



Who is the Lord?

Exodus 5-11

The Ten Plagues

1. Nile turned to blood
2. Frogs
3. Gnats
4. Flies
5. Livestock
6. Boils
7. Hail
8. Locusts
9. Darkness
10. Death of the firstborn



The Typical Pattern

1. Moses and Aaron approach Pharaoh with their request to let the people go into the wilderness.
2. Pharaoh refuses.
3. A plague is initiated.
4. Pharaoh pleads for relief and promises to release the Israelites (although typically with conditions).
5. Moses prays to God and relief is given.
6. Pharaoh's heart is hardened.



A few observations...

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2. The plagues can be grouped into three cycles.



Three Cycles and a Final Plague

Cycle	Plague	Warning	Time of Day	Approach
1 st Cycle	Nile turned to blood	Yes	Morning	Stand before Pharaoh
	Frogs	Yes	-	Go in to Pharaoh
	Gnats	No	-	-
2 nd Cycle	Flies	Yes	Morning	Present yourself to Pharaoh
	Livestock	Yes	-	Go in to Pharaoh
	Boils	No	-	-
3 rd Cycle	Hail	Yes	Morning	Present yourself to Pharaoh
	Locusts	Yes	-	Go in to Pharaoh
	Darkness	No	-	-
10 th Plague	Death of the firstborn	Yes	-	-



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2. The plagues can be grouped into three cycles.
3. The magicians were unable to keep up after the 2nd plague.

The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said. (Exodus 8:18-19)



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4. God made a clearer distinction between the Israelites and the Egyptians after the 3rd plague.
5. Moses progressively grows in boldness and is the main speaker and director by the 6th plague.



Key Ideas

1. The hardening of Pharaoh's heart.
2. The revelation of God's nature.



Exodus 7:3-4a

“But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, Pharaoh will not listen to you.”



What can we know?



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1. God is in complete control.
2. God is not the author of evil.
3. As we consider our infinite God, we must become comfortable with mystery.
4. In the particular case of Pharaoh, we see an interesting progression in his hardening.



Pharaoh's heart was hardened.	Pharaoh hardened his heart.	God hardened Pharaoh's heart.
7:13		
7:14		
7:22		
	8:15	
8:19		
	8:32	
9:7		
		9:12
	9:34	
9:35		
		10:1
		10:20
		10:27
		11:10



Romans 1:21-25

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.



Key Ideas

1. The hardening of Pharaoh's heart.
2. The revelation of God's nature.



Exodus 6:2-8

God spoke to Moses and said to him, “**I am the LORD**. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘**I am the LORD**, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that **I am the LORD** your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. **I am the LORD**.’”



They Shall Know

I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. (6:7)

The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them. (7:5)

➤ Also in 8:10, 22; 9:14, 16, 29; 14:4, 18



God's dominance over all other gods

Plague	Egyptian god that was overpowered
Nile to Blood	Hapi, god of the Nile
Frogs	Heket or Heqt, the goddess of fertility with the head of a frog
Gnats (from dust)	Geb (or Seb), god of the earth
Flies	Khepri, god of rebirth with the head of a fly
Livestock	Multiple gods associated with cows or bulls
Boils	Sekhmet, goddess of epidemics
Hail	Nut, sky goddess; Seth, god of storms; Shu, god of atmosphere
Locusts	Serapia, protector of crops
Darkness	Ra (or Re), god of the sun and most worshipped in Egypt
Death of the firstborn	Pharaoh himself



Exodus 6:3

I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them.



Exodus 6:3

I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty [**EI Shaddai**], but by my name the LORD [**Yahweh**] I did not make myself known to them.

EI Shaddai: reflects the mightiness of God and his ability to work miracles.

Yahweh: reflects the immanent, personal, covenant-fulfilling nature of God.



I am the Lord...and I will...

“Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.’” (Exodus 6:6-8)

- I will bring you out.
- I will deliver you.
- I will redeem you.
- I will take you to be my people.
- I will be your God.
- I will bring you into the land.
- I will give it to you.



Even with the Egyptians...

1. The initial requests to Pharaoh were not as difficult as the final ones.
2. The initial plagues were not as destructive.
3. God gave repeated opportunities, and some responded.



Exodus 9:19-21

“Now therefore send, get your livestock and all that you have in the field into safe shelter, for every man and beast that is in the field and is not brought home will die when the hail falls on them.” Then whoever feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh hurried his slaves and his livestock into the houses, but whoever did not pay attention to the word of the LORD left his slaves and his livestock in the field.



Exodus 12:38

A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds.



Who is the Lord?

1. He is all-powerful and holy, and will judge and punish with strength and severity.



Who is the Lord?

1. He is all-powerful and holy, and will judge and punish with strength and severity.
2. God's discipline is always measured and intentional, having the purpose of revealing his nature and bringing redemption.

