

## Lesson 23: God Sent Plagues on Egypt; God Passed Over Israel

I was reading Psalm 105 earlier today and it opens with:

“Oh give thanks to the Lord; ‘call upon His name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wonderful works!”

That is one of the reasons why I’m doing this Firm Foundation series. I want to give thanks to the Lord, and I also want to make known his deeds among all people groups, and tell of his wonderful works! And that’s exactly what I’ll be telling you about today. We’re going to look at God’s wonderful works and all the amazing signs and miracles that God did to deliver His people from slavery in Egypt. The good news for you to keep in mind is....God hasn’t changed. He is still doing signs and wonders today. He is delivering people every day from bondage and slavery to the powers of darkness. Keep that in mind as we go through this lesson.

When the Book of Exodus begins, the Hebrews or the Israelites were living in Egypt and after some time they grew in number and the new Pharaoh didn’t remember Joseph and put them into slavery.

The Hebrew slaves had been reproducing so fast that the king felt threatened by a potential revolt against his authority. He gave orders that no more male Hebrew children should be allowed to live. To save the infant Moses, his mother made a little vessel of papyrus waterproofed with asphalt and pitch. She placed Moses in the vessel, floating among the reeds on the bank of the Nile River.

By God's providence, Moses-- the child of a Hebrew slave-- was found and adopted by an Egyptian princess, the daughter of the Pharaoh himself. He was reared in the royal court as a prince of the Egyptians: *"And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds"* (Acts 7:22). At the same time the Lord determined that Moses should be taught in his earliest years by his own mother. This meant that he was founded in the faith of his fathers, although he was reared as an Egyptian (Ex. 2:1-10).

Moses was educated in a civilization unsurpassed by any people at that time. His training was designed to prepare him for a high office, or even the throne of Egypt. He became familiar with life at Pharaoh's courts and the pomp and grandeur of Egyptian religious worship. He was schooled in the writing and literary ideas of the time. He witnessed the administration of justice. When he was 40 years old, Moses became angry at an Egyptian taskmaster who was beating a Hebrew slave; he killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand (Ex. 2:12). When this became known, however, he feared for his own life and fled from Egypt to the desert land of Midian where he married a daughter of Jethro in agreement to tend Jethro's flocks.

After about 40 more years, God spoke to Moses from a bush that was on fire but didn't burn. God sent Moses back to Egypt to lead the Hebrews out of slavery, and into the land promised to Abraham.

This is where we pick up on today’s lesson, but as always, you can go to our website...[foundationstudy.weebly.com](http://foundationstudy.weebly.com) to download notes for today’s lesson.

First let's review Lesson 22: God Calls Moses Out to Deliver His People.

### REVIEW Questions :

1. Why did God decide to save the Israelites from slavery?
  - a. Because the Lord saw their suffering and heard their cries.
  - b. Because God loved them and planned to reveal His love and mercy to them.
  - c. Because the Lord had promised Abraham that He would make Abraham's descendants into a great nation and that, through them, the Deliverer would come into the world.
2. Why was the bush which Moses saw not being consumed although it was burning? **The bush was not consumed because the Almighty God was in the bush.**
3. What does the name of God, "I AM," mean? **It means that God is the self-existent one. He doesn't need anything or anyone. He was before the beginning of all things. Because He is the Creator of all things, everything is under His power, and He is totally independent of all things. It also means that God doesn't change; He's the same, yesterday, today and forever. He is also the source of all energy and power.**
4. Did God think that the Pharaoh of Egypt would release the Israelites immediately when Moses told him what the Lord had said? **No, He knew that the king would not free the Israelites until he had to. God knows everything.**
5. Did the Israelites believe that the Lord had sent Moses? **Yes, they did.**
6. Is God pleased with and will He accept those who do not believe what He says? **No, God rejects and punishes all who treat Him as if He were a liar.**

