

Part 1

The Plagues

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Part of The Epic Life of Moses

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The *Epic* Life of Moses

God [to Moses]: *5You can be sure that I have heard the groans of the people of Israel, who are now slaves to the Egyptians. And I am well aware of my covenant with them. 6Therefore, say to the people of Israel: “I am the LORD. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. 7I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. 8I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the LORD!”*

—Exodus 6:5-8 (NLT)

God promises to “free” the Israelites, “rescue” them, “redeem” them, “claim” them, and “bring” them to the land He first promised to Abraham, which is a picture for us even today of what God does for us in Jesus Christ.

God will use Pharaoh’s hardness of heart to demonstrate to the Egyptians His power.

The LORD [to Moses]: *4Even then Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you. So I will bring down my fist on Egypt. Then I will rescue my forces—my people, the Israelites—from the land of Egypt with great acts of judgment. 5When I raise my powerful hand and bring out the Israelites, the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.'*

—Exodus 7:4-5 (NLT)

THE FIRST NINE PLAGUES

Plague #1 - The Plague of Blood (Exodus 7:14-25)



Plague #2 - The Plague of Frogs (Exodus 8:1-15)



Plague #3 – The Plague of Gnats (Exodus 8:16-19)



Plague #4 – The Plague of Flies (Exodus 8:20-32)

