

“Deliverance From Egypt—Part 2”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with the series leading up to the Spring Feast days. The title of the presentation was: “Deliverance From Egypt—Part 2.”

The subtitle was “God Hardened Pharaoh’s Heart.”

Quick background

At the beginning of the Bible study, we went back to one of the concluding verses of the previous study.

■ Exodus 4:21—The Lord said to Moses: “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.” Although the Lord generally built a relationship with people based upon choices made, the example of Pharaoh is an example of the Lord micro-managing a situation.

■ Exodus 4:22-23—Moses quoted the Lord: “Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.

“Although the death of the firstborn did not occur until Exodus 12, the idea was stated in Exodus 4.”

Three ways Moses confronted Pharaoh

In the organization of this Bible study, I mentioned three approaches that Moses used with Pharaoh.

- God’s words—Exodus 5:1 to Exodus 7:7.
- God’s miracle—Exodus 7:8-13.
- God’s 10 plagues—Exodus 7:14 to Exodus 12:30.

God’s words

■ Exodus 5:1—Moses and Aaron quoted the Lord’s words to Pharaoh: “Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.”

- Exodus 5:2—Pharaoh responded: “Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go.”
- Exodus 5:3—Moses and Aaron said: “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days’ journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God—lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword.”
- Exodus 5:4-19—Pharaoh commanded that the children of Israel should work harder.
- Exodus 5:20-21—The people complained to Moses and Aaron.
- Exodus 5:22-23—Moses complained to the Lord.
- Exodus 6:1-10—The Lord told Moses to deliver His message.
- Exodus 6:11—Moses replied: “The children of Israel have not heeded me. How then shall Pharaoh heed me?”

God’s miracle

- Exodus 7:8-10—The Lord told Aaron to throw down his rod and it became a serpent.
- Exodus 7:11—Pharaoh’s sorcerers threw down their rods, and they became serpents.
- Exodus 7:12—Aaron’s rod swallowed their rods.
- Exodus 7:13—Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not listen to them (as the Lord had said).

First plague

- Exodus 7:14-25—The first plague was water becoming blood.
- Exodus 7:14—The Lord said to Moses: “Pharaoh’s heart is hard. He refuses to let the people go.
- Exodus 7:22—“Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the Lord had said.”

Second plague

- Exodus 8:1-15—The second plague was frogs.
- Exodus 8:8—Pharaoh said: “I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the Lord.”
- Exodus 8:15—When Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the Lord had said.

Third plague

- Exodus 8:16-19—The third plague was lice.
- Exodus 8:19—Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the Lord had said.

Fourth plague

- Exodus 8:20-32—The fourth plague was a swarm of flies.
- Exodus 8:28—Pharaoh said: "I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away."
- Exodus 8:32—But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.

Fifth plague

- Exodus 9:1-7—The fifth plague was livestock disease.
- Exodus 9:7—The heart of Pharaoh became hard, and he did not let the people go.

Sixth plague

- Exodus 9:8-12—The sixth plague was boils.
- Exodus 9:12—The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the Lord had spoken to Moses.

Seventh plague

- Exodus 9:13-35—The seventh plague was hail.
- Exodus 9:27-28—Pharaoh said to Moses and Aaron: "I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and my people and I are wicked. Entreat the LORD, that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer."
- Exodus 9:34-35—When Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart (he and his servants). So the heart of Pharaoh was hard; neither would he let the children of Israel go, as the Lord had spoken by Moses.

Eighth plague

- Exodus 10:1-20—The eighth plague was locusts.
- Exodus 10:1—The Lord said to Moses: "Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his servants, that I may show these signs of Mine before him."
- Exodus 10:8—Pharaoh said: "Go, serve the LORD your God. Who are the ones that are going?"
- Exodus 10:9—Moses replied—with the young and old, sons and daughters and flocks and herds.
- Exodus 10:10-11—Pharaoh said: "The LORD had better be with you when I let you and your little ones go. Beware, for evil is ahead of you . . . Go now . . . and serve the LORD, for that is what you desired."
- Exodus 10:16-17—Pharaoh said: "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the LORD your God, that He may take away from me this death only."

■ Exodus 10:20—But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go.

Ninth plague

■ Exodus 10:21-29—The ninth plague was darkness.

■ Exodus 10:24—Pharaoh said: “Go, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be kept back.”

■ Exodus 10:27—But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he would not let them go.

■ Exodus 10:28—Pharaoh said: “Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! For in the day you see my face, you shall die!”

Warning of 10th plague

■ Exodus 11:1-10—The Lord gave a warning of the 10th plague.

■ Exodus 11:1—The Lord said: “I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here.”

■ Exodus 11:9—The Lord said: “Pharaoh will not heed you, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.”

■ Exodus 11:10—Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart.

10th plague

■ Exodus 12:29-39—The 10th plague was the death of the firstborn.

■ Exodus 12:29—The Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt.

■ Exodus 12:31—Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron to leave.

■ Exodus 12:33—The people urged the children of Israel to leave.

Telling the story

■ Exodus 13:35—“And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt.”

Leaving Egypt

■ Exodus 14:4—The Lord told Moses: “I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army.”

■ Exodus 14:8—And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he pursued the children of Israel.

■ Exodus 14:17-18—The Lord said to Moses: “I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD.”