

God's Instructions to Moses and Aaron

28 In the day the Lord spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, 29 the Lord said to him, "I am the Lord. Speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I tell you." 30 But Moses said before the Lord, "Behold, I am weak in speech; and how shall Pharaoh heed me?"

Exodus 7

1 Now the Lord said to Moses, "See, I have made you a god to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. 2 You shall speak all I command you, and Aaron your brother shall speak to Pharaoh to send the children of Israel from his land. 3 I will harden Pharaoh's heart and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. 4 But Pharaoh will not heed you; and I shall lay My hand on Egypt and bring My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt with My power and great vengeance. 5 Then all the Egyptians shall know I am the Lord, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them." 6 Thus, as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. 7 Now Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.

8 Again the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 9 "When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Show us a sign or a wonder,' then you shall say to Aaron your brother, 'Take your rod and cast it on the ground before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent.'" 10 So Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh and his servants, and they did so, as the Lord commanded them. Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. 11 In response, Pharaoh called together the wise men, the sorcerers, and the charmers of Egypt, and in like manner, they did the same with their sorceries. 12 For each man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. 13 But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not give heed to them as the Lord commanded.

The Plague of Water Turned to Blood

14 So the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. 15 Go to Pharaoh early in the morning, when he goes to the water, and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him; and you shall take in your hand the rod that turned to a serpent. 16 Then you shall say to him, 'The Lord God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, to serve Me in the desert"; but indeed, until now you would not hear. 17 Thus says the Lord: "By this you shall know I am the Lord. Behold, I will strike the water in the river with the rod in my hand, and it shall be turned to blood. 18 Then the fish in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will be unable to drink water from the river." ' ' ' 19 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron your brother, 'Take your rod in your hand and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their standing water, so they may become blood. There shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and of stone.' "

20 So Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded them. Aaron lifted his hand with the rod and struck the waters in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants. Then all the waters in the river were turned to blood. 21 The fish in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians

could not drink water from the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. 22 Then the sorcerers of Egypt did the same with their sorceries; and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not heed them, as the Lord said. 23 Pharaoh then turned and went to his house. Neither was his heart moved by this. 24 So all the Egyptians dug around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink water from the river. 25 Then seven days passed after the Lord struck the river.

The Plague of Frogs

26 Now the Lord spoke to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord: "Let My people go to serve Me. 27 But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. 28 So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. 29 The frogs shall come up on you, your people, and all your servants."'

Exodus 8

1 Again the Lord spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron your brother, 'Stretch out your hand with your rod over the rivers, the canals, and the pools, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.' " 2 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. 3 Then the sorcerers did the same with their sorceries and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.

4 Pharaoh then called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, and let Him take away the frogs from me and my people; and I will let the people go and sacrifice to the Lord."

5 Moses replied to Pharaoh, "Appoint me a time when I shall pray for you, for your servants, and for your people to make the frogs disappear from you, your people, and your houses. Only in the river will they remain." 6 So Pharaoh said, "Tomorrow." Moses then said, "Let it be according to your word, that you may know this is none other than the Lord. 7 Now the frogs shall depart from you, your houses, your servants, and your people. They shall remain in the river only."

8 Then Moses and Aaron departed from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the Lord about the time He had agreed to, concerning the frogs He had brought against Pharaoh. 9 So the Lord did just as Moses said, and the frogs died away from the houses, the villages, and the fields. 10 Then they gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. 11 But when Pharaoh saw there was relief, his heart was hardened; and he did not heed them, as the Lord said.

The Plague of Lice

12 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your rod and strike the dust of the land, that it may become lice on men, on four-footed animals, and throughout all the land of Egypt.' " 13 Thus Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and four-footed animals; and there were lice in all the dust of the land. 14 Now the sorcerers so worked with their sorceries to bring forth lice, but they could not; and there were lice on man and four-footed animals. 15 Then the sorcerers said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not heed them, as the Lord said.

The Plague of Flies

16 Again the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he goes to the water. Then say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Let My people go to serve Me in the desert. 17 Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send the dog-fly on you and your servants, and on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with the dog-fly, and also the ground on which they stand. 18 Now on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no dog-fly be there, that you may know I am the Lord, the Lord of all the earth. 19 I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this shall be a sign in the land.” ’” 20 So the Lord did thus; and the dog-fly came in abundance into the houses of Pharaoh, and into his servants’ houses, and into all the land of Egypt, and the land was destroyed by the dog-fly.

21 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.” 22 But Moses said, “It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God. If we should sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, they would stone us. 23 We will go three days’ journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, as He said to us.” 24 Pharaoh then said, “I will send you away, and you shall sacrifice to the Lord your God in the desert; only you shall not go very far away, and then pray for me to the Lord.” 25 Then Moses said, “Indeed, I will go out from you and pray to God, and tomorrow the dog-fly will depart from you, and from your servants and your people. But let Pharaoh not deal deceitfully anymore in not letting the people go sacrifice to the Lord.”

26 So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to God. 27 Thus the Lord did as Moses said and removed the dog-fly from Pharaoh, his servants, and his people. Not one remained. 28 But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.

