

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## EXODUS 8-11

There is an internet company that sales a vast array of *frog paraphernalia...*

They offer frog slippers, frog staplers, frog bath mats, plush frog pillows, frog pajamas, frog flip flops, frog comb and brush sets, sterling silver frogs, frog sticky note pads, frog luggage, frog duffle bags, frog car mats, frog shower curtains - and the list goes on and on. *There's so much frog stuff it makes you want to croak!*

And that's how Pharaoh felt when he refused to allow Israel to go free. *He wanted to croak.* He got his fill of frogs. For after God turned the water of the Nile River to blood, instead of cooperating with Moses, Pharaoh hardened his heart.

He caused God to bring a second plague on Egypt – a *proliferation of frogs...*

*With that in mind, let's leap right in to chapter 8... "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." The Egyptian goddess, Heqt, was personified as a frog.*

Frogs came with the flooding of the Nile, and were a symbol of prosperity. In Egypt if you kissed a frog you got a princess, not a Prince - the princess Heqt.

*"So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your*

bed...” Imagine you climb 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.” Frogs, frogs, everywhere frogs...

God is mocking their beliefs. If you want to worship frogs... here, *have a few!*

Here’s a description of the conditions such a plague would’ve created, “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 their 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.”

Imagine, frogs jumping on your bed while you tried to sleep, and on the table during dinner. Imagine, driving your chariot, and the street is so thick with green sludge they bog down you’re wheels. You’re stuck. Man, you have to get *toad!*

I’m telling you, the Egyptians must’ve felt like they were going to *croak!*

“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. And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.”

Notice though, the magicians could only make matters worse – *they produced more frogs*. This is Satan’s specialty. His solutions always add to your misery...

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." So he said, "Tomorrow."

Moses was so excited he let the Pharaoh pick his prayer time. "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." It looks like the frogs have forced the Pharaoh to submit to God... *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. But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the LORD had said." And that stank even worse. Pharaoh renigs, and sets himself up for 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. Just reading chapter 8 makes you want to scratch your head. This was a *louse-y* predicament for the Egyptians to be in.

And this was not just head lice. These lice covered their whole body.

The Greek historian, Herodotus, makes the point that the priests of Egypt were particularly concerned with lice. To them this was the ultimate uncleanness and it disqualified them from religious rites and rituals... This plague made it impossible for the pagan priests to worship their gods, or even cry out to them for help.

*God has such a sense of humor.*

We’re told more about these priests, “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.” They were stumped. They toss in the towel. These priests realize they are no match for the one, true God. Suddenly, these magicians and sorcerers become believers.

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

The fourth plague is a plague of flies. “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, or Greek translation of the Old Testament, renders the word “flies” as “dog-flies”. The dog-fly was a bloodsucker that carries vile diseases and causes blindness. This plague involved far more than a few gnats, or the flies you’d find at a family picnic. These flies were a toxic, air-born blight.

The Hebrew word translated “swarms” is also provocative. It means “mixture” – and could imply that different types of insects were involved in this plague.

Chuck 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.” The Egyptians were surrounded by trillions of insects. It was creepy. It would *bug* the daylights out of you.

Verse 22, “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.”

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 New Testament Satan goes by the name “Beelezebub” which means “*lord of the flies*”. Egypt had sold its soul to Satan, and that’s why God gives the land over to these devastating swarms of insects.

Verse 25, “Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.” Pharaoh wanted the Hebrews to make sacrifice in Egypt.

Moses objects for good reason... “It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing the abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God.” Egyptians considered livestock as sacred. They worshipped what the Hebrews sacrificed.

Thus Moses says to Pharaoh, “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.”

“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.”



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." Pharaoh double-crossed them after the frogs.

"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. But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go." He does it again.

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 plague was mad cow disease.

It's interesting that the most sacred of all Egyptian deities was the bull.

In the temple to Ptah in Memphis they kept an actual bull – they considered Ptah's bull a sacred animal. It was called the Apis bull. When one died off another was selected as its replacement. The Apis bull was fed delicacies, and had a herd of heifers at his disposal. He got royal treatment. Bull fights were held in its honor.

