 21-29 The Ninth Plague – Darkness – No warning, but three days of darkness as a warning of what yet was to come. Pharaoh this time allows all people but no flocks or herds to leave. Pharaoh says to Moses, “Get away from me; take care never to see my face again, for on the day you see my face you shall die.” Moses says, “I will not see your face again.”