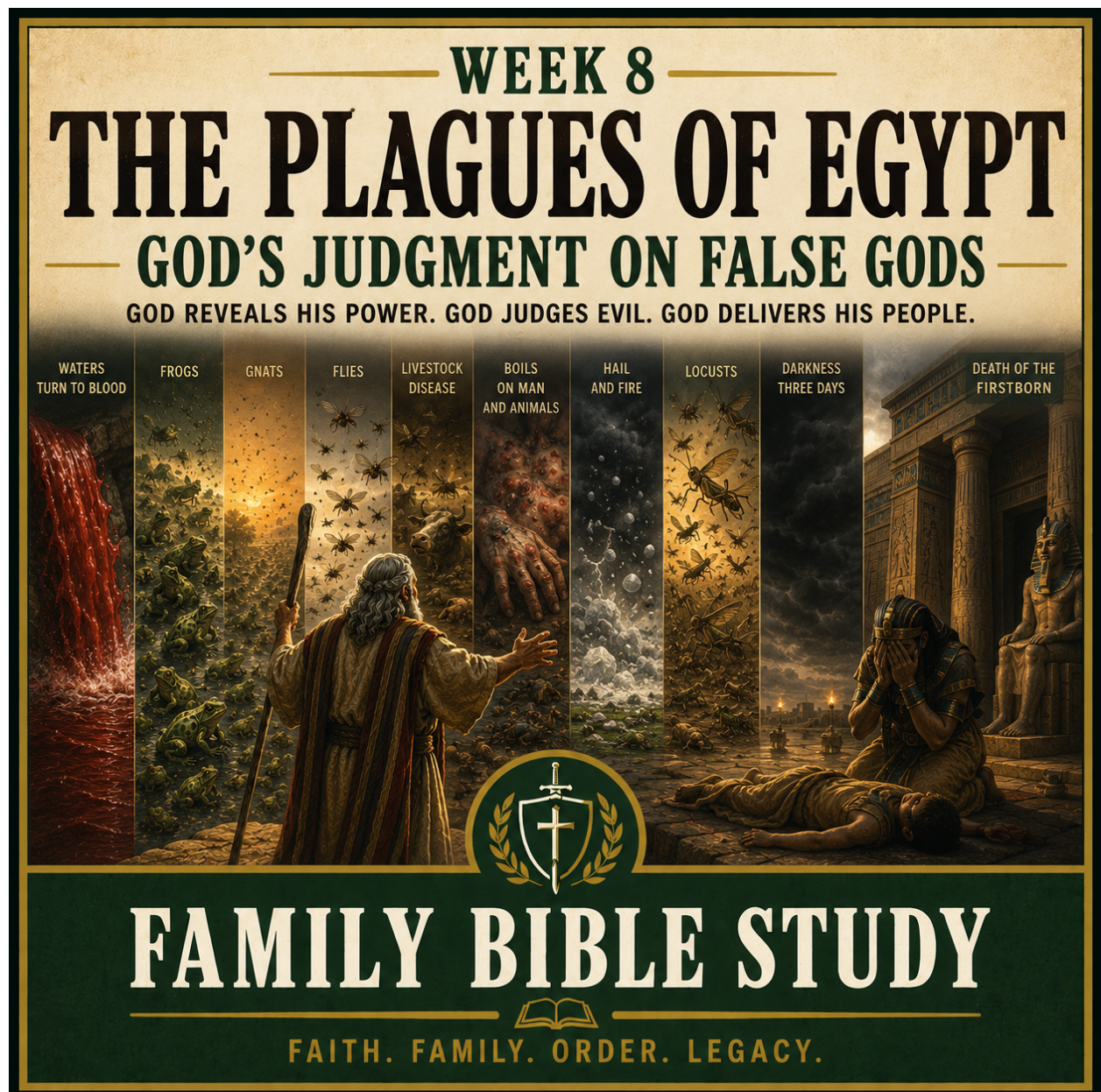




Week 8: The Plagues of Egypt - God's Judgment on False Gods

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

Introduction

The ten plagues of Egypt were acts of divine judgment through which God displayed His absolute authority over creation, exposed the helplessness of Egypt's false gods, and demonstrated that He alone is the one true God. Every plague struck at the heart of Egypt's religion, economy, or national pride, revealing the emptiness of idols and the futility of resisting the Lord.

Despite repeated warnings, Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to obey God's command to let His people go. His rebellion reminds us that a hardened heart grows more stubborn each time it rejects God's truth. Yet even in judgment, God displayed mercy by giving opportunities to repent before each plague escalated.

