

## *A note from Kathy*

*We are only halfway through the plagues, but oh the pain and suffering we have seen. If we lose focus of God's purpose, these plagues might seem very cruel. God longs for all men, women and children to know him and be loved by him. He is much more interested in our spiritual life than our physical comfort. He created us to have a relationship with him. Let's take a lesson from Moses and faithfully declare the word of God, intercede for the lost in prayer, and allow God to move as he sees best without our interference. This is easier said than done.*

## *Observation*

1. Continue carefully filling in the plague chart from last week.

### **Exodus 9:1-7, Plague #5**

2. The Lord sent Moses again to Pharaoh. What was the request?
3. What did he warn Pharaoh would happen if he refused?
4. Note the clarity of where this plague was to hit. Verse 3, *"the hand of the LORD will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field - on your horses and donkeys and camels and on your cattle and sheep and goats."*
5. What is the distinction that God made with this plague?
6. Note the time specifically set. What would be the wisest thing to do quickly? Do you believe this time frame revealed anything about the character of God?
7. Rumors must have spread like wildfire about the distinction made by this plague. What do you see Pharaoh do in order to know for sure? Vs. 7

### **Exodus 9:8-12, Plague #6**

8. Was there any warning this time?

9. What were Aaron and Moses commanded to do?
10. How widespread were the effects of this plague? Vs. 9
11. Now that the magicians and officials were writhing in pain and unable to stand before Pharaoh, perhaps he would make better choices. How did he respond to Moses and Aaron? Vs. 12

**Exodus 9: 13-35, Plague #7**

12. Was there any warning this time?
13. It was never God's intent to merely kill all the "bad guys." What was his stated purpose in Exodus 9:15-16?
14. Obviously Egypt had seen hail before; they should have known what would be coming their way. What happened with this plague that we have not seen in prior plagues? How did some of the Egyptians respond to God's warning?
15. What distinction did God make again with this plague?
16. What change are we seeing in Pharaoh? Is this true repentance? How do you know?

**Exodus 10:1-20, Plague #8**

17. What was God's stated purpose for doing all these miraculous and distinguishing signs?
18. Pharaoh was given another opportunity to repent. God spoke to him through Moses. What was the question put to Pharaoh? Rewrite this question from Exodus 10:3 in your own words.
19. What would be the next plague sent on Egypt? What do you know about these destructive creatures?

20. Finally, Pharaoh's counselors give him some good advice. Pharaoh had tried to remain firm thinking he could withstand the will of God. What did he try now? Exodus 10:8
21. What did God use to deliver this plague? What did God use to remove it?
22. Notice Pharaoh's statement in Exodus 10:11; was this ever what Moses and Aaron had said?
23. Pharaoh called Moses back (verse 16); was this real repentance? Was it repentance that leads to salvation? What did he really want?

**Exodus 10:21-29, Plague #9**

24. What was this 9<sup>th</sup> plague? Note the duration?
25. Again Pharaoh summoned Moses and again tried to negotiate. What is partial obedience really?
26. Pharaoh had rebelled against God for so long it had become his pattern for dealing with God. Even though he and his people had suffered much, he still remained obstinate. To what degree did Pharaoh foolishly go in taking his stand against Moses? Exodus 10:28

## *Application*

1. God had continued to show his mercy as he dealt with this obstinate ruler. Pharaoh had not humbled himself to God's command, and the plague on the livestock was about to be brought on Egypt, with a distinction between Israel and the Egyptians. God was merciful and gave Pharaoh the night to sleep on it. When God warns you of a change he desires and confirms it by his word, how should you respond? Do you continue on or adhere to God's loving correction? Does God really owe us another chance?
2. In Exodus 9:8-12, we saw God disable Pharaoh's advisors from being there to strengthen his rebellion. Has God graciously removed some of your worldly advisors? Are you sensitive to the fact that some relationships do not lead you closer to a right response to God?

3. One of the most dangerous problems with saying “no” to God is the fact that it gets easier and easier. Even though Pharaoh was seeing God’s power in increasing measure and his protection of Israel in amazing ways, what was his response? Have you personally experienced this? When is the best time to say “yes” to God?
4. Exodus 10:1-2 speaks of God’s miraculous and distinguishing signs that were performed in Egypt. He let them know that he expected them to share the stories of his mighty deliverance with their children and their children’s children. What stories are you sharing with your family? In what way are you passing on that our God is great and mighty to save? That he is loving and kind to wait patiently? That he is able to do all he has said he will do?
5. Pharaoh tried to hold on to his slave work force against all rational thinking. Have you been holding on to something when God has clearly said, “Let go”? Perhaps it is an object you don’t want to part with or a relationship that you know is not pleasing or a habit that is hindering your testimony. Why not simply obey today?  
*James 4:7-8a “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you....”*
6. Moses’ prayers were very effective. James 5:16 says, “*The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*” Do you have friends who pray effectively? Are you that kind of friend to others?
7. By now the Israelites should have been aware of God’s loving kindness and protection. God had sent 9 plagues on Egypt, with a distinction on his people Israel. Are you able to see God’s loving hand of protection on your life? Jot down a list of God’s blessings on you. If you are having trouble thinking of all you have to be thankful for, why not enlist the help of the Psalmist; read Psalms 139, and be prepared to be inspired.
8. When I am asked to describe my husband John or my children or grandchildren, I am at no loss for words. I love them and know them intimately. In order to have a close relationship with our God, we must know his character. What have you learned about the character of God so far in our study of Exodus?