### A. Introduction

**Today's lesson starts with the Israelites enslaved in Egypt by a powerful pharaoh.**

- Probably none of us have been enslaved as the Israelites were. Some of you may think of the slavery we had here in the U.S. when we were just starting out as a nation, but slavery has existed from the earliest times of mankind, and slavery is still in existence in other countries today—it is estimated that upwards of 35 million people are enslaved in countries like Thailand, Indonesia, Haiti, the Congo, Nigeria, Russia, Pakistan, China and India.
- But in another sense, all of us have been enslaved to sin.
- Also, in today's lesson, we're going to see the fulfillment of what God spoke to Abraham in **Genesis 15:13-14 (ESV)**
  - <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.
  - <sup>14</sup> But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

- In this lesson, the Hebrew people have been in Egypt for 400 yrs, and they are now enslaved and afflicted by the pharaoh. But in this lesson, we're going to see their deliverance just as God promised to Abraham. Because God always does what He says He will do.

Let's take a look at how God worked deliverance for the Israelites.

## **B. Pharaoh refused to obey God's command given through Moses and Aaron.**

**Theme: God communicates with man.**

**Theme: Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.**

READ **Exodus 5:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'"

<sup>2</sup> But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."

God used Moses and Aaron to speak to the king of Egypt, but Pharaoh refused to obey the Lord's command. (Note: Pharaoh was the title given to all the rulers of Egypt during this period. We are not told in the Bible which pharaoh was in power when Moses became Israel's leader.)

Pharaoh did not know the only true and living God and Creator of the whole earth.

The Egyptians did not worship God; they worshiped the things that God had made.

- They worshiped the Nile, the largest river in their country.
- They also worshiped the sun, moon, and many different kinds of animals.
- They had many, many gods.
- In addition, the Egyptians worshiped Pharaoh, their king, as a god. In fact, the reason that the pyramids were built was to provide a tomb for the Pharaohs and their queens. You've heard the saying, 'you can't take it with you.' In other words, you've never seen a hearse pulling a U-Haul trailer loaded with furniture, TVs, and belongings. Why? Because we all know that you can't take it with you when you die. But the ancient Egyptians didn't believe that. The pharaoh believed that his death was an extension to a journey of eternal life. In order to become a 'being' of the afterworld, it was important that the pharaoh's body be safeguarded and recognizable by his spirit. This in turn led to the process of mummification. The process itself consisted of being embalmed, then wrapped in fine linen. Once this process of mummification was complete, the pharaoh was buried with his most prized possessions such as jewelry, statues, furniture, clothing—all of which would aid him in his afterlife.
- Because the Egyptians didn't want to know God, they became foolish in their understanding about Him. They worshiped a man and different kinds of animals. If they would have inquired of God, He would have taught them that idols are false gods and that the God of Abraham and Israel is the only true and living God, but Pharaoh did not want to listen.

Because the majority of the people of the world had turned to worship idols and had lost the true understanding of God, God called Abraham and made him the father of the nation of Israel.

- God did this so that, through Israel, He could preserve the true knowledge of God.
- Through them, God planned to make known the truth about Himself to all other people of the world.
- The truth about God is in this book, the Bible, which God gave through the Israelites.

### C. Through Pharaoh's rebellion, the Lord purposed to show Israel that He was their God.

**Theme: God communicates with man.**

The generation of Israelites living in Egypt when Moses returned there had not seen any evidence of the Lord's greatness and power.

- They had only heard about the Lord and what He had done for Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.
- Now the Lord was going to use this evil Pharaoh and his rebellion to display God's power and wisdom to this generation of Israelites so that they would know that He was still the almighty and caring God of Israel.

#### **Exodus 6:1-8 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

<sup>2</sup> God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them.

<sup>4</sup> I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners.

<sup>5</sup> Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant.

<sup>6</sup> Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.

<sup>7</sup> I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

<sup>8</sup> I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'"

### D. Through Pharaoh's rebellion, the Lord planned to show the Egyptians that He alone is the true and living God.

**Theme: God communicates with man.**

God also planned to show the Egyptians that - He alone is the true and living God with power over the whole earth.