Exodus 9

The Plague of Diseased Cattle

1 Now the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and you shall say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: “Let My people go so they may serve Me. 2 But if you refuse to let them go and still hold them, 3 behold, the hand of the Lord will be on your cattle in the fields—on the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the oxen, and the sheep—a very severe pestilence. 4 Then I will make a clear distinction between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel.” ’”

5 Then God appointed a set time, saying, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.” 6 So the Lord did this thing on the next day, and all the cattle of the Egyptians died; but of the cattle of the children of Israel, not one died. 7 Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one among the cattle of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

The Plague of Boils

8 So the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward heaven in the sight of Pharaoh; 9 and let it become dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils to break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt.” 10 So they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered

them toward heaven; and they caused boils to break out in sores on man and beast. 11 Now the sorcerers could not stand before Moses because of the sores, for the sores were on the sorcerers and in all the land of Egypt. 12 But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart; and he did not heed them, as the Lord said to Moses.

The Plague of Hail

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, so they may serve Me, 14 for at this time I will send all My plagues into your very heart, and on your servants and your people, that you may know there is not another such as I in all the earth. 15 For now I will stretch forth My hand and smite you and kill your people, and you will be cut off from the earth.

16 But for this very reason were you preserved, that I might display in you My strength, and that My name might be declared in all the earth. 17 As yet, you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go. 18 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. 19 Therefore, hurry now and gather your cattle and all you have in the fields, for the hail shall come down on every man and animal found in the fields; and whatever is not brought home shall die." ' ' ' 20 Thus he who feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh gathered his cattle into the houses. 21 But he who did not regard the word of the Lord left his servants and cattle in the field.

22 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, and there shall be hail in all the land of Egypt—both on man and cattle, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt." 23 So Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. Thus the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. 24 This hail and the fire mingled with it were so very heavy, there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation; and 25 throughout the whole land of Egypt it struck both man and cattle and every herb of the field, and broke every tree of the field. 26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.

27 Then 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 ungodly. 28 Therefore, pray for me to the Lord, and let Him cause the thunderings of God to cease, and the hail and fire, for I will let you go and you shall stay no longer." 29 So 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 and rain, that you may know the earth is the Lord's. 30 But as for you and your servants, I know you will not yet fear the Lord." 31 Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley was ripe and the flax was beginning to seed. 32 But as for the wheat and the rye, they were not struck, for they were late crops.

33 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. 34 Thus when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants. 35 So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened; neither would he let the children of Israel go, as the Lord said to Moses.

Exodus 10

The Plague of Locusts

1 Now the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that these signs may come upon them; 2 and that you may tell in the hearing of your children and your children’s children, in how many things I mocked the Egyptians, and My wonders I wrought among them; and you shall know I am the Lord.”

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 so they may serve Me. 4 Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring an abundance of locusts into your territory. 5 And they shall cover the face of the earth, so no one will be able to see the earth; and they shall eat the residue of what is left of the land’s abundance which remains to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field. 6 They shall fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians—which neither your fathers nor their forefathers saw, since the day they were on the earth to this day.’ ” So Moses turned and went out from Pharaoh.

7 Then Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go so they may serve their God. Do you not yet know Egypt is destroyed?”

8 So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the Lord your God, but who are the ones going?” 9 Moses replied, “We will go with our young and old; with our sons and daughters, with our sheep and oxen, for we must hold a feast to the Lord.” 10 Then he said to them, “Let the Lord be with you when I let you and your little ones go, but not your belongings, for evil lies before you. 11 Not so, but let the men go and serve God, for that is what you desired.” Then they were driven out from Pharaoh’s presence.

12 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt, and let the locusts come upon the land of Egypt and eat every herb of the land—everything the hail left.” 13 So Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven, and the Lord brought a south wind on the land all that day and night. When it was morning, the south wind brought the locusts; 14 and the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested in very great abundance on all the territory of Egypt. Previously there were no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. 15 For they covered the face of the land, and the land was wasted. They ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees left by the hail. There remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.

16 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, “I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. 17 Now therefore, pardon my sin yet this time, and pray to the Lord your God that He take away from me this death.” 18 So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to God. 19 Then the Lord brought in from the opposite direction a strong wind from the sea, which took the locusts away and blew them into the Red Sea. There remained not one locust in all the territory of Egypt. 20 But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go.

The Plague of Darkness

21 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven and let there be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness that may be felt.” 22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. 23 No one saw his brother for three days; nor did anyone rise from his bed for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

24 Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, “Go, serve the Lord your God; only let your sheep and oxen be kept back. Let your belongings also go with you.”

25 But Moses said, “No, but you must give us whole burnt offerings and sacrifices that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. 26 Thus our cattle 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 in what manner we shall serve the Lord our God until we arrive there.”

27 But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he would not let them go. 28 Then Pharaoh said to him, “Depart from me. Take heed to yourself that you see my face no more. For in the day you see my face, you shall die.” 29 So Moses said, “You have spoken well. I will never see your face again.”

Exodus 11

Death of the Firstborn Announced

1 Now 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.

2 Speak now secretly in the hearing of the people, and let everyone ask from his neighbor articles of silver and gold and clothing.” 3 So the Lord gave the people grace in the sight of the Egyptians, and they lent to them. Moreover, the man Moses was very great before the Egyptians and before Pharaoh and all his servants.

4 Then Moses said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; 5 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 behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. 6 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. 7 But against not even one of the descendants of Israel, be it man or cattle, shall a dog snarl its tongue, that you may know the Lord shall make a wide distinction between the Egyptians and Israel.’ 8 And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Go from here, and all the people who follow you.’ After that I will go out.” Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

9 But the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not heed you, that I may multiply My signs and wonders in the land of Egypt.” 10 So Moses and Aaron did all these signs and wonders in the land of Egypt before Pharaoh; and the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel depart from the land of Egypt.