

## Exodus 10 - 11

In our last lesson we told of the terrible hailstorm in Egypt. The huge hail had killed any animal or person outside and it had ruined the fruit trees and crops growing at that time. When Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, he asked them to pray that the hail would be stopped, and he promised to let the Israelites go. Moses prayed and the lightning stopped, the dark clouds blew away and the sun came out. God certainly answered Moses' prayers, didn't he?

The people began coming out of their homes to look at the ruined crops and dead animals. Pharaoh was looking out his windows and when he saw the sunshine and blue sky, he became angry. "This was just a bad storm," he thought, "It's gone now, why should I let my slaves leave their work to go worship a god I don't believe in." So, once again Pharaoh didn't keep his promise.

God again sent Moses and Aaron to the palace. The officials and servants were beginning to dread seeing Moses and Aaron. Many of them wished Pharaoh would just let the Israelites go and quite a few were beginning to believe that the God of the Israelites was more powerful than the silver and gold idols they worshipped.

"The Lord of the Hebrews says 'How long until you let my people go, so they may serve me?'" Moses and Aaron said to Pharaoh. "If you refuse to let them go, tomorrow I will bring locust into your land."

(Do you know what locust are? Locust is another name for grasshoppers which travel in large groups and eat every plant that they see).

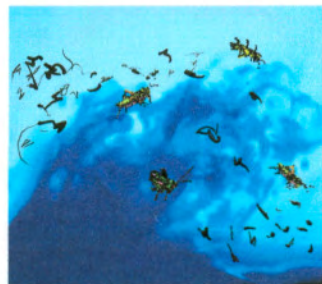


Moses said, "The locust will cover the face of the earth and eat anything that's left after the hailstorm. Every tree and plant will be eaten. The locust will fill your houses and this plague will be worse than anything that has come on Egypt before." Then Moses and Aaron turned and left the palace. Pharaoh's officials and servants looked anxious and asked Pharaoh, "How long will this man be a snare to us, don't you know that Egypt is destroyed? Let the men go to serve their God."

Pharaoh thought about it, if he just let the men go, they would have to return for their wives and children and animals would still be here. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron back. "Which ones of you plan on leaving Egypt to worship your God," he asked.

"All of us must go to worship God," Moses said, "The men and women and children and the flocks and herds." This made Pharaoh very angry. "No," he shouted, "The men may leave but the rest of the slaves must stay here with their flocks and herds." Then Pharaoh angrily ordered them out of the palace.

What do you think happened? Moses raised his rod into the air and a dark cloud began to appear low in the sky. Suddenly there were clouds and clouds of locust filling the land, the homes, the palace. Whirring wings and clacking and chewing noises were heard everywhere. An Egyptian couldn't move without stepping on hundreds of insects, he couldn't sit down without insect being smashed all over his clothes and their sticky feet clung to their hair, and clothes. Every green shoot or leaf on a tree that was left from the hail was devoured by the hungry insects. The land was being stripped of any kind of food that grew in the fields. Everywhere the Egyptians looked, there were masses of moving, jumping locust. It was a terrible plague that was ruining Egypt. Pharaoh quickly called for Moses and Aaron, "I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you," he said. Forgive my sin and pray for your God to take away this death from us."



Moses hoped that finally Pharaoh would keep his word, for the people of Egypt would never recover if these plagues kept on. Moses prayed to God and a strong wind began to blow. The wind blew the clouds of locust into the Red sea and the plague was stopped. Guess what? As soon as the locust were gone Pharaoh once again hardened his heart and refused to let the children of Israel leave. What a stubborn man he was, to refuse to obey God.

God told Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky." When Moses reached his hand up the sky began to turn dark, suddenly the whole land of Egypt was covered in thick, black, darkness.

Have you ever opened your eyes in the night and looked around your room? It is mostly dark, isn't it? However, you might be able to see shapes of the bed, a chair, a toy because of a street light outside, or because of the moon and stars. It's never so black you can't see anything at all, is it?

The darkness in Egypt was so black that you couldn't see your hand if it was right in front of your eyes. You couldn't see the shape of another person if they were standing right in front of you. This blackness was very scary, for it wasn't natural and no candle or light could burn

However in the land of Goshen where the Hebrew children of Israel lived, there was light. God was showing the Egyptians that his light was with his people and the Egyptians were in the dark! Even though it was the middle of the day, it was so dark that the Egyptians were blind. They could hear noises, they could feel movement near them but they couldn't see anything at all. They would reach out and try to find their way, then bump into things or stumble over another person. It was like a thick, black, wool blanket was over their faces. They would try to make a fire or light a candle but nothing would light. This terrible darkness lasted for three long days. Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, "Make this darkness go away," he pleaded. "Will you let our people go?" Moses asked. "Yes, go serve your Lord, you and your women and children...only leave your flocks and herds here." Pharaoh angrily shouted. Moses told Pharaoh that they needed to take the animals also, for they needed them for sacrifices to the Lord. This made Pharaoh very angry..."GET OUT!" He shouted, "Get away from me and don't let me ever see your face again!"