- The gods whom they trusted and worshiped were unable to protect them from the God of Israel.

#### **Consider:**

*Among the Egyptians were intelligent, highly-skilled people: capable writers, mathematicians, chemists, military and civilian leaders, architects, artists, craftsmen, etc. But spiritually, they were totally blind and foolish. Though they held Israel in slavery, the Egyptians themselves were the ones hopelessly enslaved—held captive and completely subservient to Satan.*

*Soon they would know that the God of Israel was alive, powerful, and able to set His people free.*

**Consider:**

*It may be easy for us to see the folly in Egypt's worship. But remember, Satan had deceived them in a way that they would accept in their day and culture. He is still doing the same thing to people today. Some of the brightest, smartest and most creative people today are enslaved to sin and deception. They are caught up in false religion like Scientology where they pay thousands of dollars to try to get "clear" of all their sins, but it doesn't work. Instead of going to God and getting right with him, they lie on a psychiatrist's couch, forking out a couple of hundred dollars or more an hour to try to get their lives straightened out, but it's all in vain. No matter how many awards or trophies are bestowed on you as an actor, or athlete, you still can't escape the guilt of your sin or the emptiness of a life being lived without God.*

**Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.**

Because Pharaoh was determined to fight against God, God planned to use this wicked king to display His mighty power and terrible judgment on all those who rebel against Him.

**Exodus 7:3-5 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt,

<sup>4</sup> Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment.

<sup>5</sup> The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them."

This should be a warning to all of us.

- We cannot ignore or fight against God and escape His punishment.
- No one who fights against God can win or escape punishment.

**E. The Lord sent nine plagues on Egypt.**

**Theme: God is all-powerful.**

Because the king of Egypt refused to release the Israelites, the Lord began to show His great power.<sup>1</sup> Because of time, we will not read all the details of what happened. But if you want to take the time on your own, you will find the story in Exodus 7:14-10:29.

- First, the Lord turned the water in their river into blood.
- Next, He sent plagues of frogs, lice (gnats), and flies.
- Then God caused the Egyptians' horses, cattle, sheep, camels, and donkeys to become sick.
- Next, the Lord caused all the Egyptians to have terrible boils.
- This was followed by a terribly destructive hailstorm, a plague of locusts, and
- Three days of thick darkness in all the places where the Egyptians were living.

Pharaoh and the Egyptian people could not save themselves from these terrible plagues sent by the Lord.

Neither could their false gods save them.

I want you to also take note of the fact that each of the plagues pointed to the false gods of the Egyptians—for example, their frog god, their sun god, and their storm god.

**Theme: God is loving, merciful, and gracious.**

But for the Lord's mercy and love to the Israelites, they, too, would have suffered the plagues. The Lord protected the Israelites so that none of these terrible things happened to any of them, even though they were living nearby in the same country.

- The Lord didn't protect the Israelites because they were without sin or because they deserved His care.
- He protected them because of His love, mercy, and grace.

**Theme: God is faithful; He never changes.**

- Another reason why God protected the Israelites was that God had not forgotten His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

God chose Abraham and promised to bless him and to make his descendants into a great nation and promised that He would be their God. Although hundreds of years had passed and the Israelites were now slaves in Egypt, God still claimed the Israelites as His special people because they were the descendants which God had promised to Abraham.

**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

- God also protected Israel from the plagues so that the king of Egypt would realize that the God of Israel was the only true and living God in the whole earth.
- God is supreme and sovereign.
- He does whatever He chooses to do.

**Theme: Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.**

**With each of the plagues, the pattern of response was the same:**

- Each time the Lord sent a plague on Egypt, Pharaoh called for Moses and asked him to remove the plague.
- Pharaoh claimed that he would then let Israel go.
- When Pharaoh said that he would allow the Israelites to go free, the Lord removed the plague.
- But as soon as the Lord removed the plague, Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the Israelites leave Egypt.
- Every time Pharaoh did this, he became more hard-hearted and proud.