The goddess, Haphor was also personified as a cow. She was often depicted suckling the Pharaoh giving him nourishment. Yet none of these so-called gods could withstand the fifth plague. It proved their idol worship was *nothing but bull*.

The only Egyptians happy after the 5<sup>th</sup> plague were the Chick-Fil-A owners.

Verse 4, “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.” Egyptian livestock will die, but the Hebrew livestock will be protected.

This would prove that the disease wasn’t just a random pestilence, but a plague directed specifically by God to pry His people from Egypt.

Verse 5, “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.” There was no collateral damage. God had other plans for the livestock of Israel. Their herds would provide the sacrifices used in their worship of God.

“Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one of the livestock of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh became hard, & he did not let the people go.”

The sixth plague is the plague of boils... 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 had 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... And the ashes of *their sacrifice* produce the boils that plague them.

Obviously, their entreaties were nothing but worthless prayers to phony gods.

And the boils on the priests had the same effect as the lice. It made them unclean and unable to pray to their gods. It was a humiliating defeat.

The Hebrew word for “boil” means “to burn” – and it referred to some kind of painful, swelling, puss-filled inflammation that created a burning and itching effect.

Imagine yourself for several days with a severe sunburn all over your body.

The Egyptian god, Imhotep, was considered the god of medicine – and this plague was directed specifically at him. The priests may’ve been praying to him when Moses grabbed the ashes off his altar and tossed them into the clouds.

Obviously, he was of no help at all - another Egyptian deity trounced by 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. Up until now, we’ve been told that the Pharaoh has hardened his heart, but now God hardens it for him.

If God hadn’t hardened Pharaoh’s heart, he would’ve let the Hebrews go just to escape the plagues. He would’ve gotten off the hook, without learning his lesson. God will keep the pressure on Pharaoh until he admits that God is the true God.

And God will often keep the pressure on us until we surrender our will.

He’ll *harden a heart to bend a stiff-neck*. He doesn’t settle for half-hearted confessions. Too many folks are like the Pharaoh – they’ll do just enough to get rid of the consequences of their sin, but they stop short of bowing their knee to God...

With 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*.

Verse 13, “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. 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.”

The Pharaoh is being told that this ordeal is not about his own power. He is a stagehand – a supporting actor - in a demonstration of God’s awesome power.

Verse 17, “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 the hail. In my opinion they’ve all been h-e-l-l. This plague is h-a-i-l.

Monday night Mack had a hockey game, and we were driving home from Alpharetta when it started to hail. Marble-sized hailstones were bouncing off our windshield. It was spooky. But the hailstorm that hit Egypt was lethal...

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.”

He who feared the word of the LORD among the servants 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.” Notice by this point some of Pharaoh’s own servants have become believers. They’ve seen enough. They’ve concluded the God of the Hebrews is the one God. They fear His Word.

“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 flashing lightning strikes. And remember all chariots were convertibles. If this hit in rush hour, rather than be protected by your roof, you’d be a wide open target.

In Egypt the goddess *Nut* was the ruler of the sky – here God cracks another *nut*. The whole idolatrous system was *nutty*, and deserving of some **punishment**.

*And remember how the Hebrews will later punish blasphemy?* It was by stoning. Here God throws hailstones at the land of Egypt for its blasphemous idolatry.

“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.” God showed His *power and protection* at the same time.

Understand, there's not only a historical fulfillment to these ten plagues God brought on Egypt, *but there's also a prophetic foreshadowing*... In the last days God will pour out His judgment on this wicked world, and its ruler, the Antichrist.

Egypt is a type of the world. The Pharaoh is a type of the Antichrist.

And the ten plagues all have parallels to what occurs in the Great Tribulation...

Remember we're told in Revelation about 100 pound hailstones – about the plagues of locust, boils, three frogs, darkness, rivers turned to blood, etc.

Remember also, the two witnesses – there's a Moses and Aaron who testify of God's truth. In the Tribulation people harden their hearts. Satan works counterfeit miracles. The world is judged. The Jews are protected. *Parallels are numerous.*

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."

