

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## EXODUS 8-11

There's a website, ["FrogGifts.com"](http://FrogGifts.com) Where frog lovers shop. There you can purchase a vast array of **frog paraphernalia**... *frog tote bags, frog boxer shorts, frog watches, frog staplers, frog socks, frog handbags, frog car mats.* *There's so much frog stuff you want to croak!*

Well, that's how the Pharaoh felt when he refused to allow the Hebrews to go free. *He gets his fill of frogs.*

After God turned the Nile River to blood, the Pharaoh hardened his heart, and it caused God to bring a second plague on Egypt – *a proliferation of frogs...*

And with that *let's leap into verse 1...* "And the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs."

Frogs usually came with the flooding of the Nile, and were a symbol of prosperity. The Egyptian goddess, *Heqt*, was personified as a frog. She had a human body, but the head of a frog. In Egypt, if you kissed a frog rather than a Prince, you got the Princess Heqt.

As we mentioned last week God's ten plagues weren't random events, each plague targeted one of Egypt's false gods. **Numbers 33:4** tells us, that "On their gods the LORD had executed judgments..."

*And if God brought down their gods, why would he be any less harsh on today's idols.* Our world worships money. Would God crash the stock market, or riddle us with inflation, or lower the value of the dollar? The same for sex, pleasure, sports, any contemporary idol.

God is willing and able to prove His superiority over the false gods of this world. And if He did it in Egypt in Moses' day; then He can do it in our world today.

"So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed..." Imagine climbing into bed, and frogs are between your sheets. "Into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. And the frogs shall come up on you, on your people, and on all your servants."

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.'" So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt." Frogs, frogs, everywhere frogs... God was mocking their beliefs! He's saying, if you want to worship frogs... *have a few!*

Here's a description of the conditions this plague of frogs created in Egypt, "Like a blanket of filth the slimy, wet monstrosities covered the land, until men sickened at the continued squashing crunch they were forced to walk on. If a man's feet slipped on the greasy mass of crushed bodies, he fell into an indescribably offensive mass of putrid uncleanness, and when he sought water to cleanse himself, the water was so solid with frogs, he got no cleansing there." *It was horrible!*

Imagine, driving your chariot through the thick green sludge. Your wheels bog down. You get stuck. You have to be *toad!* Egyptians felt like they would *croak!*

Verse 7, "And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt." But it only made matters worse. *Rather than get rid of the frogs, they produce more.* This is Satan's results. He adds to your misery, rather than relieves it.

"Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said (probably with a *frog in his throat*), "Entreat the LORD that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD." And Moses said to Pharaoh, "Accept the honor of saying when I shall intercede for you, for your servants, and for your people, to destroy the frogs from you and your houses, that they may remain in the river only." Moses lets Pharaoh pick his prayer time - the timing of the deliverance. This removes any doubt, the cause of this plague is God.

"So he said, "Tomorrow." And he said, "Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God. And the frogs shall depart from you, from your houses, from your servants, and from your people. They shall remain in the river only." And it looks like the plague of frogs has done the trick. Pharaoh is forced to submit, *but don't be so sure!*

Verse 12, "Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh. And Moses cried out to the LORD concerning the frogs which He had brought against Pharaoh. So the LORD did according to the word of Moses. And the frogs died out of the houses, out of the courtyards, and out of the fields. They gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank." Imagine, huge piles of slimy green frogs. "But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the LORD had said." And his *about-face* stank worse than the frogs, which sets up a third plague...

Verse 16, "So the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.'" And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt."

Plague three was not *nice*, it was *lice*. Nasty, itchy, blood-sucking lice. Reading chapter 8 makes you want to scratch. This was a *louse-y* predicament for Egypt - not just head lice, but a full body plague of lice.

