



Exodus 8:20-9:35

# KNOWING THAT HE IS THE LORD

*“For this purpose I have raised you up, to show you My power, so that My name may be proclaimed in all the earth” [9:16]. This statement is critical for understanding the purpose of the plagues. While Israel’s liberation is crucial in Exodus, the Lord’s words make it clear that liberation is not the reason for the succession of plagues. This is not to downplay the Lord’s compassion for Israel or His remembering His covenant, but simply to say that neither of those things accounts for the **manner** in which the Lord overcame Egypt and released Israel. If Israel’s liberation was the controlling issue, the narrative might have quickly moved from 5:2 to 14:30: “Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians.” Rather, it is the Lord’s desire to be known throughout the earth that accounts for the plagues... There is a fundamental **mission orientation** to the entire plague cycle.* —W. Ross Blackburn

In 7:1-11:10, God reveals His primary purpose for the ten plagues:

**By this you shall know that I am the LORD!** (7:17; cf. 6:7; 7:5; 8:10, 22; 10:2)

In showing His absolute sovereignty over all of His creation, God also shows the absolute futility of the gods of Egypt, including Pharaoh.

<b>The Staff Turning into Snake</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Three Plagues</b> (7:14-8:19)	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Three Plagues</b> (8:20-9:12)	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Three Plagues</b> (9:13-10:29)	<b>The Death of the Firstborn</b>
God is absolutely sovereign in power!  (7:8-13)	<b>Blood</b> Go to Pharaoh in the morning	<b>Flies</b> Go to Pharaoh in the morning	<b>Hail</b> Go to Pharaoh in the morning	God is absolutely righteous in judgment!  (11:1-12:36)
	<b>Frogs</b> Go to Pharaoh	<b>Pestilence</b> Go to Pharaoh	<b>Locusts</b> Go to Pharaoh	
	<b>Gnats</b> No warning	<b>Boils</b> No warning	<b>Darkness</b> No warning	

*The entire story of the plagues is about a contest between the will of the Pharaoh and the will of God. Pharaoh was a self-proclaimed god, the object of worship by his subjects.* —Nahum M. Sarna

*Pharaoh was classed internationally among the kings of the earth. He is referred to as a “Great King.” Pharaoh was the strong-man king, god’s representative on earth, the image of the high-god, the superior intellect.* —Donald B. Redford

*Each plague reintroduces chaos into the order of creation.* —Peter Enns

*What the plagues of Exodus show is the inability of the obstinate king to maintain Ma’at [cosmic order].* —James K. Hoffmeier

**Swarms.** Heb., *arob*, “a collection of noxious beasts or insects.”

*The Egyptian god **Khepri**, appearing as a scarab beetle, was seen as a self-engendered god and associated with the sun-god Ra and with recreation. He signified creation, protection, and resurrection.*

—Maria van Ryneveld

## PLAGUE #4 — Swarms of Flies on Everything (8:20-32)

- God confronts the god of \_\_\_\_\_ (*Khepri*).  
*That you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth.* (8:22)
- God gives special \_\_\_\_\_ to His people.
- Pharaoh offers two \_\_\_\_\_ to Moses.  
*Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.* (8:25)  
*I will let you go...only you shall not go very far away.* (8:28)
- Pharaoh \_\_\_\_\_ his heart.

### PLAGUE #5 — Pestilence on Livestock (9:1-7)

- God confronts the god of \_\_\_\_\_ (*Hathor*).
- God gives special \_\_\_\_\_ to His people.
- Pharaoh's heart is \_\_\_\_\_.

### PLAGUE #6 — Boils on Everyone (9:8-12)

- God confronts the goddess of \_\_\_\_\_ (*Sekhmet*).
- Pharaoh's magicians cannot even \_\_\_\_\_ themselves.
- The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Pharaoh's heart.

*Pharaoh hardens his heart (8:15, 32; 9:34)*

*Pharaoh's heart is hardened (7:13, 22; 8:19; 9:7, 35)*

*The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart (9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:8)*

### PLAGUE #7 — Hailstorm on the Land (9:13-35)

- God confronts the goddess of \_\_\_\_\_ (*Nut*).  
*That you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth. (9:14)*
- God gives a gracious \_\_\_\_\_ to all of Egypt.
- God gives special \_\_\_\_\_ to His people.
- Pharaoh exhibits a superficial \_\_\_\_\_.
- Pharaoh and his servants \_\_\_\_\_ their hearts.

### FIVE PRINCIPLES FROM EXODUS 8:20-9:35

1. My greatest need is to know the Lord (cf. John 17:3).
2. God knows those who are His and He will act to protect them.
3. Those who repeatedly harden their heart *against* God are given over to further hardening *by* God (cf. Romans 1:18-32).
4. My response to God is revealed by my response to His Word.
5. True freedom comes in knowing the truth (cf. John 8:31-32).

*Hathor was often depicted as a cow bearing the sun disk between her horns, especially when shown nursing the king... She was the symbolic mother of the pharaohs... More temples were dedicated to Hathor than to any other Egyptian goddess. —Wikipedia, "Hathor"*

*Amenhotep II surpassed all his predecessors in his fanatical devotion to the worship of animals, and especially of the bull.*

—William H. Gispen

*Sekhmet ["she who is powerful"]... was seen as the protector of the pharaohs... She could avert plague and cure disease. She was the patron of physicians and healers.*

—egyptianmuseum.org

*It was poetic justice that the soot, which had been created, as it were, by the sweat of the enslaved people should inflict punishment on the bodies of the enslavers.*

—Umberto Cassuto

The Egyptian goddess, **Nut**, was one of the earliest Egyptian deities and was seen as the "Protector of the Earth." She is often seen as the one who resurrects the kings and is often painted on the inside and outside of Egyptian coffins.

**Hardened.** Heb., *chazaq*, "to make firm, strengthen, confirm; tie fast"

*God gave Pharaoh the strength of will necessary to go on opposing Him, in accord with Pharaoh's most fundamental desires... His attitude of rebellion is confirmed, so to speak. —Dorian Coover-Cox*

*Easy confession of sin and shallow repentance springs only from a desire to avert the consequences.*

—R. Alan Cole