

October 10, 2012

The Plagues Exodus 7-11

LESSON FOCUS

"May God strengthen your heart." (1 Thessalonians 3:13)

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Today's Bible Lesson:

The Bible says that Moses was 80 years old and his brother Aaron was 83 when they go into Egypt to rescue the people from the Pharaoh.

When Moses and Aaron first approach the Pharaoh, they tell him that he is to let their people go so they can go into the wilderness to hold a feast with their God. The Pharaoh obviously refuses to even consider this first request, so God does His first miracle in front of the Pharaoh and his court.

Aaron takes the rod of Moses, throws it to the ground and it becomes a serpent. However, several of the Pharaoh's magicians threw their rods down and they also became serpents. However, God then proceeded to show them whose power was greater. God then caused the rod that Aaron had thrown down and had turned into a serpent to devour all of the other rods that had turned into serpents from the Pharaoh's magicians and sorcerers.

After seeing this display of God's power, the Pharaoh's heart starts to harden and he refuses to let the children of Israel go. It's at this point that God will start to release a full set of 10 powerful judgments against the Pharaoh in order to break him so he will let His people go from his captivity.

1. Water Turns into Blood

Moses takes his rod and strikes all of the waters in Egypt turning all of the water into pure blood. All of the fish in the waters are killed and the Egyptians are loathe to drink from the river due to its stench!

God literally strikes and turns into blood all of their streams, rivers, ponds and pools of water. This blood ran throughout all of the land of Egypt. However, several of the Pharaoh's magicians were apparently able to do the same thing with their enchantments and the Pharaoh still refuses to let the children of Israel go free.

2. Frogs

Since Pharaoh would not release them after the first plague hits them, God then hits the Pharaoh and Egypt with the second plague – frogs! God says He will smite the land with frogs. God then causes frogs to come up abundantly from the river and these frogs then enter the people's houses, their bedchambers, on the people themselves, into their ovens, into their kneading bowls, etc. Just imagine such a scene!

After Pharaoh sees this display of power, he initially tells Moses and Aaron to call off this plague and that he will let his people go. God then causes all of the frogs to die out of the houses and the courtyards. They were all then gathered together and the Bible says that the land stank with all of the dead frogs now in one big heap. However, after seeing all of this take place, the Pharaoh changes his mind and still refuses to let the Israelites go.

3. Lice

God then tells Moses to have Aaron stretch out his rod and strike the dust of the land so that it may become lice throughout the land. The lice then falls on both man and beast.

Then the Pharaoh's magicians tried to do the same thing with their enchantments – but this time they could not do it. The magicians told Pharaoh that this work was the finger of God since they could not duplicate this miracle themselves. However, Pharaoh still refuses to let the people go.

4. Flies

A swarm of flies that will come upon all of the Egyptians and into their houses! These flies come into all of the Pharaoh's houses, into his servant's houses and over all of the land. The Bible says that the land became corrupted because of the huge swarm of flies that attacked the land, the people and all of their living quarters.

Once again the Pharaoh relents, tells Moses to have God call off the flies, and that he will let his people go. Moses does so, God pulls back the flies and Pharaoh once more changes his mind and still refuses to let the Israelites go.

5. Pestilence on the Livestock

In this next judgment, God causes all of the Egyptians livestock – all of their cattle, horses, donkeys, camels, oxen and sheep to be stricken with a pestilence that kills all of them dead on the spot. Still, the Pharaoh refuses to give in and let God's people go.

6. Boils

In this next judgment, God tells Moses to tell Aaron to take a handful of ashes from a furnace and to scatter it toward all of Egypt causing boils and sores to break out on all the men and beasts. These boils also hit the Pharaoh's magicians and they could not even stand before Moses due to the effect that the boils were having on them. But once again, the Pharaoh still refuses to give in.

7. Hail

In this next judgment, God causes heavy hail to rain down on every man and every beast that is not brought inside. In addition to the hail, God also causes fire to mingle with the hail. The Bible says that when this hail and fire were released, it struck the entire land of Egypt – both man and beast who were in the fields and every herb, along with breaking every tree in the fields.

Again, just imagine such a catastrophic scene taking place! Once again, this judgment causes Pharaoh to relent. Moses then asks God to pull off this plague. And no sooner does God pull this plague off of them, the Pharaoh once more changes his mind and still refuses to let the Israelites go!

8. Locusts

In this next plague, God causes locusts to swarm the face of the earth so that no man can see the earth. The land of Egypt was completely darkened. Again, God pulls back the plague after Pharaoh says that he will let His people go, but then changes his mind once again after this plague is pulled off.

9. Darkness

In this next judgment, God tells Moses to stretch out his hand toward heaven and this then causes complete darkness to cover the entire land of Egypt. This thick darkness lasts for 3 days. People could not even see one another nor could anyone rise from their place because they could not see even one inch in front of their faces.