The Greek historian, Herodotus, makes the point that the Egyptian priests were particularly concerned with lice. This was the ultimate uncleanness. It disqualified them from performing their religious rites. Ironically, lice made it impossible for the priests to worship their gods, or cry out for help... *God has such a sense of humor.*

"Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." The third plague stumps them. The lice was a miracle of life. As with the creation of Adam, God stirred the dirt. These priests realize they're no match for "*the finger of God.*"

"But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said." Sadly, Pharaoh is far more stubborn. He is a tougher nut to crack.

So "The LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand." The Septuagint, the Greek translation of the OT, renders "*flies*" as "*dog-flies.*" The dog-fly was a bloodsucker that carried vile disease and caused blindness. This involved far more than a few gnats at the picnic. These flies were a toxic, air-born blight.

The Hebrew word translated "*swarms*" is also provocative. It means "*mixture,*" and it could imply that different types of insects were involved in this plague. Charles Swindoll paints this picture, "*Big flying beetles. Spiders dropping off the ceiling. Fleas hopping all over you. Ticks burrowing into your skin. Tiny chiggers crawling under your clothes. Bees stinging you.*" Egypt was home to trillions of insects. It all was creepy. Everybody ended up *bugged* by this fourth plague!

“And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, (the Hebrews lived in Goshen) that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land. I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be.” The land of Egypt will be swarmed with flies, but not Hebrew territory. Over His people **God will create the first “No Fly Zone.”**

Often liberal scholars excuse away the supernatural element of these plagues by attributing them to natural phenomena - *epic drought or a volcanic eruption*. But God makes sure we know the plagues were from Him in several ways: *for one He gives advance warning. God calls His shot... He also picks their time (with the frogs Pharaoh chooses when he’s delivered)... Here He marks a difference, plaguing the Egyptians, while protecting the Hebrews - this was “the finger of God!”*

Verse 24, “And the LORD did so. Thick swarms of flies came into the house of Pharaoh, into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt. The land was corrupted because of the swarms of flies.” In the NT Satan goes by **“Beelezebub” or “lord of the flies.”** Egypt had sold its soul to idolatry and Satan. That’s why God gave them over to these devastating swarms of flies.

“Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God **in the land.**" Pharaoh isn’t setting them free. He merely gives permission for them to make sacrifice within the borders of Egypt.

And you’ll see here how Pharaoh tries to rob God’s people of their freedom by suggesting compromises. Satan does this with us... *You can serve God without really leaving the culture. You don’t have to let go of your Egyptian friends, and surroundings, and practices.*

But Moses objects, “It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing the **abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God.**” Egypt considered their livestock as sacred. So for Israel to sacrifice bulls and lambs in Egypt they’d be sacrificing what Egyptians worshipped. *And this is our predicament.* God wants us to put to death attitudes the world around us worships. That’s why a holy life requires a separation from our Egypt.

Moses says, “If we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, then will they not stone us? We will go three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our God as He will command us.” ***We’re leaving Egypt, not staying put.*** This should be our heart’s cry - a desire for holiness.

“And 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. Intercede for me.” Here’s another

compromise... *Ok, leave, but don't "go very far."* Don't get radical and be totally committed...

"Then Moses said, "Indeed I am going out from you, and I will entreat the LORD, that the swarms of flies may depart tomorrow from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. But let Pharaoh not deal deceitfully anymore in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD." So Moses went out from Pharaoh and entreated the LORD. And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; He removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. Not one remained." *The flies fly away.*

"But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go." Pride is what hardens a heart, and this Pharaoh had one hard heart.

Chapter 9, "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and tell him, 'Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. For if you refuse to let them go, and still hold them, behold, the hand of the LORD will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the oxen, and on the sheep. There will be a very severe pestilence." The fifth is *mad cow disease.*

Most sacred of all Egyptian deities was the bull. In the Memphis temple to Ptah they kept an actual bull, They viewed it as divine. When the Apis bull died a replacement was selected. He was fed delicacies. He had a herd of heifers at his disposal. He got the royal treatment. Bull fights were held in the bull's honor.

The goddess, Haphor was also personified as a cow. She was depicted suckling the Pharaoh himself. Yet neither of these so-called gods could withstand the fifth plague. It proved these idols were *nothing but bull.* The only Egyptians happy after the fifth plague were the Chick-Fil-A owners. Everybody had to eat mor chicken.

