

24. Four Plagues

The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

24, Four Plagues

- a. This story tells itself. Why did the plagues come? Because the Egyptians were doing bad things—making the children of Israel slaves and trying to kill all the boy babies.
- b. You wouldn't quickly notice that in the first four plagues it is Aaron who stretches out the rod and so on. In the next ones it is Moses doing the miracle.
- c. And, of course, Pharaoh breaks his promises.



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The Lord Sends Four Plagues upon the Egyptians

Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded them. They went to Pharaoh and said, “The Lord God of the Hebrews has said: ‘Let my people go so they may worship Me in the wilderness.’” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard, he would not listen.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh in the morning when he is out by the river. Take your rod in your hand and say to him, let my people go.” Moses and Aaron did so, but Pharaoh would not listen. Then Aaron lifted up his rod and struck the water in the river in front of Pharaoh and his servants. And all the water in the river turned to blood. The fish in the river died and the river smelled bad. The Egyptians could not drink the water. All the water in the ponds and streams and pools of water throughout all the land of Egypt also turned to blood. So the Egyptians had to dig in the ground around the river to get water to drink.

Seven days passed after the Lord had struck the waters, and then God said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say, Let my people go”. But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened. Then Aaron stretched out his rod over the waters of Egypt and frogs came up and covered the land. They were everywhere: in the Egyptians’ houses, in their bedrooms, on their beds, in their kitchens, and the frogs were over all the people. And Pharaoh said, “Take away the frogs and I will let the people go tomorrow.” So Moses talked to the Lord and asked Him to take away the frogs. And the Lord did as Moses asked and the frogs died all over the land. The dead frogs were piled high and all of Egypt stank because of the dead frogs.

Then Pharaoh changed his mind again and would not let the people go. The Lord said to Moses, “Tell Aaron to stretch out his rod and hit the dust of the land.” And Aaron did so and the dust became lice. There were lice on the people and on the animals. The Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say, ‘Let my people go so they may serve me.’” Then the Lord sent swarms of flies over all the land of Egypt, except for the land where the children of Israel lived. There were no flies there. The flies were everywhere bothering the people, so Pharaoh said, “Tomorrow you can go, but don’t go very far away.” Then Moses spoke to the Lord and asked Him to take away the flies. The Lord did as Moses asked. But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened again and he would not let the Hebrews go.

Exodus 7-9

