

Lesson
54

God Sends the Final Plague

*God sent the final plague
on the firstborn of
Egypt but protected
the Israelites.*

Memory Verse

Isaiah 41:10 (LSB)

Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not anxiously look about you,
for I am your God.
I will make you mighty,
surely I will help you;
Surely I will uphold you
with My righteous right hand.

**Where did the word Passover
come from?**

The Seven C's of History



Creation

God created the universe
in six days



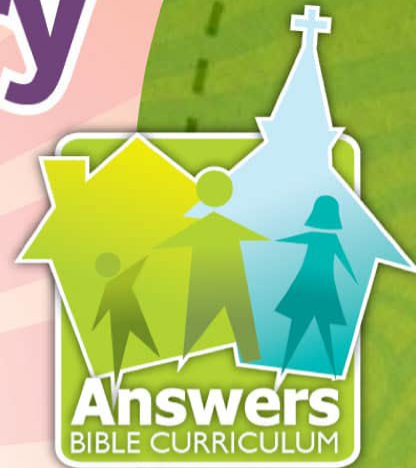
Corruption

Sin entered the world



Catastrophe

God judged sin—bringing
the Flood



Confusion

God judged sin—confusing
the language



Christ

Jesus, Son of God,
became a human



Cross

Jesus—the perfect
sacrifice for sins



Consummation

God will create a new heaven
and a new earth

Review

- ❖ Who can remind us of how God displayed His character in the plagues and the interactions between Moses and Aaron and Pharaoh?
 - *God showed His **sovereign control** over nature in many different ways.*
 - *He showed his **supremacy** over the false gods of Egypt.*
 - *He showed his **sovereignty** over Pharaoh as he hardened his heart to bring the plans for bringing the Israelites out of Egypt to pass.*
 - *He showed his **faithfulness** to the Israelites as he worked toward freeing them.*
 - *He showed His **justice** in bringing judgment on Egypt for enslaving the Israelites.*

THE PLAGUE	EXODUS	PHARAOH'S RESPONSE	MAGICIANS' RESPONSE	EGYPTIAN DEITY
Water turned to blood	7:20–22	<i>Hardened heart</i>	<i>Made water turn to blood</i>	Hapi <i>god of the Nile River; the river that brought life was now full of death</i>
<i>Frogs</i>	8:5–7	<i>Agreed to set the slaves free and later changed his mind</i>	<i>Made frogs appear</i>	Heqet <i>goddess of fertility, having a frog's head; a pest in the form of the god</i>
<i>Gnats or lice</i>	8:16–17	<i>Hardened heart</i>	<i>Could not repeat it and called it "the finger of God"</i>	Geb and Akhor <i>gods of the earth; the dust was formed into the lice</i>
<i>Flies</i>	8:20–24	<i>Agreed to set the slaves free and later changed his mind</i>	<i>Not mentioned</i>	Khepri <i>god of creation, having a fly's head; a pest in the form of the god</i>
<i>Death of livestock</i>	9:6–7	<i>Hardened heart</i>	<i>Not mentioned</i>	Hathor <i>the mother cow goddess; all the cattle were struck</i>
<i>Boils</i>	9:10–12	<i>Hardened heart</i>	<i>Received the boils</i>	Isis <i>goddess of medicine; there was no remedy for the boils</i>
<i>Hail and fire (lightning)</i>	9:23–26	<i>Agreed to set the slaves free and later changed his mind as his heart was hardened</i>	<i>Pharaoh's servants hardened their hearts (v. 34)</i>	Nut <i>goddess of the sky; the severe storm came from the sky</i>
<i>Locusts</i>	10:12, 10:16–20	<i>Agreed to let the men go to worship and then changed his mind as his heart was hardened</i>	<i>Pled to let the slaves go</i>	Seth <i>god of vegetation; the locusts consumed all of the vegetation in Egypt</i>
<i>Darkness</i>	10:21–23, 10:27–29	<i>Agreed to let them go without their flocks and then changed his mind as his heart was hardened</i>	<i>Not mentioned</i>	Ra <i>god of the sun; even when the sun was out, there was darkness</i>
<i>Death of the firstborn</i>	11:4–9	<i>With a hard heart, he refused to release them</i>	<i>Not mentioned</i>	Pharaoh <i>held to be a god; he could not prevent the death of his own son</i>

Exodus 11:1–2 (LSB)

1 Then Yahweh said to Moses, "One more plague I will bring on Pharaoh and on Egypt; after that he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out from here completely.

2 Speak now in the hearing of the people so that each man may ask from his neighbor and each woman from her neighbor for articles of silver and articles of gold."

Exodus 11:3–4 (LSB)

3 (And Yahweh gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses himself was very great in the land of Egypt, both in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.)

4 So Moses said, "Thus says Yahweh, 'About midnight I am going out into the midst of Egypt,

Exodus 11:5–6 (LSB)

5 and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of the Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the servant-girl who is behind the millstones; and all the firstborn of the cattle.

6 Moreover, there shall be a great cry in all the land of Egypt, such as there has not been before and such as shall never be again.

Exodus 11:7 (LSB)

7 But for any of the sons of Israel a dog will not even bark, whether against man or beast, that you may know how Yahweh makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.'

Exodus 11:8–9 (LSB)

8 Then all these your servants will come down to me and bow themselves before me, saying, 'Go out, you and all the people who follow you,' and after that I will go out." And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger.

9 Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that My miraculous wonders will be multiplied in the land of Egypt."