Moses replied, "You will never see me again, but because you won't obey the Lord, he will send one more plague, the most terrible plague of all. At midnight all the people of Egypt and even all the animals will lose their firstborn. All the firstborn in Egypt will die.

Do you know who the firstborn were? These were the oldest children in the house, the ones who were born first. They would also be the first puppy that a dog would have or the first calf that a cow would give birth to.

Who is the firstborn in your family?

Look at the picture - which of the children in this picture would be the firstborn? Which would be the last to be born?



Moses warned Pharaoh that the Egyptians would come and beg them to leave, but Pharaoh was too angry to listen. The people of Egypt had all learned that the God of the Hebrews was a very powerful God and they started giving their jewelry and gold and silver and fine clothing to the Israelite people, in hopes they would leave the land.

God then told Moses that the only way to keep the Israelite's firstborn safe was to mark the door of their houses so the angel of death would pass over their homes and no one inside would die. God gave Moses special instructions to give to the children of Israel.

The Israelite fathers were to choose a special lamb, one without any sores or bruises or sickness, one that was perfect. The lamb was to be killed and cooked for supper that night. While the mother was preparing the meat for the evening meal, the father was to take some of the lamb's blood and put the blood over the door and on each side of the door posts. The angel of death would see the blood and pass over that house. The firstborn in any home without the blood on the door posts would surely die. Moses told the Israelites that from this time on, they would have a special feast called a "Passover" every year to remember the time when God passed over their homes and kept them safe.



Many of the Jewish people still keep the Passover feast today. It is close to the holiday we call Easter.

The Passover lamb is to make people think of Jesus. Do you know why? Jesus lived a good life and he had no sins, just like the lamb had no bruises or sores. Jesus would be killed on the cross as a sacrifice to save others, just like the lamb was killed as a sacrifice and its blood over the door saved those within the house. When the people celebrate the Passover feast, they think back to the lamb sacrifice and then think of Jesus who made a sacrifice to save people from eternal death. People will die, but it's just like being asleep for awhile and they will get up again when Jesus returns to earth and raises them from the dead. This is a wonderful thing God promised to those who believe in Jesus and try to live right.

Your memory verse for this lesson is **John 3:16**

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."** This is the wonderful promise God gave to us. When you have learned the verse put a check mark in the gold box





Moses told the people to be prepared, for they would finally be leaving Egypt for good. All during that day the Israelites gathered together what few things they could easily carry. Some may have had carts or wagons and would get their oxen or donkeys ready to pull the carts. Some of the men and boys gathered their sheep and cattle in pens, ready to herd them when it came time to leave. Others made backpacks to carry their clothes and cooking utensils as well as the jewelry and articles of gold and silver that the Egyptians had given them. That night all the families stayed inside their homes that had the blood painted on the doorway. The women didn't have time to put leaven in the bread to make it fat and round.

so they baked "unleavened bread" (this was flat bread like a small pizza crust) along with the lamb meat roasted over their fires. They ate standing up, dressed in their traveling clothes, with their cloaks and sandals on, ready to leave their homes and the land of Egypt as soon as they got the word from Moses.

What a dreadful night that was! All was dark and quiet, but suddenly there was a scream from one Egyptian's home, then crying and moaning from another. Dogs were barking and donkeys were braying. The firstborn of every single family had died, from the son of a servant girl to the firstborn son of Pharaoh in the palace. I wonder if any of the Egyptians thought back to the time when Pharaoh had ordered the people to throw the Israeli babies into the Nile river? The Egyptians had gladly killed Hebrew babies and now because they wouldn't obey God, their own sons were dead! Pharaoh and all his officials called Moses and begged them to leave Egypt. "Take your families and your herds and flocks of sheep, go before all of us are dead!" they pleaded. So the children of Israel quickly loaded up their things and hurriedly left the city and headed toward the top of the Red Sea where there was a highway toward the Sinai desert (look at the map below and see if you can find the names of Egypt, the Red Sea and the Sinai Desert). However, God told Moses not to take the highway, but instead to turn south and travel along the Red sea. This was confusing, for how would all these children of Israel get across the Red Sea? Moses wondered. You probably know how they crossed it, but we will save that story for our next lesson.



