



The Lord is My Strength

The Plagues

Exodus 8-10

- We made the point in our last class that God gave Pharaoh opportunity to express his true personality, and Pharaoh showed himself to be a cruel and stubborn man
- Now God has to break that man
- God has hardened Pharaoh's heart so that the process of breaking Pharaoh will be long enough to create a legend
- A legend that the people of Israel will remember for centuries to come, and a legend so powerful that the nations around Egypt will hear about it and speak about
- God is going to bring about 10 plagues upon Pharaoh
- These plagues are going to be increasing in intensity, and will collectively be so powerful that their effect will be remembered for centuries
- Our goal in this study is not so much a study of Exodus, but rather a study of the character of Moses and how he changes from an overly confident young man to a man whose trust is in the LORD
- As we look at the plagues, our point will be to try to understand how they would have affected Moses
- How going through this process with Pharaoh would have made Moses feel
- How being the instrument that brings this affliction upon so many millions of people, including your own people, would affect you, and change you
- The plagues were a huge part of Israel's deliverance, and effectively a huge part of the mission of Moses
- To have your mission be so interwoven with the suffering and pain of so many people would have to have an affect upon you
- By looking closely at the plagues, we might be able to see some of that

- The plagues are as follows:

1	Blood	Exodus 7:15	to	Exodus 7:25
2	Frogs	Exodus 8:1	to	Exodus 8:15
3	Lice	Exodus 8:16	to	Exodus 8:19
4	Flies	Exodus 8:20	to	Exodus 8:32
5	Livestock	Exodus 9:1	to	Exodus 9:7
6	Boils	Exodus 9:8	to	Exodus 9:12
7	Fire & Hail	Exodus 9:13	to	Exodus 9:35
8	Locusts	Exodus 10:1	to	Exodus 10:20
9	Darkness	Exodus 10:21	to	Exodus 10:29
10	The Plague upon the Firstborn - We will discuss next week...			

- Let's look at some of the details of the plagues

- Let's take notice of whether or not Pharaoh was warned, and whether or not he agrees to let the people go

1)	Water into Blood	Exodus 7:15	to	Exodus 7:25	
	- Moses warns Pharaoh about the plague				1
	- The Magicians duplicate it				1
	- Pharaoh's heart was hardened				1
2)	Frogs	Exodus 8:1	to	Exodus 8:15	
	- Moses warns Pharaoh about the plague				2
	- The Magicians duplicate it				2
	- Pharaoh agrees to let the people go if Moses removes the Plague				1
	- Pharaoh's heart was hardened				2
3)	Lice	Exodus 8:16	to	Exodus 8:19	
	- Moses DOESN'T warn Pharaoh about the Plague				1
	- The Magicians COULDN'T duplicate it				
	- The Magicians attribute the miracle to "the finger of Elohim"				
	- Pharaoh's heart was hardened				3

- 4) Flies Exodus 8:20 to Exodus 8:32
- Moses warns Pharaoh about the plague **3**
 - God separates the land of Goshen so they don't receive the Plague **1**
 - Pharaoh agrees to let the people go if Moses removes the Plague **2**
 - Moses warns Pharaoh that he better not go back on his word this time
 - Pharaoh hardened his heart **4**
- 5) Livestock Exodus 9:1 to Exodus 9:7
- Moses warns Pharaoh about the plague **4**
 - God separates the land of Goshen so they don't receive the Plague **2**
 - Pharaoh hardened his heart **5**
- 6) Boils Exodus 9:8 to Exodus 9:12
- Moses DOESN'T warn Pharaoh about the Plague **2**
 - The Magicians couldn't even stand there because the boils were so bad
 - It appears to be upon the Israelites also (ALL Egypt)
 - The LORD hardens Pharaoh's heart **1**
- 7) Fire & Hail Exodus 9:13 to Exodus 9:35
- Moses warns Pharaoh about the plague **5**
 - Moses gives the Egyptians a chance to avoid the Plague
 - God separates the land of Goshen so they don't receive the Plague **3**
 - Pharaoh acknowledges God and confesses his sin
 - Pharaoh agrees to let the people go if Moses removes the Plague **3**
 - Pharaoh hardened his heart **6**
- 8) Locusts Exodus 10:1 to Exodus 10:20
- The LORD hardens Pharaoh's heart **2**
 - Moses warns Pharaoh about the plague **6**
 - Pharaoh's servants advise him to let the Israelites go
 - Pharaoh agrees to let only the MEN go
 - Pharaoh acknowledges God and confesses his sin
 - Pharaoh agrees to let the people go if Moses removes the Plague **4**
 - The LORD hardens Pharaoh's heart **3**
- 9) Darkness Exodus 10:21 to Exodus 10:29
- Moses DOESN'T warn Pharaoh about the Plague **3**
 - God separates the land of Goshen so they don't receive the Plague **4**
 - Pharaoh agrees to let the people go if Moses removes the Plague **4**
 - The LORD hardens Pharaoh's heart **4**
 - Moses says that he will never see Pharaoh again

- What patterns did we notice?
 - Moses warns on the 1st, 2nd, but not the 3rd plague
 - Moses warns on the 4th, 5th, but not the 6th plague
 - Moses warns on the 7th, 8th, but not the 9th plague
- What is it like to be frustrated when you are working with someone stubborn, and you are dealing with the patience of God?
- Moses would have wanted to just “get this over with”
- God tries to break Pharaoh by “surprising” him with another plague
- Pharaoh breaks down on the 2nd plague, even though his Magicians could still duplicate it
 - Was he just testing God and Moses to see what the reaction would be?
 - Maybe he just wanted to see what would happen if he broke his promise
- Pharaoh also gives in on the 4th, 7th, 8th and 9th plagues
 - After a while it would have been hard for such a stubborn man to even bring up this subject
 - Even though Pharaoh kept going back on his word, Moses kept going in and negotiating with him
 - If it's God's will, then we have to deal with people that are hard to deal with
 - God is patient, and puts up with us sinning and making the same mistakes over and over and over
 - God continued to work with Pharaoh, even when Pharaoh would change his mind and go back on his word
 - How would we react to this situation?
 - How would you feel if you were Moses, and trying to relieve your people from their suffering, and you just bring more and more suffering upon them, and then this Pharaoh keeps toying with your emotions and saying “Yes” and then “No”?
- Pharaoh hardens his own heart for the first 5 plagues, along with 7 and 9
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ of the time it is Pharaoh who is driving his own emotions and controlling his own destiny
 - He has control over how he chooses to react to this situation

- God hardens his heart on the 6th and 8th plagues
 - God doesn't really interfere that much...
 - Just enough to make his point
- God hardens Pharaoh's heart TWICE on the 8th plague
 - It's like God realizes how bad the Locusts are going to be, and prepares Pharaoh for what's coming...
- The Israelites were only spared about HALF of the time
 - That must have really been hard for Moses
 - His family would also be suffering...
 - HE would be suffering trying to find water to drink, getting covered in lice...
- Moses learned something through this experience
 - What would you have learned?