

**Men's Sunday Night**  
**A Study in the Book of Exodus**  
**Lesson 4 - Exodus 6:28-10:29**  
**Judgments on Egypt**  
**Part One**

The stage is set: Pharaoh refused God's command, and now God would send His judgments on Egypt. He would fulfill His promise in Genesis 12:3 to judge the nations that persecute the Jews. He would reveal His power showing that the gods of Egypt were false gods, and that Jehovah alone is the true God.

The ten plagues of Egypt accomplished several things: 1. They were signs to Israel, assuring them of God's power and care. 2. They were plagues of judgment to Egypt, punishing the people for persecuting Israel and revealing the vanity of their gods. 3. They were prophecies of judgments to come.

These plagues were actually a "declaration of war" against the gods of Egypt. The Nile River was worshiped as a god since it was their source of life, and when Moses turned it into blood, God showed His power over the river. The goddess Heqet was pictured as a frog, the Egyptian symbol of resurrection. The lice and flies brought defilement to the people, for Egyptians could not worship their gods unless they were spotlessly clean. The gods and goddesses that controlled health and safety were attacked in the plagues of boils, hail, and locusts. The plague of darkness was the most serious, since Egypt worshiped the sun god Ra, the chief of the gods. When the sun was blotted out for three days, it meant that Jehovah had conquered Ra. The final plague (the death of the firstborn) conquered Meskhemit the goddess of birth, and Hathor, her companion, both of whom were supposed to watch over the firstborn. All of these plagues made it clear that Jehovah was the true God!

Pharaoh is a type of Satan: he was the god of Egypt; he had supreme power (except where limited by God); he was a liar; he was a murderer; he kept people in bondage; he hated the Word of God and the people of God. Pharaoh did not want to release the Jews, so he offered four subtle compromises 1. Worship God in the land (8:25–27) 2. Do not go too far away (8:28) 3. Only the men should go (10:7–11) 4. Keep your possessions in Egypt (10:24–26).

**Read Exodus 6:28-10:29 and Answer the Following Questions:**

1. What part is Aaron going to play? What is the job in a prophet's life?
2. What does the Lord mean when He says He is going to "harden Pharaoh's heart"? Did Pharaoh even have a chance to believe? (Rom. 2:4-6; 9:14-22)
3. In Hebrew thought, the heart is the core of the person, the seat of intellect, emotions, and will. What do you think it means to have a hard heart?
4. What lessons of leadership do you think Moses learned through his experience mediating between God and Pharaoh?
5. List the nine plagues in order, noted in chapters 7-10.
6. How did God show His care for Israel in the midst of the plagues? (See 8:22-23; 9:4-7; 10:23)

7. Why do you suppose that God raised up a hardhearted Pharaoh at this time? (See 9:16)

8. What do you learn from the fact that under the first five plagues it is said that Pharaoh hardened his own heart, but under the next four plagues it is said that the Lord hardened it?

9. What compromises does Pharaoh eventually start offering? (See 8:25-28; 10:8-11)

10. How did Moses respond to each case?

11. What was Israel supposed to learn from the plague judgments, and how was she suppose to respond?

## Did Pharaoh Have A Chance?

### Exodus 9:12

If God hardened Pharaoh's heart, did the ruler really have a fair chance to heed God's command to "let My people go"? Or was he a helpless pawn in God's plan to liberate His chosen people?

Pharaoh had a fair a chance as any other person to hear and obey the Lord, but he used his encounter with the living God as a singular opportunity to prove his determination and might. This becomes plain when we understand that the "hardening" means the "strengthening" of his heart or will.

God did not intervene in Pharaoh's decisions in any way that took control of Pharaoh's will. Pharaoh kept complete control and responsibility over his choices. Apparently, God had made him to be what we would call a strong-willed individual. So, it's not surprising that he was determined to resist God's plan. When the text says that God hardened or strengthened his heart, it is a way of saying that Pharaoh became even more determined, he was acting even more like the strong-willed person that God had made him to be.

It's interesting that not every Egyptian had the same response to the plagues as Pharaoh did. A number of them joined the Hebrews and left in the Exodus. Even some of Pharaoh's own magicians confessed that the miracles of Moses and Aaron were "*the finger of God.*"