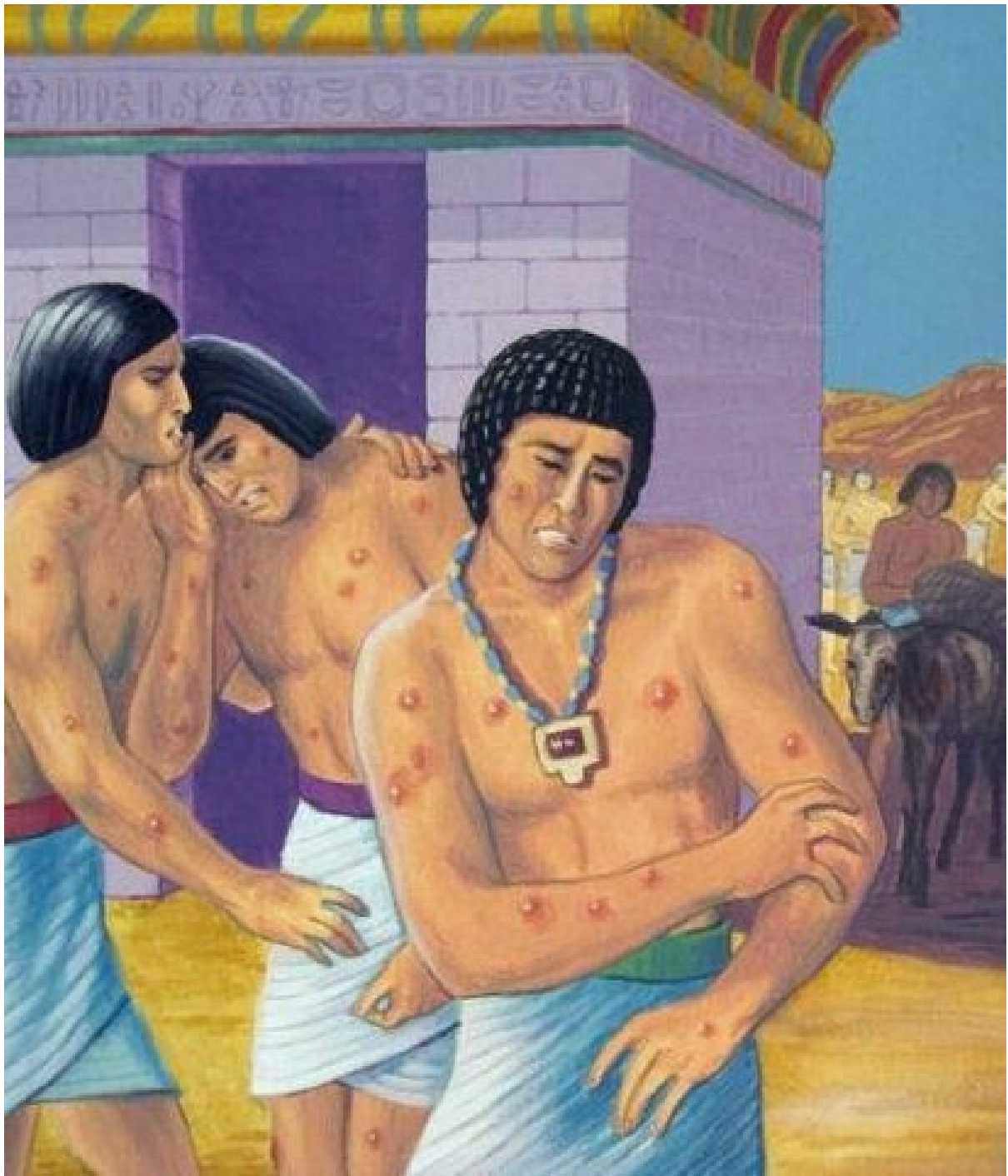




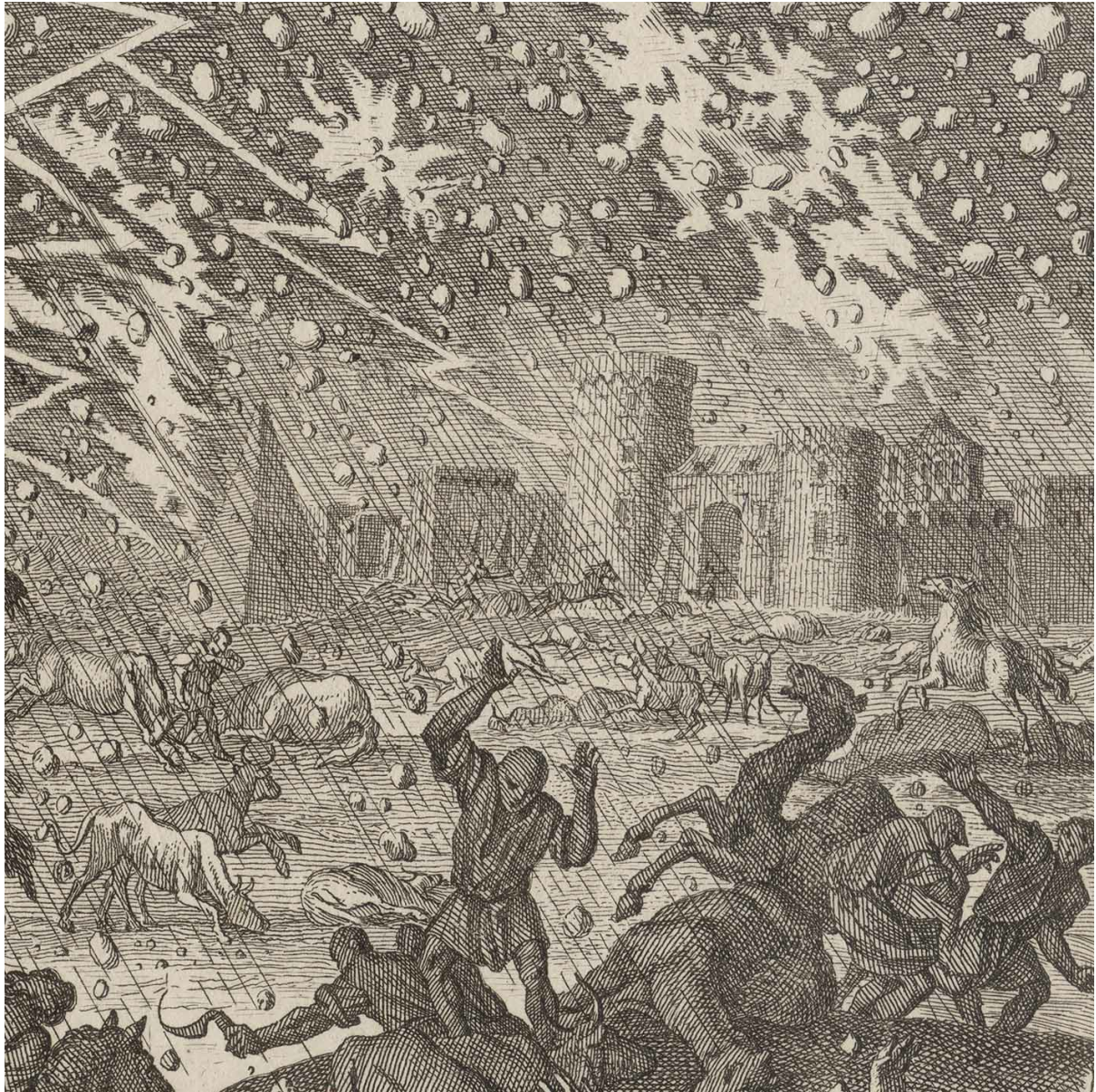
Plague #5 – The Plague on Livestock (Exodus 9:1-7)



Plague #6 - The Plague of Boils (Exodus 9:8-12)



Plague #7 - The Plague of Hail (Exodus 9:13-35)



Plague #8 - The Plague of Locusts (Exodus 10:1-20)



Plague #9 - The Plague of Darkness (Exodus 10:21-29)



God tells Moses that He has a Purpose for Each Group of Three Plagues:

- First Three Plagues: **through these actions Pharaoh will come to know who the LORD God is.**

So this is what the LORD says: "I will show you that I am the LORD." Look! I will strike the water of the Nile with this staff in my hand, and the river will turn to blood.