Exodus 11:10 (LSB)

10 Now Moses and Aaron did all these miraculous wonders before Pharaoh; yet Yahweh hardened Pharaoh's heart with strength, and he did not let the sons of Israel go out of his land.

Observation

Would this be the last plague?

- *Yes, God promised there would be one more (11:1).*

What do we learn will happen after this plague?

- *God told Moses that Pharaoh would finally let the Israelites go (11:1).*

Whom did God tell Moses to speak to?

- *While it isn't explicit, it is implied that he was sent to talk to Pharaoh, but also to the people of Israel (11:2).*

Who were the “people” in verse 2?

- *They must have been the Israelites since they were to ask for the Egyptians to give them their wealth. This is not described until 12:35 –36.*

Observation

How did the Egyptians view Moses?

- *They had come to esteem Moses, likely recognizing that he was a prophet of the true God (11:3).*

How did Moses begin his address to Pharaoh?

- *Thus says Yahweh (11:4).*

What would happen, and who would do it?

- *God would kill the firstborn of all the Egyptians and the firstborn of the cattle (11:5).*

Observation

How were the Israelites to be treated during this final plague?

- *They would be separated so that not even a dog would growl against them (11:7).*

Why were they to be spared?

- *God wanted to make it clear that Israel was His people and leave no doubt that he was in control of who was affected by the plagues (11:7).*

How did God say the Egyptians would respond?

- *He said they would bow down as though they were servants of Moses and recognize God as Lord. Then they would tell the Israelites to “get out” of Egypt (11:8).*

Exodus 12:29–30 (LSB)

29 Now it happened at midnight that Yahweh struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of cattle.

30 Then Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead.

Exodus 12:31–32 (LSB)

31 Then he called for Moses and Aaron at night and said, "Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of Israel; and go, serve Yahweh, as you have spoken.

32 Take both your flocks and your herds, as you have spoken, and go, and bless me also."

Observation

Who was acting to bring about the death?

- *Yahweh (12:29)*

Did he act alone?

- *Verse 23 mentions the “destroyer.” This could be a reference to death, or some have understood it to be a second person, linked to the Angel of the Lord as in 2 Samuel 24:16, 2 Kings 19:35, Isaiah 37:36, and Acts 12:23. It is possible this was a second person of God, a shadowy reference to the Trinity.*

How did the Egyptians respond to the plague?

- *They rose up in the night, and here was a “great cry” in Egypt (12:30).*

Observation

What did Pharaoh command Moses and Aaron?

- *He commanded them to take the Israelites out of Egypt to serve Yahweh. He also said to take the flocks, as Moses had requested earlier (12:31 -32).*

What did Pharaoh ask from Moses and Aaron?

- *He asked for a blessing, presumably acknowledging that God had won the war and had the power to bless him (12:32).*

Interpretation: Christ Our Passover

1. The Passover Lamb is described (Exodus 12:1 –6)

- *A lamb without blemish (Jesus was sinless —Hebrews 4:15, 9:14; 1 Peter 1:19)*
- *The lamb lived with the family (Jesus lived among those he died for —John 1:1–18)*
- *The lamb was killed at twilight/afternoon (Jesus died at 3 p.m. —Luke 23:44–46)*

Christ Our Passover

2. The blood of the lamb (Exodus 12:7 – 13, 12:24-25)

- *The blood of the lamb is a sign (The blood of Jesus is the sign of the New Covenant —1 Corinthians 11:25)*
- *The lamb's remains were not to remain until morning (Jesus was taken down from the cross and buried before the end of the day—John 19:38–42)*
- *The lamb was the Lord's Passover (Jesus is our Passover Lamb—1 Corinthians 5:7)*
- *God will see the blood on the door and pass over, withholding His judgment (Jesus' sacrifice allows God to pass over us, so that we avoid His judgment, seeing Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world —John 1:29)*
- *The unleavened bread signified purification from sin (To follow Jesus is to seek to remove sin from our lives and is a sign of His true followers —1 Corinthians 5:6 –8)*

Christ Our Passover

3. The memorial of the sacrificial lamb (Exodus 12:25 –28)

The memorial would remind future generations of how God had passed over the Israelites while judging the Egyptians (Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper/Communion as a memorial of His sacrifice —Luke 22:14–20)

4. The foreigners and the lamb (Exodus 12:43 –51)

- *None of the lamb's bones were broken (Jesus' legs were not broken on the cross —John 19:36; Psalm 34:20)*
- *Foreigners had to become part of Israel to be passed over (Jesus' blood covers only those who are in Christ from every group of people —Romans 3:21–26; Ephesians 2:11–22)*

Pharaoh had finally relented, and the
Israelites were about to leave their bondage;
but God had not finished displaying
His power among the Egyptians.

Those details will have to wait for next lesson.

Application

We know that God says he is going to harden Pharaoh's heart and that Pharaoh is judged for his own actions.

How has your understanding of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility changed over time?

Application

Because God is the Source of life,
to follow Him brings life,
to reject Him brings death.

This is not God being vindictive.
This is reality playing itself out.

Application

Have you ever been part of a
Passover Seder meal?

What did you learn about Jesus in
this meal and its ceremony?

Application

How could you use the account of the Passover to share the gospel with those who have a Jewish background?

Application

As you think about your own life, how are you assured that you are safe from God's punishment for sin?

What are the implications for how you and I approach the Lord's Supper (Communion)?

Application

In what ways do you see parallels in your experience of God's power over all of creation and what we have read today?

Application

As you consider all of the events of the plagues, how have you come to understand God's character more fully?

His redemption in Christ more fully?