

Exodus Lesson 9 – Waters Turned to Blood

I. The Purpose of the Ten Plagues

God sent 10 plagues to Egypt to deliver His people out of Egyptian bondage. These plagues are not at all arbitrary, they were calculated and purposeful. Here we have an outline of seven purposes for the plagues that the Lord sends beginning with the water turning to blood:

A. The plagues were a manifestation of the power of God for the entire world to see.

Exodus 9:6 And the LORD did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one.

1. No other God could do such miracles.
2. The magicians could counterfeit a handful of them, but they couldn't reverse any of them.
3. There came a point at which the magicians couldn't replicate the wonders
4. The magicians even had to admit that it was "the finger of God"

Exodus 8:19 Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

B. The plagues were God's wrath demonstrated against Egypt for the way they treated the Jews.

1. The plagues begin the same place where Egyptians tried to kill every male Hebrew baby
2. 80 years prior Pharaoh's daughter had compassion and saved Moses there (Exodus 1:22).
3. Even Pharaoh had to admit that they had sinned against these people

Exodus 10:16 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste; and he said, I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you.

C. The Plagues showed God's judgment on Egypt's god's (or devils)

The plagues represented the judgment of the gods or (devils) of Egypt.

1. An idol is nothing (1 Corinthians 8:4),
2. But the Gentiles offer sacrifices to devils (I Corinthians 10:20),
3. These false gods and man-made idols represent unclean spirits that God judged

Numbers 33:4 For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments.

Numbers 33:5 And the children of Israel removed from Rameses, and pitched in Succoth.

D. The plagues testified to the superiority of the LORD God over the gods of the Egyptians.

1. Again, the magicians are limited as to what they can replicate
2. They are powerless to overturn the works of the one true God.
3. Remember what Jethro said after he observed Israel's deliverance?

Exodus 18:11 Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them.

Exodus 18:12 And Jethro, Moses' father in law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God: and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses' father in law before God.

E. These plagues provided a complete testing of human responsibility.

1. Pharaoh had the opportunity to avoid the full damage of the plagues and he refused.
2. The number ten, as in the Ten Commandments, has to do with full responsibility.

F. The plagues provided a proof to other nations of the Covenant that God made to Abraham

1. He would indeed curse those who cursed them.
2. This can be seen throughout the rest of the Old Testament (i.e. Joshua 2:8-9, 1 Samuel 4:8).

Joshua 2:8 And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof;

Joshua 2:9 And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

1 Samuel 4:8 Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

G. The plagues presented a series of tests for Israel as seen in Deuteronomy 4:33-34. These tests resulted in the humble confession of the greatness of their God in Exodus 15:11.

Exodus 15:9 The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

Exodus 15:10 Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

Exodus 15:11 Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Exodus 15:12 Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

Exodus 15:13 Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

Exodus 15:14 The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina.

II. The First Plagues

Exodus 7:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go.

Exodus 7:15 Get thee unto Pharaoh in the morning; lo, he goeth out unto the water; and thou shalt stand by the river's brink against he come; and the rod which was turned to a serpent shalt thou take in thine hand.

1. God is speaking to Moses – About the Pharaoh and his hardened heart
2. Moses is to meet Pharaoh at the Nile – Probably the exact spot where Moses had been saved 80 years before
3. Moses is to take his rod (The very one that had turned into a serpent)

Exodus 7:16 And thou shalt say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness: and, behold, hitherto thou wouldest not hear.

Exodus 7:17 Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.

Exodus 7:18 And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall lothe to drink of the water of the river.

1. Moses is to speak to Pharaoh at the river's brink in the morning
2. Moses is to tell him God said to let the Israelites go to serve God
3. To this point, Pharaoh had not "heard" God
4. God will perform this first plague, so Pharaoh will know God is LORD
 - a. God will smite with His rod – water will be turned to blood
 - b. The fish in the river will die
 - c. The river will stink
 - d. Egypt will not be able to drink river water

Exodus 7:19 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone.

1. God tells Moses to speak to Aaron
2. Aaron is to stretch out the rod over over the waters of Egypt
 - a. Upon the streams
 - b. Upon the rivers
 - c. Upon the ponds
 - d. Upon the pools of water both in wood and in stone vessels

Exodus 7:20 And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.

Exodus 7:21 And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

1. Moses and Aaron obeyed God in the sight of Pharaoh and servants
2. Waters turned to Blood

Exodus 7:22 And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.

1. With what little water the Egyptians had, Pharaoh's magicians turned into blood
2. Pharaoh's heart was hardened

Exodus 7:23 And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also.

Exodus 7:24 And all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink; for they could not drink of the water of the river.

1. Pharaoh went home
2. People digged around the river to find water to drink

Exodus 7:25 And seven days were fulfilled, after that the LORD had smitten the river.