This study teaches that God is both just and sovereign. He will not share His glory with false gods, nor will He ignore persistent rebellion. At the same time, He faithfully protects those who belong to Him and keeps every promise He has made. As we study the plagues, we are reminded that every idol ultimately fails, every earthly power is temporary, and the Lord alone deserves our worship, trust, and obedience.



Scripture Reading

(Exodus 7:1–5; 8:16–19; 9:13–16; 12:12, Psalm 96:4–5)

With Commentary Throughout

Exodus 7:1–5

1 *“And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet”*

2 *“Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land”*

3 *“And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt”*

4 *“But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments”*

5 *“And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them”*

Commentary:

God's confrontation with Pharaoh is not just political, but theological. Pharaoh thought of himself as a god, but the LORD sends Moses and Aaron to show who truly rules heaven and earth. Each plague is a blow to Egypt's false gods, idols of nature, fertility, health, and power. The battle is between Yahweh, the true God, and the counterfeit deities of a pagan empire.

Exodus 8:16–19 (Third plague – Lice)

16 *"And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt"*

17 *"And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt"*

18 *"And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast"*

19 *"Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said"*

Commentary:

Even Egypt's sorcerers reach their limits. Their imitation of power ends, and they are forced to confess the divine source behind the plagues. God's judgment always exposes false religion. This is how He brings nations to their knees, not merely through signs, but by discrediting their "gods."

Exodus 9:13–16

13 *"And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me"*

14 *"For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth"*

15 *"For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth"*

16 *“And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth”*

Commentary:

The plagues are precise acts of judgment aimed at the very heart of Egyptian theology. The Nile, sun, frogs, livestock, and even Pharaoh himself are struck down to demonstrate that there is no god but Yahweh. His purpose is clear: “that thou mayest know”, God’s judgments reveal His supremacy to both His people and their enemies.

Exodus 12:12

12 *“For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD”*

Commentary:

God identifies His target: the gods of Egypt. Each plague dismantles a part of Egypt’s false religious structure. Hapi (god of the Nile), Heqet (frog goddess), Geb (earth god), Hathor (cow goddess), Ra (sun god), and others are humiliated. The plagues are not chaos, they are holy warfare.



Discussion Questions for All Ages

Young Children:

- What happened when Pharaoh disobeyed God?
- Who was more powerful - Pharaoh or God?
- What was your favorite plague and why?

Older Children & Teens:

- Why do you think God sent so many plagues instead of just one?
- How did each plague show that the Egyptian gods were false?

- What “false gods” do people follow today?

Adults:

- What modern institutions or ideologies does God judge today like He did Egypt?
 - How do we respond when God's judgment exposes idols in our own lives?
 - How can families prepare to stand firm when God judges a nation?
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Psalm Reading - Psalm 96:4–5

4 “For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods.”

5 “For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.”

Commentary:

This Psalm affirms exactly what the Exodus plagues proved: the gods of the nations are nothing, but the LORD is Creator and King. In every generation, His glory demands that idols fall.

Hymn: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

By Martin Luther (1529)

1.

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

2.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,

Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

3.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

4.

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.



Family Application Points

1. Identify and Renounce Modern Idols:

Talk as a family about false “gods” today, money, fame, self, government, technology. Identify any in your home or habits, and commit to removing them.

2. Discuss God's Judgments in History:

Study historical examples where God has judged nations (e.g., Babel, Rome, modern empires). Teach your children that God still brings nations low.

3. Stand Firm in a Pagan Culture:

Like Israel in Egypt, we must learn to live set apart even under unjust systems. Encourage your family to reject compromise and cling to God’s Word, even if society mocks them.

4. **Fear the True God:**

The purpose of the plagues was to teach reverent fear. Practice daily worship, prayer, and Scripture reading to cultivate a holy fear of the LORD in your home.

5. **Sing the Hymn Together:**

Teach your family the powerful truths of *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*. Explain its history and message, then sing it together with strength.



A Sabbath Feast Prayer (Used later when the Sabbath Meal is Ready)

“Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your Sabbath - a holy day of rest, joy, and renewal. As we partake in this meal, may our hearts be lifted in gratitude for Your provision and peace. Let this table reflect the peace of Your Kingdom and the love that binds our household together in Christ. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”



Closing Prayer

Almighty God, You are the Judge of all the earth. You alone are worthy of worship, and You will not share Your glory with another. Just as You struck down the gods of Egypt, we ask that You expose and destroy the idols of our time. Begin with our own hearts, reveal to us anything we trust more than You. Strengthen our family to stand firm when the world follows lies. May our home be filled with holy fear, worship, and obedience. Let us proclaim, in this generation, that there is no god but the LORD. In the name of Jesus Christ, the true Deliverer, we pray. Amen.