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 knew Pharaoh's heart.

“Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley was in the head and the flax was in bud. But the wheat & 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.”

Verse 35, “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.” Notice God’s miracles were not just signs to the Egyptians, but also demonstrations to the Hebrews.

When Joshua eventually brings the 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 a shocking passage. The Israelis were not guiltless. Believe it or not, while in Egypt they betrayed God and worshipped the false gods of the Egyptians. They worshipped the gods of their oppressors. The plagues were done not only



to break the stiff-neck of the Pharaoh, but to soften their hearts, and turn them back.

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 about 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. They travel at night, and eat every blade of green 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 at 160 pounds...

Locust swarms can cover 400 square miles. Imagine 100 to 200 million locusts per square mile over an area of 400 square miles. In addition, a locust’s wings flutter non-stop for 17 hours straight. They’re able to travel 60 miles a day.

A plague of locust can completely devastate a nation's food supply.

And this is what Moses tells Pharaoh is about to come down. 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?" Swarms of locust would mean total devastation to the country.

"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." In verse 7 his advisers told Pharaoh to release the men only. It seems Pharaoh might've allowed the adults to leave, but not with the children. If the kids went too, the adults would never return.

"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 pharaoh is a man full of ambivalence. He wants the plagues out of his hair, so he's willing to make concessions - but he can stand to admit defeat to the God of slaves.

And neither God nor Moses is in the mood to compromise.

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 gods of Isis and Seth were believed to be the protectors of Egypt's crops from blight.

Again, God is making His point that these false gods are totally impotent.

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 knows Pharaoh is just *squirming*, he’s not been *broken*.

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.” It’ll be so dark, you’ll feel the darkness. It’ll crawl around you like a blanket. “*Pitch black*” is what we sometimes call it - no moon, no stars, no parking lot lights from Wal-Mart - no natural light, no ambient light. It’ll be darker than dark.

“So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, & 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.” Apparently, it was too dark to even light 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 a light into the camp.

The most revered of all the Egyptian gods was *Ra* – the sun god. The name *Ramases* comes from *Ra*. The darkness was an attack on *Ra* and his power.

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.”

Here’s giving in as if God and Moses are willing to negotiate - *as if he still has the upper hand*. “Okay take you’re kids with you, but leave your livestock.”

“But 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, & even we do not know with what we must serve the LORD until we arrive there."

Here's a vital lesson. Like Moses we don't know what we'll need to serve the Lord until we get to the place God has for us - so take as much with you as possible – as many gifts, and experiences, and knowledge as possible.

Often an opportunity comes along that doesn't immediately interest us. We choose to avoid it - but who knows if the experience we would glean might not be invaluable to us in future situations. Maybe your desire is to be a pastor, and you don't have time to teach in children's ministry, but perhaps that experience might be exactly what you need when you start a church and launch a Sunday School.

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." The 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, & let every man ask from his neighbor & 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 they took were back wages for 400 years of slavery... They'll also be the materials from which the tabernacle will be built.

Verse 3, "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 achieved far more notoriety as a *servant of God* than he ever did as a *prince of Pharaoh*.

"Then Moses said (Apparently, to the Pharaoh), "Thus says the LORD: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; & 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, & 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." As God explained to Moses in Exodus 4 Pharaoh enslaved God's firstborn, Israel, so God will judge Pharaoh's firstborn.

Both the Pharaoh and his heir - his firstborn son - were considered by the people 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.' The Lord makes



the difference! The Egyptians and Hebrews were both guilty of idolatry, but the true God was on the side of the Hebrews. His grace was the difference!

As it is with us... In a sense, you and I are sinners like everyone else. There is no room for us to be proud or haughty. The difference between us and the world boils down to God's grace. Our God is greater than the gods of this world.

Verse 8, "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." In other words, after this tenth plague, 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. Not only did Egypt learn of God, but so did 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 cost him his kingdom, now it costs him his son.

And let me ask, *what's your stubbornness costing you?* It's already hurt you personally, but who else is it hurting? Eventually it'll hurt someone you love. Perhaps your firstborn, or third born, or grandson... Be humble before God.