

Bi121 Old Testament

Lesson Bi121- 21 The Last Plagues and Passover (Ex 10-12)

People who do the same things over and over should not be surprised when they get the same results. If you want a different outcome, you must try a different method or behavior. In this lesson Pharaoh continued to do the same thing, hardening his heart and saying no to Moses and Aaron. God, knowing what Pharaoh's response was going to be, continued to perform miraculous signs and the result was more destruction in Egypt.

Moses went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what God says, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself? If you do not let the Israelites go, I will send locusts like you have never seen. They will cover the land and fill your houses; they will eat everything that was not destroyed by the hail.'"

Pharaoh's officials begged him, "Please let the people go to worship their God. Do you not yet realize that Egypt is ruined?"

So Pharaoh said to Moses, "Go, worship the Lord your God, but only the men may go."

Moses replied, "No; when we leave, we will take everyone with us—men and women, young and old. We will also take our animals." Pharaoh became angry and had them thrown out of his court.

Then Moses stretched out his staff, and the locusts came on a strong east wind which blew all that day and night. Never had such a swarm of locusts invaded Egypt. They ate every green thing in the land until it was stripped bare. They covered the ground until it looked black and invaded the houses.

Pharaoh quickly called for Moses. He said, "I have sinned against God and against you. Pray to your God to take this deadly plague away." As before, Moses prayed to God to remove the plague. God changed the wind to a strong westerly direction, which carried the locusts into the Red Sea. Not one remained. But when they were gone, Pharaoh again turned his heart against God and the Israelites.

God then told Moses to stretch his hand toward the sky so that darkness covered the land of Egypt. This was a direct insult to Pharaoh, who was seen as the son of the sun-god Ra, one of the chief deities of Egypt. The darkness was so thick, the people could feel it; they could see nothing. It lasted for three days. Still, the Israelites had light in the places where they lived. Pharaoh called Moses to him and said, "I will allow your people to go worship in the desert, but leave behind your flocks and herds."

Moses shook his head. "No! We will take everyone and everything, including the animals for our burnt offerings. Not a hoof is to be left behind."

Pharaoh once again rebelled and changed his mind. “I am not letting the people go. Now get out of here and do not ever come back! Mark my word. If I ever see your face again, you will die!”

So Moses replied, “About midnight I will go throughout Egypt and every firstborn son of every family will die—from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, down to the firstborn of the lowest slave and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt, but among the Israelites not a dog will bark. Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.”

Moses told the people that God was sending one more plague. After that Pharaoh would drive them out. Through Moses God instructed, “Go to your neighbors and ask them for articles of gold and silver, clothing and all you will need for your journey. On the tenth day of this month each man is to take for his family a one-year-old male lamb with no defects. On the fourteenth day you must slaughter them at twilight.

“Take some of the blood and paint it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the house where you are eating. Roast the meat of the lamb over the fire and eat it with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast. Keep your coats and sandals on, as if in a hurry. On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are. When I see the blood, I will pass over you and will not kill your firstborn” (Ex 12:1-13).

The Israelites did exactly as God had instructed. That night, the Lord sent a band of destroying angels across the land of Egypt and struck down the firstborn of every household, from Pharaoh’s palace to the dungeon to the livestock in the pens (Psa 78:49). There was loud wailing in the night, because every house had someone dead. Yet, the Lord passed over the houses of the Israelites when he saw the blood on their doorposts.

In the middle of the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron, “Go! Go worship the Lord! Take your people, your flocks and herds, as you have asked. And also bless me.” The Egyptians wanted the people to go because they were afraid that they might all die! They gave the Israelites everything they asked for—gold, silver and clothing and so they plundered the Egyptians.

More than 600,000 Hebrew men, plus their wives and children, and even some of the Egyptians walked out from Goshen as far as Succoth, possibly about 32 kilometers (20 miles). They drove their large herds of cattle and flocks of sheep with them as well. The next morning the women baked bread without yeast, because they had left their homes before the yeast could be added. The Israelites had lived in Egypt exactly 430 years since Joseph’s day.

From then on, the Israelites were to observe the Lord’s Passover every year on the 14th day of the first month. It was to be a reminder of what God did for them that night; of His mighty deliverance from their slavery in Egypt.

This story is **important** because it reveals that eventually judgment will fall on the enemies of God, but He will deliver His children who call on Him from slavery and darkness. Pharaoh is an example of a person who does not really repent. He was sorry for the consequences of his sin, but would not turn in faith towards God.

The main **truth** of this story is that God is long-suffering with sinners, but if they do not really repent they will suffer loss, in this life and in eternity. Human rebellion and disobedience always bring death and destruction.

To **review** this lesson, answer these questions.

1. What did the people ask their Egyptian neighbors to give them?
 - a. [Pause]. If you said, "They requested from them gold and silver, clothing, and all they would need for your journey," you are correct.
2. What plague caused even Pharaoh to force the people to leave Egypt?
 - a. [Pause]. If you said, "The Lord moved across the land of Egypt and killed the firstborn of every household" you are correct.
3. What is the name of the Jewish festival that celebrates their liberation from Egypt?
 - a. [Pause]. If you said, "The festival of Passover," you are correct.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to listen to the story at least three times. As you hear the story each time, imagine how it happened; see the events in your mind. Then tell the story in your own words as you remember it. Then listen to the story again and retell it until you feel sure you are repeating the circumstances and actions correctly. You should spend at least 45 minutes in learning the story. You may need to have someone check that you are telling the story correctly.

Tell this story to your friend. Ask them if they know anyone like Pharaoh, who is only sorry when he is caught doing wrong. Based on this story, ask what such a person must do to change? (They must realize fully what the consequence of their behavior and lack of faith will be, if they do not repent, ask for forgiveness, and believe in Jesus as their Savior.)