## **F. The Lord's last judgment on the Egyptians**

**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

**Theme: God is everywhere all the time; He knows everything.**

Although the Lord had already sent nine terrible plagues on the rebellious Egyptians, the pharaoh of Egypt still refused to obey the Lord and let the Israelites go free.

God knew all along that Pharaoh would be stubborn and would refuse to release the Israelites.

- Even before He sent Moses back to Egypt, God had told Moses that this would happen.
- God is never surprised by what people do or by what happens.

- He always knows everything before it happens, and He always has His plan worked out so that He always wins, no matter what people say or do.
- This wicked king could not stop God from delivering the descendants of Abraham.
- The Lord knew that, after this final plague, Pharaoh would release the Israelites.

### **Exodus 11:4-7 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> So Moses said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt,

<sup>5</sup> and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle.

<sup>6</sup> There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.

<sup>7</sup> But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.’

## **G. The Lord’s instructions to Moses**

**Theme: God communicates with man.**

God told Moses how the Israelites must prepare for the final and most terrible plague of all.

**Theme: Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.**

The Israelites were also sinners and deserved to die for their sins.

**Theme: God is loving, merciful, and gracious.**

They also would have suffered through this last terrible judgment if it had not been for the Lord’s mercy and grace.

**Theme: God is faithful; He never changes.**

God remembered His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

- God had promised to take Abraham’s descendants back to the land which God had given to them.
- It was now God’s chosen time to do this.

This is what the Lord told Moses that the Israelites must do in order to save their firstborn children from death:

### **1. They must choose a lamb without blemish.**

**Theme: God is holy and righteous.**

### **Exodus 12:1-5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,

<sup>2</sup> “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.

<sup>3</sup> Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household.

<sup>4</sup> And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb.

<sup>5</sup> Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the

goats,

The head of each home had to choose a lamb or goat. The lamb or goat had to be without blemish.

**Recall:**

*Do you remember the ram that was to be offered instead of Isaac? It was caught by the horns in a thorny bush. Why was it caught by the horns? God is perfect, and everything that He says and does is perfect. He would never accept as an offering an animal that was sick or hurt.*

**2. They must kill the lamb and catch its blood in a basin.**

**Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.**

**Exodus 12:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

The lamb was to be kept until the day specified by the Lord, which was the fourteenth day of the month. They were to kill the lamb in the evening of that day.

The lamb must die. Its blood, on which its life depended, must be allowed to flow out. This was to remind the Israelites that the punishment for sin is death.

**Recall:**

*Now remember, until Adam and Eve sinned, there was no death in the world. But when Adam and Eve were separated from God because of their disobedience, God said that their bodies must also die.*

*All of Adam and Eve's descendants were born sinners, separated from God. That is why all people must also die physically, including you and me. If there were no sin in the world, there would be no physical death. If there were no sin, there would be no separation from God in the everlasting fire prepared for Satan and his followers.*

**Explain:**

*When the Israelites killed the lambs and the blood flowed out, the people were reminded that the punishment for sin is death. Just as the ram died instead of Isaac, the perfect lambs which were chosen and killed by the Israelites died instead of their firstborn children.*

**3. They must place the blood on both of the doorposts and above the door.**

**Exodus 12:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.

God told the Israelites to catch the blood in a basin. Then they were to take a small branch of a certain bush and dip it into the blood.

With this bush, they were to put the blood on both sides of the door and over the door of the house where they were going to be eating the lamb on that night.

It was the blood of the lamb on the doorpost that would save the firstborn from God's judgment.

#### **4. They must stay inside the house on which they had placed the blood.**

They must not go out of the house until the morning.

#### **Exodus 12:21-22 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb.

<sup>22</sup> Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.

*The Israelites were to stay inside their houses on which they had placed the blood. It was just as if they were to hide behind the death and blood of the lamb which God said they must kill in place of the firstborn.*

#### **5. They must not break any of the lamb's bones.**

They were not to break the bones of the animal when they killed it or ate it.

#### **Exodus 12:46-47 (ESV)**

<sup>46</sup> It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the flesh outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones.