## Question Page

1. How many of the plagues can you name? In the list below, circle which ones are plagues that God sent on the Egyptians:  
Blindness frogs river turn to blood spiders locust river turn to mud  
mosquitos bees mice measles lions boils famine hail darkness
2. What did the hail do to all the plants that were growing in Egypt?
3. Name two things that were bad about the locust.
4. Circle the bread that is unleavened bread.    
5. Who had light in their homes during the three days of thick darkness?
6. What did Pharaoh say to Moses when the three days of darkness were over?  
(a) See you tomorrow (b) Never come here again (c) Bring us some of your candles
7. What did the Egyptian people give the Israelites when they got ready to leave?  
(a) Boats (b) Bread and grapes (c) Jewels, gold and silver articles and fine clothing
8. What kind of meat were the Israelites to eat on the night of the passover?  
(a) lamb (b) pork (c) hamburger
9. Where was the lambs blood put?  
(a) On the roof of the house (b) On the door (c) On the door posts
10. What did the lambs blood do for the people in the house?  
(a) Saved them from death (b) Decorated the house (c) Gathered other lambs nearby.
11. Who is the firstborn in a family?
12. What happened to all the firstborn of the Egyptians on the passover night?
13. Who are we to remember when we think of the Passover? (It's the one who can save us from eternal death...who is it?)

UNSCRAMBLE THE TEN PLAGUES OF EGYPT

L O D O B

Exodus 7:17

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S G R O F

Exodus 8:5

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E C I L

Exodus 8:16

\_\_\_\_\_

E S L I F

Exodus 8:24

\_\_\_\_\_

A I R N U R M

Exodus 9:3

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B L A N S I

Exodus 9:9

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I A L H

Exodus 9:22

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S T C U O L S

Exodus 10:12

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S S E N A R K D

Exodus 10:21

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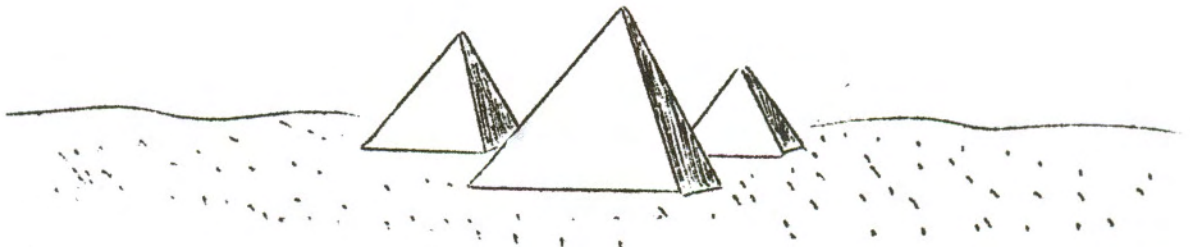
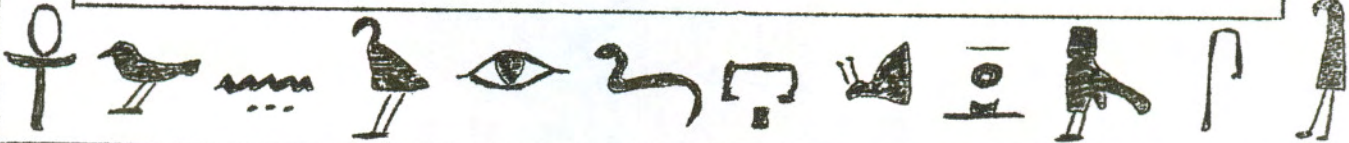
H E A D T F O I S R F T

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N O R B

Exodus 11:5

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circle the words in the word-find below the picture. Look up, down, backward, forward and diagonal.



SONS  
 ISRAEL  
 PEOPLE  
 BREAD  
 UNLEAVENED  
 OXEN  
 BLOOD  
 DOORPOST  
 GOD  
 LAMB  
 PASSOVER

G	E	D	K	O	A	P	U	C	D
I	L	O	O	D	E	A	N	U	E
S	S	O	X	E	N	E	L	R	M
E	S	R	B	T	D	A	E	R	B
B	V	P	A	O	M	V	A	E	E
L	S	O	G	E	O	X	V	M	L
O	A	S	K	S	L	V	E	R	P
O	N	T	S	M	P	I	N	M	O
D	E	A	S	O	N	S	E	O	E
P	P	B	M	A	L	J	D	G	P



Why are you sitting here looking so sad, Abraham Ant?

because I'm just a No-body!

No one pays any attention to ANTS!

They step on us, brush us off, and tear down our homes



You shouldn't feel bad, look - your friends are busy and happy in their work

Aw, they are just too dumb to stop and think how un-important they are

There's my Dad, lets go tell him how sad you are



Why Abraham ant, you shouldn't feel sad. Ants are mentioned in the most important book in the world!

gee - what book is that?

The Bible... God's book. The wise man, King Solomon said ants were very small, but exceedingly wise. He told the lazy people to go watch the ants and learn wisdom from them.

I guess we should have known everything God creates is good and has a use. Right Abraham?

Right MATTHEW. I feel much better now! I think I'll go help my friends gather in food

