

FAITHFUL AND TRUE

HERE COME THE PLAGUES

Exodus 7:1-8:19

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Why does God deal so harshly with Egypt?

1. Egypt was ripe for judgment.

And God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve; and afterward they will come out with many possessions. Genesis 15:13-14

A. Egypt was grossly idolatrous.

I will severely punish all the gods of Egypt, because I am the LORD. Exodus 12:12 GW

B. Egypt was brutal and bloodthirsty.

"When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." Exodus 1:16

And the Egyptians compelled the sons of Israel to labor rigorously; and they made their lives bitter with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all kinds of labor in the field, all their labors which they rigorously imposed on them. Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiprah, and the other was named Puah; and he said, "When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive." Exodus 1:12-16,

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C. Egypt was arrogant and stubborn.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is stubborn; he refuses to let the people go." Exodus 7:14

2. Egypt needed to know that the LORD alone is God.

"And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst."

Exodus 7:5

So Moses and Aaron did it; as the LORD commanded them, thus they did. And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three, when they spoke to Pharaoh. Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, "When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Work a miracle,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent.'" So Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and thus they did just as the LORD had commanded; and Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh also called for the wise men and the sorcerers, and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same with their secret arts. For each one threw down his staff and they turned into serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said. Exodus 7:6-13

- A. There was a merciful sign before the first plague.
- B. There were increasingly intense plagues that followed.
 - 1. The Egyptian god of the Nile was Hapi.
 - 2. The Egyptian goddess of fertility (frogs) was Heket.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, that it may become gnats through all the land of Egypt.'" And they did so; and Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff, and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats through all the land of Egypt. And the magicians tried with their secret arts to bring forth gnats, but they could not; so there were gnats on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said. Exodus 8:16-19

- 3. The Egyptian god of the earth (dust) was Geb.

What do we learn from Egypt's sin and stubbornness?

- A. A hard heart will face increasing pressure from a good God.

"And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'" Acts 26:14

B. When you see God at work, yield and follow through.

C. Recognize that God gives you the honor of repenting today.