

028 The Plagues of Egypt

MEMORY VERSE: "The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord." Exodus 7:5

SCRIPTURES: Exodus 7:14-25; Exodus 8

AIM: To teach that God is the true king over all the earth.

God had chosen Moses and his brother Aaron to lead His people out of Egypt into the wilderness to worship God.

So Moses asked King Pharaoh to let God's people leave Egypt. But Pharaoh said, "No!" He was afraid if he let the people leave they would never come back.

God helped Moses to try to convince Pharaoh by turning Moses' shepherd's rod into a snake. But Pharaoh didn't believe in God and decided his magicians could do that trick, too. Even though Aaron's staff SWALLOWED up the Egyptian's staffs

So once again Moses and Aaron stood before Pharaoh.

"Because you won't listen, God has told us that this rod, when dipped into the water of the River Nile, will turn the water to blood."

Pharaoh really didn't believe it would happen, but when Aaron struck the water as Moses told him to, it turned into blood.

Wherever there was water it turned into blood, even in the rivers and lakes and streams and even in the pots and pans in people's kitchens.

All the fish in the water died and the water smelled so badly the people couldn't drink it.

But Pharaoh was stubborn and didn't believe God did this. He called some of his magicians and they did some tricks, too. So Pharaoh went back into his palace unimpressed.

Then the Egyptians dug wells along the shore of the river so they would have drinking water.

A little while later, God said to Moses, "Go back to Pharaoh and say, 'God says to let My people go so they can worship Me.' Tell him also if he doesn't listen to Me I will send frogs all over his land."

But Pharaoh refused to agree. When Aaron pointed his rod toward the river, the land was covered with frogs. They were in all the rooms of the houses and even in the beds. If someone was baking bread, the frogs would jump into the dough. Slimy, croaking frogs were everywhere people tried to walk.

But once again Pharaoh called his magicians and they made frogs come up on the ground, but not as many.

But Pharaoh didn't like having these frogs everywhere. And his people were unhappy, too. He called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Ask your God to get rid of these frogs and I will let the people go and worship Him."

"All right," said Moses. "When do you want this to happen?"

"Tomorrow," he answered. He didn't want to act too interested!

"I'll pray and ask God to get rid of them tomorrow, except in the river, and then you will know it is God Who is doing these miracles," Moses said.

Moses and Aaron went back to God and asked Him to take away the frogs and God did. Soon there were piles of dead frogs everywhere.

When Pharaoh saw the frogs were dead he refused to let the people go.

God said to Moses, "Tell Aaron to strike the rod on the dust of the ground and it will become gnats throughout the land of Egypt." It happened like God had said and soon gnats covered the people and animals. They bit the people and made their skin itch.

This time the magicians **couldn't** make gnats appear. And they told Pharaoh that the gnats were caused by the finger of God. But it didn't matter. Pharaoh still wouldn't let the people leave to worship even when the magicians begged him to.

Next the Lord told Moses, "In the morning, meet Pharaoh at the river where he goes to bathe. Tell him I'm going to send flies to cover everybody and everything if he won't let my people go."

So Moses told Pharaoh what God had said and the next day there were swarms of flies in the palace and in every home in Egypt. But **God protected** the land of Goshen where the Israelites lived.

Pharaoh was beginning to think he better listen. He quickly called for Moses and Aaron.

'All right, go sacrifice to your God. But do it in this land and not in the wilderness.'

That won't do,' said Moses "The Egyptians would kill us if they saw us worship our God. We must go for three days in the wilderness to worship our God there."

"All right, go ahead," said Pharaoh as he tried to swat the flies that were crawling in his hair and ears. "But don't go too far away."

"I will ask God to take the flies away, but I'm warning you, don't change your mind again," Moses said.

But when the flies disappeared, once again Pharaoh would not let the people go.

Pharaoh was a stubborn man! He saw God's great power, but he still refused to obey. But God kept giving Pharaoh many chances to do the right thing. What do you think it would take for Pharaoh to let God's people go?