

Exodus 7-10

October 16th, 2020

Study Guide

Pray: Ask God to help you see and hear His word rightly and ask Him to reveal himself to you as you read through the designated chapters this week.

Read through **Exodus 7-10**. Then, **reflect** upon what you read as you consider the study questions.

Exodus 7:1-13 | Aaron's Staff Becomes a Snake

1. The Lord searches hearts and knows precisely what is there (1 Chronicles 28:9). Simply put, God saw the depth of Pharaoh's stubborn resistance and said so be it. From **verses 4-5**, what was God's stated purpose for the plagues?

"I will harden Pharaoh's heart." This does not mean that God caused Pharaoh to sin. Two different Hebrew words are translated as harden. When the Lord hardens Pharaoh's heart, it means "to bind, strengthen, make firm." When Pharaoh hardens his heart, it indicates being "stubborn, heavy with pride, calloused."

2. The Lord told Moses, "I will make you seem like God to Pharaoh" (verse 1). When Pharaoh challenged Moses to perform a miracle (**verse 9**) what was he trying to prove?

3. What significance do you see in Aaron's snake eating the snakes created by the Egyptian magicians (1 John 4:4)?

Exodus 7:14-25 | The Plague of Blood

4. Why was striking the waters of the Nile River so devastating to the Egyptians?

Good to Know

The Nile was worshipped as the source of all life; among its many gods, **Khnum** was supposed to protect the water.

5. What was Pharaoh's response to the plague (verses 22-24)?

Exodus 8:1-14 | The Plague of Frogs

6. Pharaoh had not taken to heart the plague that turned water to blood. He did not give the Lord credit for the miracle. But in the case of the plague of frogs Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and asked them to pray to God that the plague of frogs be removed (verse 8). Why do you think Pharaoh turned to Moses and Aaron for help in this case? (see verses 3-4).

Heqet the frog goddess. Since frogs were sacred to Egyptians as a symbol of fertility and life, they could not be destroyed.

7. Moses asked Pharaoh to name the time that the prayer should be answered. What does this say about Moses' faith?

Exodus 8:16-19 | The Plague of Gnats

8. What did the magicians recognize after the appearance of the gnats? (v. 18-19)

Set was a desert god who caused and controlled the wind, storms, and chaos.

Exodus 8:20-32 | The Plague of Flies

9. What compromise was Pharaoh willing to make (verses 25, 28)?

Uatchit was a fly goddess, the keeper of light and life all along the Nile delta.

10. Why did Pharaoh not keep his promise (verses 30-32)?

Exodus 9:1-12 | The Plague on Livestock & The Plague of Boils

11. What did the Lord demonstrate by treating the Egyptians differently from the Israelites (Ex. 8:22 and Ex. 9:7)? (See also Psalm 105:5-11)

Apis a sacred bull and the cow goddess **Hathor** were symbols of strength and fertility and protection.

Healing gods worshipped for their powers to cure disease include **Sekmet**, **Isis**, and **Imhotep**.

Exodus 9:13-35 | The Plague of Hail

12. Why do you think the Lord gave a 24-hour warning about the plague of hail (verses 18-19)?

13. What do we learn about some of the Egyptians from verse 20?

Exodus 10:1-20 | The Plague of Locusts

14. After the threat of the locusts, what advice did the officials give Pharaoh (verse 7)?

15. What did Pharaoh now suspect about the Hebrews' desire to take a three-day journey (verse 10)?

Egyptian worship centered on the sun god **Amun-Ra** who controlled the cycle of sunrise and sunset. Every night he battled a serpent god of darkness to keep the world from spinning out of control.

Exodus 10:21-29 | The Plague of Darkness

16. Since Pharaoh was idolized as the personal embodiment of Amun-Ra, a sun-god, what effect do you imagine the ninth plague had on the Egyptians?

As such, he was master of all life, over all the gods. His son, **Horus**, was god of the sky and Pharaoh's inner guide (often depicted as a falcon perched on Pharaoh's neck and whispering into his ear).

Personal Reflection: As you think through this part of Moses' story, what is the most important takeaway point for you personally? How will you put what you've learned into action?