—Exodus 7:17 (NLT) **(vss. 8:10, 8:19)**

- **Second Set of Three Plagues: God says He's in this land, indicating that He is at work overseeing and guiding the whole world.**

But this time I [the LORD] will spare the region of Goshen, where my people live. No flies will be found there. Then you will know that I am the LORD and that I am present even in the heart of your land.

—Exodus 8:22 (NLT)

- **Third Set of Three Plagues: God says Pharaoh will see that there's no one like the LORD.**

If you don't, I [the LORD] will send more plagues on you and your officials and your people. Then you will know that there is no one like me in all the earth.

—Exodus 9:14 (NLT) **(vss. 9:16, 9:29-30, 10:1)**

Plague #10 - The Plague on the Firstborn (Exodus 11-12)

The LORD: *2From now on, this month will be the first month of the year*

for you. 3Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household.... 5The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, with no defects. 6Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Then the whole assembly of the community of Israel must slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight. 7They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the animal. 8That same night they must roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with

*bitter salad greens
and bread made
without yeast...*

*11 These are your
instructions for
eating this meal: Be
fully dressed, wear
your sandals, and
carry your walking
stick in your hand.*

*Eat the meal with
urgency, for this is
the LORD's*

*Passover. 12 On that
night I will pass
through the land of
Egypt and strike
down every*

*firstborn son and
firstborn male
animal in the land
of Egypt. I will
execute judgment
against all the gods
of Egypt, for I am
the LORD! 13 But*

*the blood on your
doorposts will serve
as a sign, marking
the houses where
you are staying.*

*When I see the
blood, I will pass
over you. This
plague of death will
not touch you when
I strike the land of
Egypt.*

—Exodus 12:2-13

(NLT)



*The
LORD:
“5Now
if you
will
obey
me and
keep
my
covenant,
you will
be my
own
special
treasure
from
among
all the
peoples
on
earth;
for all
the
earth
belongs
to me.
6And
you will
be my
kingdom*

*of
priests,
my holy
nation.”
This is
the
message
you
must
give to
the
people
of
Israel.*

—
*Exodus
19:5-6
(NLT)*

Each family took the blood of the lamb they sacrificed and smeared its blood on the top and sides of doorframe, so that the blood of that lamb served as a substitute for each member of the family - the death of the lamb meant life for the family.

Moses, at God’s command, called the Israelites to reenact the events of the Passover every year, in order to remember and reexperience what the LORD God had done for them.

*“25When you enter the land the LORD has promised to give you, you will continue to observe this ceremony.
26Then your children will ask, ‘What does this ceremony mean?’ 27And you will reply, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. And though he struck the Egyptians, he spared our families.’” When Moses had finished speaking, all the people bowed down to the ground and worshiped. 28So the people of Israel did just as the LORD had commanded through Moses and Aaron. 29And that night at midnight, the LORD struck down all the*

firstborn sons in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne, to the firstborn son of the prisoner in the dungeon. Even the firstborn of their livestock were killed. 30Pharaoh and all his officials and all the people of Egypt woke up during the night, and loud wailing was heard throughout the land of Egypt. There was not a single house where someone had not died. 31Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron during the night. “Get out!” he ordered. “Leave my people—and take the rest of the Israelites with you! Go and worship the LORD as you have requested. 32Take your flocks and herds, as you said, and be gone. Go, but bless me as you leave.”

—Exodus 12:25-32 (NLT)

It’s important for us to see that this event that happened over three thousand years ago wasn’t just for the Israelites, for it pointed directly to Jesus and what he would do for all who would see and receive what he had done.

... John [the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

—John 1:29 (NLT)

Jesus became our Passover lamb, sacrificed on the cross at Passover, so that God could pass over our sins because Jesus had paid the price - he died our death, receiving the punishment we deserved for our sins - freeing us from slavery to sin and death and enabling us to begin a new life journey to the promised land of eternity with Jesus in Heaven.

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

—1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)

Next Week: *The Epic Life of Moses: The Red Sea*