Exodus 8:9 And Moses said unto Pharaoh, Glory over me: when shall I intreat for thee, and for thy servants, and for thy people, to destroy the frogs from thee and thy houses, that they may remain in the river only?

Exodus 8:10 And he said, To morrow. And he said, Be it according to thy word: that thou mayest know that there is none like unto the LORD our God.

Exodus 8:11 And the frogs shall depart from thee, and from thy houses, and from thy servants, and from thy people; they shall remain in the river only.

Exodus 8:12 And Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh: and Moses cried unto the LORD because of the frogs which he had brought against Pharaoh.

Exodus 8:13 And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; and the frogs died out of the houses, out of the villages, and out of the fields.

Exodus 8:14 And they gathered them together upon heaps: and the land stank.

Exodus 8:15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

1. The blood lasted 7 days when Moses spoke to Pharaoh again
2. Moses asked Pharaoh when he should go to the Lord to ease the plague
3. I do not know why, but Pharaoh answered tomorrow
4. Moses said it would be tomorrow then and Pharaoh would know there was no One like the LORD
 - a.) The frogs will depart
 - b.) The frogs will only remain in the river
5. And the frogs died out of the houses
6. And the frogs died out of the villages
7. Egyptians gathered the dead frogs in heaps
8. The land stank
9. Pharaoh's heart was again hardened

Exodus 8:16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

Exodus 8:17 And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

Exodus 8:18 And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast.

Exodus 8:19 Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

1. God instructs Moses to say to Aaron, telling him to stretch out his rod and smite the dust
2. The dust became lice
 - a. The dust became lice in man
 - b. The dust became lice in the beasts
3. This time when the magicians tried to produce lice, they could not
4. The magicians had to admit to Pharaoh that the plague was from the "finger of God"
5. Pharaoh's heart was again hardened
6. Pharaoh didn't even acknowledge his magicians

Bible Study Exodus Lesson Nine - Waters Turned to Blood

Exodus 8:20 And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he cometh forth to the water; and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Exodus 8:21 Else, if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thy houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground whereon they are.

Exodus 8:22 And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.

Exodus 8:23 And I will put a division between my people and thy people: to morrow shall this sign be.

1. God tells Moses to get down to the river early and speak to the Pharaoh
2. Tell Pharaoh the let the people go to serve the Lord
3. And if he will not, God will send swarms of flies as next plague
 - a. Flies upon thy servants
 - b. Flies upon thy people
 - c. Flies in your houses
4. God will sever Goshen where the Israelites were from Egypt – You will know I am LORD
5. Tomorrow will be this plague and the division between the camps

Exodus 8:24 And the LORD did so; and there came a grievous swarm of flies into the house of Pharaoh, and into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt: the land was corrupted by reason of the swarm of flies.

Exodus 8:25 And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land.

Exodus 8:26 And Moses said, It is not meet so to do; for we shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God: lo, shall we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us?

Exodus 8:27 We will go three days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the LORD our God, as he shall command us.

Exodus 8:28 And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away: intreat for me.

Exodus 8:29 And Moses said, Behold, I go out from thee, and I will intreat the LORD that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people, to morrow: but let not Pharaoh deal deceitfully any more in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD.

1. There were flies in Egypt from the LORD
2. Pharaoh has a compromise
 - a. Pharaoh says go ahead and sacrifice to your God in this land
 - b. Moses rejects that offer because he needs a three days journey to get away from the abominations of the Egyptians
 - c. Pharaoh says go ahead but do not go very far
3. Moses says he will contact God but don't deceive us again

Exodus 8:30 And Moses went out from Pharaoh, and intreated the LORD.

Exodus 8:31 And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; and he removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people; there remained not one.

Exodus 8:32 And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.

III. Lying Signs and Wonders:

As with the serpent in the previous confrontation the magicians of Pharaoh are able to replicate this sign on a smaller basis. The Lord has given the powers of darkness limited permission to perform the miraculous, and those lying signs and wonders are real (Revelation 16:14).

These are utilized by the Lord (at the hands of his enemies) to deceive those who reject the truth

II Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

II Thessalonians 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

II Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

II Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

II Thessalonians 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

II Thessalonians 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

II Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

II Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

II Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

II Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

II Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

II Thessalonians 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

However, Satan's power is always subject to God's and as such it is limited. What good did it do the Egyptians for the magicians to turn more water to blood? It wasn't sensible, but it provided all of the justification that Pharaoh's hard heart needed to refuse its instructions.

IV. Plagues and Prophecy:

This confrontation between Moses and Pharaoh has prophetic implications. There are many reasons to support the identity of the two witnesses of Revelation 11 as being Moses and Elijah, but this is probably the strongest indicator concerning Moses' identity

Revelation 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

Revelation 11:6. The water being turned to blood is repeated on an even larger scale during Tribulation

Revelation 8:8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

Revelation 16:4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.