



MIGHTY MEN

Mid-Week Bible Study – Living Life in 3D Week Six: Hard Times for a Hardened Heart

I. The Nature of the Plagues

- 3 basic explanations of the plagues:
 1. They were simply myths
 - They never really occurred
 2. They occurred, but were not miraculous
 - They were simply natural disasters
 3. They were divine use of natural disasters
 - The miracle is to be found in the timing and intensity
 4. They were supernatural acts of God
 - They involved nature and natural forces
 - But they were beyond normal

II. Why did the plagues have to occur?

- A. Recognition of God
 - God would reveal Himself through the plagues (Ex. 7:5, 17; 8:10, 22; 9:14, 29; 10:2)
That you may know: yada' {yaw-dah'}
 - to know, learn to know
 - to perceive and see, find out and discern
 - to discriminate, distinguish
 - to know by experience
 - to recognize, admit, acknowledge, confess
 - Pharaoh did not know God – Ex. 5:2
 - Israel did not really know God
 - They could not perceive God in their situation
 - They did not yet know Him through experience
 - They were not ready to acknowledge Him
 - They had not yet made His acquaintance

B. Judgment of Pharaoh

- Pharaoh did not fear God
- He was a stubborn man
 - He was naturally stubborn
 - God used his stubbornness and multiplied it

C. Preparation of the people of God

- God wanted them to recognize His power
- God wanted them to appreciate His provision
- God wanted them to trust His protection
- God wanted them to understand His purpose
- God wanted them to sense His presence

III. **The Plagues**

A. Plague 1 – Ex. 7:14-25

Content Water of the Nile turned to blood
Egyptian god(s) Hapi, the bull god of the Nile
Isis, goddess of the Nile
Khnum, ram god, guardian of the Nile
Warning “Release My people, that they may serve me in the desert
Outcome Magicians duplicate
Pharaoh’s heart was hardened
They dug wells for water

B. Plague 2 – Ex. 8:1-15

Content Frogs
Egyptian god(s) Heqet, goddess of birth (frog head)
Warning “Release My people in order that they may serve me.”
Outcome Magicians duplicate
Pharaoh asks Moses to pray to remove the frogs
The frogs die and stink
Pharaoh’s heart is hardened

C. Plague 3 – Ex. 8:16-19

Content Gnats (biting, stinging insect)
Egyptian god(s) Set, god of the desert
Warning None
Outcome Magicians can’t duplicate
They acknowledge “This is the finger of God”
Pharaoh’s heart is hardened

D. Plague 4 – Ex. 8:20-32

Content Flies
Egyptian god(s) Re, sun god
Uatchit, possibly represented by the fly
Warning “Release My people...”

	“If you do not release...”	
<u>Outcome</u>	Israelites were protected from them	_____
	Pharaoh concedes to let them worship in Egypt	_____
	He then says they can only go so far	_____
	He asks for prayer	_____
	He changes his mind again	_____

E. <u>Plague 5</u> – Ex. 9:1-7		
<u>Content</u>	Livestock killed	_____
<u>Egyptian god(s)</u>	Hathor, goddess with cow head	_____
	Apis, the bull God (fertility)	_____
<u>Warning</u>	“Release My people...”	_____
	“For if you refuse to release them...”	_____
	“...if you continue holding them...”	_____
<u>Outcome</u>	Time specified	_____
	Israel’s cattle are exempted	_____
	Pharaoh’s heart hardened	_____

F. <u>Plague 6</u> – Ex. 9:8-12		
<u>Content</u>	Boils	_____
<u>Egyptian god(s)</u>	Sekhmet, goddess over disease	_____
	Sunu, pestilence god	_____
	Isis, goddess of healing	_____
<u>Warning</u>	None	_____
<u>Outcome</u>	Over all the land	_____
	Over the magicians	_____
	Over all the animals	_____
	Pharaoh’s heart hardened	_____

G. <u>Plague 7</u> – Ex. 9:13-25		
<u>Content</u>	Hail	_____
<u>Egyptian god(s)</u>	Nut, sky goddess	_____
	Osiris, god of crops, fertility	_____
<u>Warning</u>	“Release My people...”	_____
	“I will send all My plagues on you...”	_____
<u>Outcome</u>	Some heeded God’s warning	_____
	Others did not	_____
	Land of Goshen exempted	_____
	Pharaoh appear to confess his sin	_____
	He asks for prayer	_____
	He concedes to let them go	_____

He sins again and changes his mind

H. Plague 8 – Ex. 10:1-20

Content Locusts
Egyptian god(s) Nut, sky goddess
Osiris, god of crops, fertility
Warning “Release My people...”
“But if you refuse...”
Outcome Officials plead for Pharaoh to let the Israelites go
Pharaoh bargains “men only”
He drives Moses and Aaron out
After the plague, he repents
Pharaoh does not release them

I. Plague 9 – Ex. 10:21-29

Content Darkness
Egyptian god(s) Re, sun god
Nut, sky goddess
Hathor, sky goddess
Warning None
Outcome Darkness for 3 days
Israelites were exempt
Pharaoh concedes
“Go without herds”
“Out of my sight”
“Don’t come back”

IV. The point of the plagues

- A. There is no god, but Yahweh
- B. God alone is powerful
- C. God is in control of all things
- D. God can and will accomplish His will



Mid-Week Bible Study – Living Life in 3D
Week Seven: “The Passover.”

Nine down and one to go. Plagues that is. Last week we saw God deal with Pharaoh through nine timely, intense and tragic plagues. But he still refused to let the people of God go. He showed signs of repentance, even asking for prayer and confessing his sin. But at the end of it all, he threw Moses and Aaron out of his presence and threatened them with death if they showed up again. Now we will see what God had planned for Pharaoh and his people all along.

Day One

Read Exodus 11:1-8. What does God say He is going to do to the Egyptians? _____

Read Exodus 4:21-23. Based on these verses, what do you think God’s reason is for threatening to kill not just the firstborn son of Pharaoh, but the firstborn of every Egyptian? _____

Read Exodus 11:8-10. Why do you think Moses is angry? _____

What does God give as the reason for Pharaoh’s refusal to listen to Moses? _____

Who was in control of this situation and why? _____

Day Two

The tenth plague was obviously the worst of the plagues. But it also established the ordinance of the Passover. Read Exodus 12:1-20. There are a lot of specific directions regarding the Passover found in this passage. Look closely as you read, then write them down here: _____

Day Three

Read Exodus 12:5-7. What are some of the ways in which the Passover lamb typifies or symbolizes Christ? (*see also* John 1:29, 1 Peter 1:18-19) _____

Read Exodus 12:12-13. What was the purpose of the blood? _____

What would God do when He saw the blood? _____

Day Four

Read Exodus 12:21-28. According to verse 24, how long were the Israelites supposed to observe this ordinance? And why do you think this was important? _____

What were the Israelites supposed to tell their children when they asked why this ordinance was observed year after year? _____

Read Exodus 12:29-42. What predictions of God were fulfilled in these verses? _____

Day Five

Read Luke 22:14-20 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

After you have studied about the tenth plague and the ordinance of the Passover, what do you think the apostles would have been thinking at the Last Supper? _____

What parallels do you see between the ordinance of the Passover and the ordinance of Communion practiced today? _____