<sup>47</sup> All the congregation of Israel shall keep it.

#### **Theme: Man can come to God only according to God's will and plan.**

These were God's instructions for Israel.

They had to do everything exactly as the Lord had told Moses.

*Remember--God has always been the same. He will not let people save themselves in their own way. This is not a "Do it yourself Religion" or "Have it your way" God.*

*Do you remember that He refused to accept the clothing that Adam and Eve made for themselves in the garden of Eden?*

*God also refused the offering that Cain brought because it was not according to His instructions. God told Noah to make the ark exactly as He had instructed him. In the same way, everything had to be done by the Israelites exactly as God had instructed Moses.*

*And God is still the same. He has not changed. We cannot come to God according to our own ideas or the ideas of any other person. We can only come to God according to His way. Remember there was ONLY one door into the ark. **Only one entrance.** You couldn't get into the ark any other way—you had to come through the one door. If we don't come the way God says, then He will never accept us.*

## H. The Lord's promise to the Israelites

### Exodus 12:12-14 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup> "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

God promised the Israelites that, when He saw the blood on their houses, He would not allow the plague to enter and kill their firstborn.

## I. Israel's faith and obedience

**Theme: Man must have faith in order to please God and be saved.**

- Consider:

*How would you feel if this was going to happen here? You can well imagine the tremendous fear of God that swept through the Israelites. They knew God meant what He said. They believed and obeyed the Lord.*

### Exodus 12:28 (ESV)

<sup>28</sup> Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

**Theme: Man can come to God only according to God's will and plan.**

**Consider this:**

*What do you think would have happened if an Israelite had said, "I'm not going to kill one of my good lambs. I have a sick one. That will do." Do you think God would have accepted the blood of a sick lamb?*

*Or, what if another man reasoned, "It's a shame to kill this good lamb. I won't kill it. I will just tie it up at the door. God will see the living lamb, and He will not kill my child by the plague." Do you think God would have passed by the firstborn of that house? No! The lamb had to die. The blood must be shed. They must not forget that the punishment for sin is death. It all had to be done the way God had told Moses.*

The Israelites were to trust in God who had told them that, when He saw the blood on the doorposts of their houses, their firstborn children and the firstborn of their livestock would not die.

## J. All the Egyptians' firstborn died.

**Theme: Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.**

**Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.**

### **Exodus 12:29-30 (ESV)**

<sup>29</sup> At midnight the LORD struck down 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 the livestock.

<sup>30</sup> And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead.

Every firstborn Egyptian child and the firstborn of all the Egyptians' livestock died.

#### **- Consider:**

*The punishment for sin is death. But we must remember that the punishment for sin is not only physical death but also everlasting separation from God in the lake of fire.*

#### **Theme: God is faithful; He never changes.**

The Lord passed through Egypt just as He said He would.

- He always does what He says. He doesn't merely threaten and then not carry out His threats.

#### **Reference**

- When God decides to punish sinners, there is no way to escape.
- Because the Israelites had put the blood on their houses in obedience to the Lord, not one of their firstborn children or livestock died.
- God always does what He says.
- He said He would destroy the firstborn in the Egyptian homes, and He did.
- He said He would pass over every house where He saw the blood, and He did.
- The Lord can be trusted to do everything He says.

Consider this:

*Had Pharaoh been warned? Yes! He had! All of the other nine plagues that the Lord had promised to send had come, just as announced by Moses. Pharaoh's refusal to yield to God cost him and all Egypt not only their livestock and crops, but now also their firstborn sons! Because Pharaoh refused to believe God, he and all Egypt paid a horribly tragic price. But even more tragic is the eternal price they would pay for their unbelief: separation from God forever in the Lake of Fire.*

### **K. Pharaoh told the Israelites to go.**

**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

### **Exodus 12:31-36 (ESV)**

<sup>31</sup> Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said.

<sup>32</sup> Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!"

<sup>33</sup> The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead."

<sup>34</sup> So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders.