"And the LORD will make a difference between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel." Again to prove the disease isn't just a random pestilence it'll infect Egyptian livestock, but not Hebrew.

"Then the LORD appointed a set time, saying, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land." So the LORD did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the children of Israel, not one died." With this fifth plague there's no collateral damage. God protects the Hebrew livestock, for their herds will later provide the sacrifices used in the worship of God. "Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one of the livestock of the Israelites was dead (not even one). But the heart of Pharaoh became hard, and he did not let the people go."

Verse 8, "So the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh. And it will become fine dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt. Then they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered them toward heaven. And they caused boils that break out in sores on man and beast. And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians." Some commentators believe Moses crashed a pagan ceremony where the Egyptians were sacrificing to their gods to ward off the plagues. Moses grabs their ashes off their altar, and tosses them into the air... The ashes of *their pagan sacrifice* produce boils that torture them.

Obviously, their entreaties were nothing but worthless prayers to phony gods. The boils had the same effect as the lice. It made them unclean and unable to pray to their idols. It was a humiliating defeat.

It's interesting, the Hebrew word "boil" means "to burn" and referred to some kind of painful, puss-filled inflammation that created a burning and itching. Imagine a severe sunburn all over your body.

The god, Imhotep, was considered god of healing, and this plague was probably directed at him. These priests may've been praying to their divine doctor when Moses grabbed the ashes off *their* altar and turned them into boils. He was of no help to stop the plague - another Egyptian deity trounced by the true God.

Verse 12, "But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses. Until now, we've been told the Pharaoh hardened his heart, *but here God hardens it for him*. If God hadn't hardened Pharaoh's heart, *he would've allowed the Hebrews to go, just to escape the judgment*. He would've gotten himself off the hook, without learning his lesson. God will keep the pressure on Pharaoh until he bows his knee to the one true God.

And God often keeps the pressure on us until we too surrender to His will. **God will harden a heart to bend a knee. He** doesn't settle for half-hearted confessions. Too many people are like Pharaoh, they'll do just enough to get rid of the consequences of their sin, but stop short of bowing a knee and surrendering to God...

With the boils, this sixth plague... **we begin to realize it's no longer the Pharaoh holding the Hebrews in bondage, as it is God holding the Pharaoh in bondage.**

"Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me, for at this time I will send all My plagues to your very

heart, and on your servants and on your people, that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth.” God is about to take the gloves off. Today friction between Arabs and Jews gets resolved with shuttle diplomacy and ongoing negotiations, but the Lord will humble Egypt by force.

“Now if I had stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, then you would have been cut off from the earth. But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.” God will use Pharaoh to prove His power and declare His name. God is in charge! Pharaoh is just a pawn.

“As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go. Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now.” The seventh plague is heavy hail. I think all the plagues so far have been hell, h-e-l-l. This plague is literally, h-a-i-l.

Verse 19, “Therefore send now and gather your livestock and all that you have in the field, for the hail shall come down on every man and every animal which is found in the field and is not brought home; and they shall die.” This is not ordinary hail. This storm can kill man and beast. The hail will be huge and intense.

“He who feared the word of the LORD among the of Pharaoh made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses. But he who did not regard the word of the LORD left his servants and his livestock in the field.”

By this point it seems many of Pharaoh’s servants had become believers. They’d seen enough and concluded the God of the Hebrews is the true God.

“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt - on man, on beast, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.” And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground.

And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.” Imagine, a hail storm mixed with lightning. Ice balls piercing rooftops - ground fires sparked by fire. And recall chariots were convertibles. If this storm hit at rush hour you’d be a wide open target.

In Egypt the goddess *Nut* was ruler of the sky, and here God cracks another *nut*. The whole idolatrous system was *nutty*. And remember how God later punishes blasphemy? **By stoning**. Here God throws hailstones at Egypt because of their disregard for Him.

