



Who is The Lord, Yahweh?
Exodus: The Way Out
Exodus 7-12 | March 15th - 21st, 2015

Warm Up: *Yahweh*, the self-existent LORD over all time and eternity will have no rivals. The plagues detailed in **Exodus 7-12** serve as Yahweh's declaration of war against the false gods of Egypt. "I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the Lord!" - **Exodus 12:12b**. Share about a time in your life when your experiential knowledge of God dramatically grew. Perhaps it was when you came to understand His greatness, power, or transcendence in a completely new way? What was this like for you?

- In executing judgment over Egypt through the plagues, God did at least three things: 1. *Demonstrated His own power and supremacy (12:12)*. 2. *Distinguished between the Egyptians, and his own people - the Israelites (8:23; 10:23)*. 3. *Hardened Pharaoh's heart to display His own miraculous power and deliverance (7:3-4; 10:1)*.
 - Discuss each of these three purposes. What do these reveal about Yahweh?
 - If God hardened Pharaoh's heart, why does He hold him responsible for his actions? (You may consider reading aloud a short article on [GotQuestions.Org](http://www.gotquestions.org) that provides some clarity on this difficult concept.¹)

- Charles Spurgeon said, "The same sun which melts wax hardens clay and the same Gospel which melts some persons to repentance hardens others in their sins."
 - Do you believe this to be true?
 - In what ways have you seen this play out?

- Briefly review together the chart of plagues on the back side of this sheet. Then read aloud Warren Wiersbe's commentary on each of these plagues. Each plague was an attack against a specific false god whom the Egyptians worshiped.
 - What would be some modern parallels of false gods our society tends to worship?
 - How does the intensity with which God judges the Egyptians through the plagues speak to you about His own glory, honor, and holiness? How does that impact you personally?

Wrap Up: Yahweh is the God of all creation. He will fight using creation as His weapons, even though not every 'natural disaster' is necessarily His judgment. In addition, Yahweh is the God who will accomplish His will. We can be certain that He will finish what He starts (Phil. 1:6). Lastly, He is the awesome God! In that day, they saw what God had done, and worshipped Him because of it. May we do the same as we close in prayer!

¹ <http://www.gotquestions.org/God-harden-Pharaoh-heart.html>

THE PLAGUES ON EGYPT EXODUS 7-12

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|---|---|---|----|--|---|
| 1 |  | BLOOD (7:14-24)
The Nile, along with all of the water in Egypt, turns into blood. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go. | 6 |  | BOILS (9:8-12)
Festering boils break out on the Egyptians and their animals. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go. |
| 2 |  | FROGS (7:25 - 8:15)
Frogs cover the land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind. | 7 |  | HAIL (9:13-35)
Hail strikes down everything in the fields - humans, animals and trees. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness and promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind. |
| 3 |  | GNATS (8:16-19)
The dust turns to gnats, which cover the people and animals of Egypt. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go. | 8 |  | LOCUSTS (10:1-20)
Locusts devour every tree and plant in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness, but does not let the Israelites go. |
| 4 |  | FLIES (8:20-32)
Flies fill the houses and land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind. | 9 |  | DARKNESS (10:21-29)
Darkness covers the land of Egypt for three days. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind. |
| 5 |  | LIVESTOCK (9:1-7)
All of the livestock of the Egyptians die. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go. | 10 |  | FIRSTBORN (11:1-10; 12:29-32)
Every firstborn son and firstborn of the cattle in Egypt dies. Pharaoh finally lets the Israelites leave Egypt, only to change his mind and pursue them to the Red Sea. |

The Nile River was worshiped as a god since it was their source of life (Deut. 11:10–12), and when Moses turned it into blood, God showed His power over the river. The goddess Heqt was pictured as a frog, the Egyptian symbol of resurrection. The plague of frogs certainly turned the people against Heqt! The lice and flies brought defilement to the people—a terrible blow, for Egyptians could not worship their gods unless they were spotlessly clean. The murrain attacked the cattle which were sacred to the Egyptians; Hathor was the “cow-goddess” and Apis was the sacred bull. The gods and goddesses that controlled health and safety were attacked in the plagues of boils, hail, and locusts. The plague of darkness was the most serious, since Egypt worshiped the sun god, Ra, the chief of the gods. When the sun was blotted out for three days, it meant that Jehovah had conquered Ra. The final plague (the death of the firstborn) conquered Meskhemit the goddess of birth, and Hathor, her companion, both of whom were supposed to watch over the firstborn. All of these plagues made it clear that Jehovah was the true God! (Warren Wiersbe, *Expository Outlines of the Old Testament*)