Again, just imagine complete and total pitch darkness where no one could see anything – even to the point that you could not even get up and walk because you could not even see one inch in front of your face! Again, the Pharaoh only partially gives in. So this now sets the stage for the last and final judgment.

WELCOME ACTIVITY

Set out blocks stuffed animals and dolls. Guide children in building houses for animals and dolls. As preschoolers build ask: What do our houses keep us safe from?

Remind children that our houses keep us safe from things like rain, wind, heat, storms, and bug.

Say: God protected his special people in today's Bible lesson and kept them safe. God protects us too!

OPENING

Show children a picture of a fire.

Say, Today we'll learn how God protected Moses and God's special people. To protect people means to keep them safe. We'll learn that God protects us too!

BIBLE STORY

Exodus 7-11

Open your Bible so children can see you "reading" God's Word. Show them your Bible and the words to they know what you're saying is coming from God's Word. Use Tell the Story idea below. Use The Beginners Bible page 105-115 to help children see the story.

"May God strengthen your heart." (1 Thessalonians 3:13)

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Moses and Aaron (Moses' brother) went to the king pharaoh to ask him to let God's people go. The king was very stubborn. Moses had a stick that became a snake when he threw it down. The king's magicians did the same thing with their tricks.

God told Moses to meet the king at the river in the morning. He talked to the king again, but the king would not let God's people go. So, God told Moses to dip his stick into the river. When he did, the water turned to blood. However, the king would not listen to Moses.

Next, Moses met the king and asked him to let God's people go. This time the land was flooded with frogs. There were frogs everywhere!

Next, God sent gnats because the king would not listen. They flew around everywhere. Still, the king still would not let the people go.

The fourth plague was flies. They swarmed over all the Egyptian people, but were nowhere around God's people. The king told Moses that they could go and worship God, if God would take the flies away. The flies left, but the king changed his mind and would not let the people go.

Then, Moses told the king that there would be a disease on the farm animals if he did not let them go. Sure enough, the disease killed all the animals but the king was still stubborn.

God told Moses and Aaron to scoop up ashes from a furnace. He told them to throw them into the air in front of the king. When they did this, the Egyptian people broke out in sores called boils.

Next, Moses told the king that a thunderous hail storm would come. It came and ruined the crops in the fields. The king told Moses that the people could go. But when the hail stopped, the king changed his mind again.

Moses and Aaron went to the king again. They asked to worship God or swarms of locusts would come. Locusts are like grasshoppers. At first, the king agreed until he realized that even the children were going. Then, he told Moses, "No." The locusts came. In fact, there were so many that the sky was black with them. They ate all the plants and made life miserable. When the king asked for mercy, the plague stopped, but then he told Moses, "No!"

For the next plague, God caused darkness in the Egyptian city for three days. However, where God's people lived, it was both night and day as usual. The king still would not change his mind. He would not let God's people go.

God cared for His people and helped them get out of slavery. God cares for us too!

GOD'S WORD IN MY HEART

"May God strengthen your heart." (1 Thessalonians 3:13)

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Read this passage from your Bible. Help children learn this verse.

GAME

Ribbit, Ribbit

Spread pieces of green construction paper throughout the playing area. Place them about two feet from one another, and tape them to the floor.

God once sent frogs to fill the land. They were everywhere. The people didn't know what to do. But the frogs didn't bother God's people. We're going to pretend to be those frogs. These green places are lily pads. Point out the green pieces of paper. **Everything else is water because lily pads grow in the water.** Point out the playing floor is the water.

Have children practice jumping and ribbiting like frogs. **Say: In this game when I say "lily pad," jump to the nearest green lily pad and stand on it. When I say "swim," jump off your lily pad, and swim in the water until I say "lily pad" again.**

Try to have only one child on each lily pad. If a child has trouble finding a lily pad, point out an open one. Repeat the activity a number of times.

Say: God sent frogs, but the frogs didn't bother God's people. God protected his special people and kept them safe. God protects us too!

ANOTHER GAME

Plague Play

Move obstacles away from the center of the room. **Say: Let's pretend that we're some of those yucky plagues from the Bible lesson.** Choose a child to be a gnat. Explain that, when you give the signal, the gnat should buzz and flap its wings and try to tag other children. If the gnat tags another child, he or she becomes a gnat also. Give the signal and play for a minute or two.

Then say: In our game, the gnat was able to tag other people. In the Bible lesson, the gnats bothered Pharaoh's people, but they didn't bother God's special people. God protected his special people. God protects us too!

Continue playing tag, choosing another child to be a frog, a grasshopper, a cow, and so on. After each plague, make sure to remind children that God protected his special people and God protects us too.

CLOSING ACTIVITY

God protected his special people. God protects us too!

Have children sit in a circle and tell you about times God protected them. After each child shares, lead everyone in saying: **Thank you God, for protecting (child's name)**. Go around the circle and say each child's name, don't forget to include adults!

Close by saying: Thank you God for protecting us every day. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Let's sing Jesus loves me.

*Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak, but He is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*