“And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.” Again, God demonstrates both ***His power on his enemies, and His protection of His people.***

And these ten plagues are not just historical events in Egypt in the fifteenth century BC, *they're also a prophetic foreshadowing of the future...* For as we studied in the book of Revelation, in the last days God will pour out His judgment on a wicked world, and its ruler the Antichrist... Egypt is a type of the world and Pharaoh a type of the Antichrist. And these ten plagues all have parallels to events that occur in the Great Tribulation... *100 pound hailstones, plagues of locust, boils, three frogs, darkness, rivers turned to blood, etc.*

Remember also, in the Tribulation two witnesses work wonders that prove God's power, while in Egypt two witnesses, Moses and Aaron, performed miracles.

And the parallels continue - in the exodus and at the end of the age... *hearts get hard, there're counterfeit miracles, the world is judged, the Jews are protected,*

Verse 27, “And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “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.” We learn later this is a sham. Pharaoh's actions will betray his words.

“And Moses said to him, “As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the LORD; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, that you may know that the earth is the LORD's. But as for you and your servants, I know that you will not yet fear the LORD God.” Moses saw through his phoniness.

“Now the flax and the barley were struck...” In an agrarian society a hailstorm can wipe out a harvest and devastate the entire economy... “For the barley was in the head and the flax was in bud. But the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they are late crops. So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and spread out his hands to the LORD; then the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain was not poured on the earth.

And when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet more; and he 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.”



Chapter 10, "Now 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, and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and your son's son the mighty things I have done in Egypt, and My signs which I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD." The ten plagues were not just signs to Egypt, but to Israel.

In fact, when Joshua finally brings Israel's second generation into Canaan, he says, "Fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!" This is shocking! The Hebrews were as guilty as their oppressors. In Egypt they too betrayed God and worshipped idols. These plagues not only break Pharaoh's hard heart, but wake up the Hebrews, and turn them back to God.

Verse 3, "So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory. And they shall cover the face of the earth, so that no one will be able to see the earth; and they shall eat the residue of what is left, which remains to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field. They shall fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians - which neither your fathers nor your fathers' fathers have seen, since the day that they were on the earth to this day. And he turned and went out from Pharaoh."

A locust is an insect the size of a grasshopper, about three inches long. They travel in swarms that cover the ground like a blanket - sometimes four to five inches thick. Locust travel at night, and eat every blade of vegetation in sight. A locust eats its own body weight every day. *It'd be like me eating 160 pounds of food in a single day.* I obviously, wouldn't stay so slender.

There've been swarms of 100 to 200 million locusts per square mile for 400 square miles. A locust's wings flutter non-stop for 17 hours. They travel 60 miles a day. A locust plague can destroy a nation's food supply.

And this scares Pharaoh's court, verse 7, "Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?" *The locust will finished us off!*

But here the officials suggest another compromise. *“Let the men go...”* If women and children leave Egypt the men will have no incentive to return. Just allow the men to go out and hold their feast and sacrifice to God.

“So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the LORD your God. Who are the ones that are going?” And Moses said, “We will go with our young and our old; with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds we will go, for we must hold a feast to the LORD.” Then he said to them, “The LORD had better be with you when I let you and your little ones go! Beware, for evil is ahead of you. Not so! Go now, you who are men, and serve the LORD, for that is what you desired.” And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.” The men can go, but not the women and children!... And Satan tempts us with the same compromise: *it's OK for you to go all the way with God, but don't expect the same from your family. Don't try to influence your wife and kids. You can't cram your religion down their throat! Religion is a personal thing.*

Verse 12, “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land - all that the hail has left.”

So Moses stretched out his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind on the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts.” And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested on all the territory of Egypt. They were very severe; previously there had been no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.” **The goddess Isis and god Seth were said to protect crops, but again Yahweh proves the gods of Egypt are no match for Him.**

Verse 16, “Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, “I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the LORD your God, that He may take away from me this death only.” So he went out from Pharaoh and entreated the LORD. And the LORD turned a very strong west wind, which took the locusts away and blew them into the Red Sea. There remained **not one locust** in all the territory of Egypt. But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go.” God reads the man's heart. The Pharaoh is just *squirming*, he's not yet been *broken*.

