

A note from Kathy

Even when we, like Moses, “do just as the LORD commands,” there are those who will not listen and will not submit to his authority. Today as we study Exodus 7-8, we will see Pharaoh presented with many opportunities to heed the warning, but he would not. The results were not up to Moses. He was simply commanded to go and tell Pharaoh everything God had told him, and he did. Let’s follow in his footsteps today and share with others what God has given us to share, nothing more and nothing less.

Observation

1. There is a chart attached to the study guide. As you read the next few chapters, it will be helpful if you fill it in as you go. Not every box will be filled in with each plague.
2. Exodus 7:1 says Moses was like God to Pharaoh, and he considered Aaron to be a prophet. In Pharaoh’s mind, this still only made them equals since Egyptian Pharaoh’s were considered gods to be worshipped. He may have thought Moses deserved to be heard, but did Pharaoh believe he needed to be obeyed?
3. What was God’s stated purpose for sending the plagues? Exodus 7:5
There is that word “know” again. The Hebrew word is Yada; what was the meaning?
4. Obedience is something we need to practice all our lives. How old were Aaron and Moses as they stood before Pharaoh? Add these ages and a brief note to your family tree from last week’s study guide.
5. In Exodus 7:8-13, Moses and Aaron appeared before Pharaoh and his officials and were challenged to perform a miracle, just as God had told them would happen. What did Aaron do?
6. What was the response of the Egyptian magicians? Was this helpful? We will discuss this further when we get together, but how do you believe the magicians were able to do this? How do magicians today do their amazing tricks?

7. What event put the magicians back in their place and sent them, later that day, to the local staff supplier?
8. In your Bible you might want to underline the two phrases “just as the LORD commanded” and “just as the LORD said” every time they appear. They are key phrases. It is imperative we focus on the example Moses and Aaron set for us.

Exodus 7: 14-25, Plague #1

9. Pharaoh had his first opportunity to obey God’s command, and he failed. This actually cost him only a few sticks, but now things are going to heat up for him. What did God tell Moses and Aaron to do because Pharaoh had not obeyed? This was the first plague. Begin filling in your chart.
10. Ironically, the magicians tried to show that their magic was as powerful as God. What foolish choice did they make? Exodus 7:22
I can almost hear the Egyptian officials as they stood by holding their noses saying, “Thanks guys, did you really think that would help?”
11. Again, what was Pharaoh’s response?
12. Seven days had passed and Egypt was a stinking mess. God instructed Moses to go to Pharaoh and make another plea for the children of Israel. What happened this time?
13. Again, how helpful are these magicians?

Exodus 8:1-15, Plague #2

14. I don’t know how you feel about frogs; personally I do not like them. Try to picture the scene, frogs are EVERYWHERE!!!! Pharaoh reached his limit and called for Moses and Aaron to get rid of them. Moses left it to Pharaoh to decide when he should pray for them to go. What was Pharaoh’s response?
15. Notice what happened when Moses prayed. Even Fabreze could not handle the smell these piles put off. Pharaoh got the relief he so desperately wanted; what was his response this time?

Exodus 8:16-19, Plague #3

16. Mark your chart. Look at verse 18; how was this plague different from the previous two? What was the response of the magicians this time?

Exodus 8:20-32, Plague #4

17. What came upon them this time? What area was affected by them?
18. Pharaoh still wanted to control the situation. What compromises did he offer? Exodus 8:25, 28
19. Over and over we have seen and will continue to see the repeated phrase “just as the LORD had said.” Highlight it in your Bible. Nothing catches God off guard.

Application

1. Moses received a clear and encouraging word from God before this sad part of the story unfolded. God told him exactly how things will occur, but more importantly how it would turn out. If you know right will ultimately win out, you can endure most hardships. Are you in a situation that seems to be unyielding, but God has given you a clear word that he is in control? How are you responding?
2. Exodus 7:13 tells us Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen. The word for hard in the Hebrew is Chazaq - to become strong, grow firm or resolute. Every time we harden our heart toward God, it grows more resolute and hard. What should this inspire us to do?
I would much rather learn from another’s poor choice than suffer myself.
Prov. 13:13 *“The one who has contempt for instruction will pay the penalty, but the one who respects a command will be rewarded.”*
3. Moses allowed Pharaoh to choose when he wanted him to pray, asking God to take away the second plague, the frogs. Pharaoh responded, “tomorrow.” This answer is almost unbelievable. One would think he would say, “Bow down now and pray,” but he was okay with one more night with the frogs. Have you ever responded in a similar way to a difficult situation brought on by your own rebellion? Perhaps God convicted you to end a habit or relationship that you knew was bad for you, and you thought in your mind...I need to do that tomorrow.

4. Like Pharaoh, we often beg for relief from a stinky situation we find ourselves in, but when relief comes we are unwilling to do what we know is right to do. Think of a time you went back on what you thought was right after the situation calmed down. "God, if you'll get me out of this, I'll never _____ again."
5. Even if the Egyptians never placed their trust in the LORD, what were they learning about him? What truth cannot be denied?
6. What have you learned about the character of God so far in your study of Exodus?
The Lord is not content for us to have mere "head knowledge" concerning his character; he wants us to experience His saving grace for ourselves. If you have not come to know him as Lord and Savior, please talk to me about this. You have everything to gain by this decision to follow Jesus.
7. What areas of your life is God speaking to you about? What do you plan to do? When? (Please don't say Tomorrow!)
8. What do you think it means to have a hard heart? Or to harden your heart?
9. Have you ever tried to compromise with God? I remember several years ago, God spoke to me about a particular habit I had that was not pleasing to him. I decided to give it up temporarily as an offering. (Okay, stop laughing; you have probably done something almost this silly!) God was not interested in this offering. He wanted obedience. It was not easy, but it was worth it.
10. I read one time, "God's authority is on the line any time we decide to take charge." This is a serious matter. How do you see God's authority challenged today?

Key facts concerning the 10 plagues brought on Egypt by God.

Text ref.	Plague	Duration stated	Magician's response	People's response	Pharaoh's response	Land effected by plague	Was a warning given?	God's purpose stated
Ex. 7:14-25								
Ex. 8:1-15								
Ex. 8:16-19								
Ex.8: 20-32								
Ex.9: 1-7								
Ex. 9:8-12								
Ex. 9:13-35								
Ex. 10:1-20								
Ex. 10:21-29								
Ex. 11:1-10								