

Lesson 3 – Exodus 5-10

Text: Exodus 5-10

Main Characters: God, Moses, Aaron, Pharaoh

Key Passages:

- Exodus 5:1-2 – God demanded that Pharaoh let His people go; Pharaoh refused.
- Exodus 5:20-21 – The Hebrew people lost hope in God. This will be a running theme in Exodus.

List:

The 10 Plagues

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|-------------------|----------|---------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1. Water to blood | 3. Lice | 5. Cattle die | 7. Hail | 9. Thick darkness |
| 2. Frogs | 4. Flies | 6. Boils | 8. Locusts | 10. Firstborn die |

Main Storyline:

After telling the Israelites all that God had said and showing them the signs God had given, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and commanded him to let the people go and worship the Lord. Pharaoh not only denied their request, but he decided that, since the request was made in the first place, the Israelites must not have had enough work to do. As punishment, he commanded his taskmasters to stop providing straw for the Israelites, who were making bricks. The Israelites still needed to make the same number of bricks, but would also need to start finding their own straw. The Hebrew foremen were beaten because they could not perform this unreasonable task. They, as well as Moses, began to lose their faith that God would keep His promise and deliver them from Egypt.

God reassured Moses that He was going to deliver Israel just as He had promised. He told Moses to go back to Pharaoh and, once again, command him to release Israel, though God reminded him that Pharaoh would still not release the people, and that his heart would be hardened. God also told Moses to have Aaron throw his staff on the ground so it would become a snake. This would be another sign to Pharaoh that Moses was truly from God. When Moses and Aaron did this, Pharaoh reacted just as God promised he would. Pharaoh also called his magicians, who were able to turn their staffs into snakes as well through some trickery (though Aaron's snake ate the magicians' snakes).

As a result of Pharaoh's hard-heartedness, God began to bring down a series of plagues upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Moses came to Pharaoh before each plague, demanding that the people be allowed to go into the wilderness to serve God. When Pharaoh refused, Moses (through God) brought down increasingly severe plagues upon the people. The first three plagues affected all of Egypt, including the Israelites, but the remaining seven plagues only affected the Egyptians. Also, the magicians were able to duplicate the first two plagues, but when they saw the plague of lice, they told Pharaoh that it was the finger of God that was in action. After the seventh plague (hail), even Pharaoh's servants protested, as they recognized that Egypt had been destroyed by the plagues. However, none of these demonstrations of God's power affected Pharaoh, however; his heart grew increasingly harder and he refused to let Israel go.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) We must learn to truly believe what God has revealed in His Word; He will keep His promises.
- 2.) We cannot forget what God has done for us and for others (Deuteronomy 6:1-12).
- 3.) Sooner or later, God will force everyone, even His enemies to acknowledge Him (Isaiah 45:23).
- 4.) If we dislike something because of our desires, we will not be convinced of it. When men disregard God's Word, He gives them up to their own delusions (Romans 1:16-32).