Well, the ninth plague is a blight of darkness. God turns out the lights on Egypt. Verse 21, “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt.” The darkness will cover them you like a blanket. “Pitch black” is when the moon, stars, even the ambient light from the Walmart parking lot are hidden behind the clouds... The most revered of all the Egyptian gods was Ra - the sun god. The name Ramses comes from Ra. This darkness was an attack on Ra and his power.

“So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days.” The Jewish historian, Josephus, says Egyptians couldn’t breathe. It could be the humidity was so thick there was no combustion. You couldn’t light a candle or start a fire.

“But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.” *What was the source of their light we don’t know?* It could be God’s glory shined into their camp.

Verse 24, “Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, “Go, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be kept back. Let your little ones also go with you.” Even when obviously defeated, Pharaoh is still suggesting compromises. *You and your families can go serve the Lord, but your wealth should stay in Egypt.*

And this is what Satan still says... Even though he’s defeated and Jesus is Lord, he still suggests, “*Oh, go serve the Lord, just don’t invest your resources. Leave your money in Egypt. Don’t give it or spend it in service to God.*” Satan still tempts us to hold back our finances.

Hey, Satan’s middle name is “COMPROMISE.” He tries them on us: **Don’t leave Egypt, stay close... Don’t take your faith too far... Don’t try to influence your family... And serve God, just not with your money...**

But to walk in freedom; do the opposite: *leave the world behind... go all the way with God... take your family with you... and give all you’ve got to God...*

Well “Moses said, “You must also give us sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God. Our livestock also shall go with us; **not a hoof shall be left behind.** For we must take some of them to serve the LORD our God, and even we do not know with what we must serve the LORD until we arrive there.” Here’s a vital lesson. God will call us to a place or task, but we won’t know what all is involved in serving Him until we get there. Thus, take as much as you possibly can - *all the gifts, and the knowledge, and the experiences you can, just in case they’re needed.* You never know what’ll be useful down the road!

Verse 27, "But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. Then Pharaoh said to him, "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!" And Moses said, "You have spoken well. I will never see your face again." *An exodus is soon.*

Chapter 11, "And the LORD said to Moses, "I will bring yet one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether.

Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her neighbor, articles of silver and articles of gold. And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians." The spoils taken from the Egyptians were reparations or back wages for 400 years of slavery. They'll also be materials that'll build God's tabernacle.

"Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people." Moses' notoriety was greater as a *servant of God* than it had been as *prince of Pharaoh*.

"Then Moses said, "Thus says the LORD: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals. Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again.'" In Chapter 4 God said since Pharaoh enslaved God's firstborn, Israel - He'll judge Pharaoh's firstborn.

And both the Pharaoh and his firstborn heir, or son, were considered by the people of Egypt to be a god. Here was God's final assault on the religion of Egypt.

Moses continues in verse 7, "But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the LORD does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.'

*And the Lord makes the difference today!* The Egyptians and Hebrews were both guilty of idolatry. The difference wasn't their morality or faith, but grace.

And that's our story! We sin like everyone else. There's no room for us to be haughty. The difference between a Christian and this world boils down to grace.

"And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Get out, and all the people who follow you!' After that I will go out." After plague ten, all Egypt will beg the Hebrews to leave!

“Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger. But the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not heed you, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.” Pharaoh’s stubbornness was God’s opportunity to reveal His awesome power. And not only does Egypt learn of God, so do the surrounding nations.

“So Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh; and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go out of his land.” Pharaoh’s stubbornness has cost him his kingdom, now sadly it will cost him his son. And let me ask, *what’s your stubbornness costing you?* It’s already hurt you personally, who else is it hurting? Eventually it’ll hurt someone you love. Perhaps *your* firstborn, or third born, or grandson... *It’s time to humble yourself!*