<sup>35</sup> The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing.

<sup>36</sup> And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Pharaoh called Moses that very night and told him to take the Israelites out of Egypt.

Pharaoh thought that he could fight against God and that God couldn't make him give in, but no one can fight against the Lord and win.

## L. Conclusion

We are fortunate to have this story. We do not need to refuse God as Pharaoh did. We can learn from this awful tragedy to believe God and to believe His Word. God has not changed.

- He still requires that we believe Him.
- He still judges sin.
- And He still keeps His promises. Remember this started out as a promise that God made to Abraham in Genesis 15.

The Lord delivered His people just as He had promised He would. God will punish those who fight against Him, but He will show His mercy and give His peace to those who trust Him.

## QUESTIONS:

1. What did Pharaoh say when Moses told him that the Lord God of Israel commanded him to let Israel go? *Pharaoh said, "I don't know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go."*
2. Did the king's answer surprise the Lord? *No, the Lord knew that Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go immediately.*
3. Does anything which a person says, thinks, or does take the Lord by surprise? *No, He knows everything before it ever happens.*
4. How did God plan to use this wicked king? *God planned to use this proud king to show everyone that the God of Israel is the only true and living God and that He is almighty.*
5. How did the Lord show His power? *The Lord sent great and terrible plagues on the Egyptians.*
6. What were those plagues? *The Lord turned the river to blood. He sent frogs, gnats, and flies. He destroyed the Egyptians' horses, cattle, sheep, camels, and donkeys. He also sent boils, hailstorms, locusts, and total darkness.*
7. Why didn't these plagues also come on the Israelites?
  - a. *Because of the Lord's love and grace.*
  - b. *Because God had not forgotten His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that He would make their descendants into a great nation and that He would be their God.*
  - c. *So that the king of Egypt would realize that the God of Israel was the only true and living God in the whole earth and that He does whatever He chooses.*
8. Did the Israelites deserve to be protected like this? *No, they, too, were sinners and deserved God's judgment.*
9. What did Pharaoh do each time the Lord sent a plague? *Pharaoh claimed to have changed his mind and asked Moses to remove the plague.*

10. What did Pharaoh do when the Lord removed the plague? *Pharaoh changed his mind, hardened his heart, and refused to allow Israel to leave.*
11. Was the Lord surprised? *No, He knew what the king would do.*
12. Was the king of Egypt able to win against God? *No.*
13. Can anyone fight against God and win? *No.*
14. What was the last judgment which God sent on the Egyptians?  
*God sent a plague which killed the firstborn in every Egyptian family and the firstborn of all their livestock.*
15. What did God tell the Israelites to do so their firstborn children would not die?
- a. They must choose a lamb without blemish.*
  - b. They must kill the lamb and catch its blood in a basin.*
  - c. They must place the blood on both doorposts and above the door.*
  - d. They must stay inside the house on which they had placed the blood.*
  - e. They must not break any of the lamb's bones.*
16. What would have happened if the Israelites had not done everything exactly as God instructed Moses? *Their firstborn children would also have been killed.*
17. Who is the only one who can tell us how we can come to God and be accepted by Him? *God.*
18. What happened in the Egyptian homes on that night when God said that He would kill the firstborn of every family? *God killed them just as He said He would.*
19. What was God's promise to the Israelites? *God promised them that, when He saw the blood on either side of and above their doors, He would pass over them.*
20. What happened to the Israelites? *All of their children were safe. None of them died.*
21. Why didn't the Israelite children die?
- a. Because the Israelites did what God said and placed the blood on their houses.*
  - b. Because God is trustworthy, He kept His promise and passed over their houses.*
22. Does God always do what He says? *Yes, when He says He will punish sin, He always does it. When He makes a promise to those who trust in Him, He always keeps it.*
23. What did Pharaoh, the king, tell Moses after the Egyptians' firstborn children died? *Pharaoh told Moses to take all the Israelites out of Egypt.*

***Next Lesson 24: God Delivered Israel at the Red Sea***