

The Ten Plagues

Quote:

“Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:”

Exodus 6:6

Pharaoh’s HARDENED Heart - Mark above ch 7

Pharaoh’s heart was hardened by Yahweh’s manipulation of circumstances and events around a man specifically raised up by Yahweh (see [Exod 9:16](#)). The three words used to describe the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart, show the lengths flesh will go to resist Yahweh:

- Heb “chazaq” ([Exod 4:21](#); [7:13,22](#); [8:19](#); [9:12,35](#); [10:20,27](#); [11:10](#); [14:4,8,17](#)) - means to strengthen, prevail, become strong and thus harden. It shows how Pharaoh was encouraged to resist once the immediate danger had passed.
- Heb “qashah” ([Exod 7:3](#); [13:15](#) “hardly”) - means to be dense - ie tough, severe, hard or cruel. It describes the character of Pharaoh. It is often translated “stiffnecked” (ie [Deut 10:16](#); [2 Chron 30:8](#)) speaking of people who steadfastly refuse to submit to Yahweh.
- Heb “kabed” ([Exod 7:14](#); [8:15,32](#); [9:7,34](#); [10:1](#)) - means be heavy - ie difficult, burdensome, severe, stupid. This shows the stupidity of such resistance in the face of Yahweh’s demonstration of power (see [1 Sam 6:6](#)).

The Significance of the Ten Plagues - Mark on an insert

The following summary of the Ten Plagues can be made into a Bible Insert, and stuck in your Bible in Exodus 7 or 8

Plague	Worker	Duration	Source	Effect	Who was / wasn't effected	Egyptian god judged
1. Water into Blood Ex 7:14-25	Aaron	7 days	Water	General annoyance	Everyone	Hapi – god of the Nile.
2. Frogs Ex 8:1-15	Aaron		Water	General annoyance	Everyone	Heqt – wife of the god Khnum. Heqt was a frog-headed goddess. The frog was sacred to her. The frog was revered as a sign of good fortune ensuring a fertile year for farm and family.
3. Lice Ex 8:16-19	Aaron		Earth	General annoyance	Everyone	The earth (Ex 8:16) was worshipped through the god Geb.

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4. Flies (Beetles) Ex 8:20-32	Yahweh		Air	General annoyance	All but land of Goshen (Ex 8:22-23).	The Beetle was sacred to Ra the sun god
5. Murrain (sig. death) Ex 9:1-7	Yahweh		Air	Death of beasts	Not one of the cattle of the children of Israel died (Ex 9:6).	Hathor – goddess of Egypt had a human body and the head of a cow. Apis – worshipped in the form of a bull (a resurrection god - thus a symbol of life).
6. Boils Ex 9:8-12	Moses		Ashes	Leprosy on man and beast	Throughout the land of Egypt (Ex 9:9).	Imhotep - the god of healing. Sekhmet – lion headed goddess, supposed to have power to start and finish epidemics.
7. Hail and fire Ex 9:16-35	Moses		Air	Destruction of crops and herds	He that feared Yahweh, made his servants and his cattle flee into houses (Ex 9:20-21) and Goshen reminded unaffected (Ex 9:26).	Shu – god of light, heat, air and dryness.
8. Locusts Ex 10:13-15	Moses		Wind	Destruction of growth	Ultimately only Egypt – Israel soon to depart. (Ex 10:15)	Serapis – was supposed to protect the land from the destructive activities of Locusts
9. Darkness Ex 10:21-23	Moses	3 days		Sun blotted out	“children of Israel had light..” (Ex 10:23).	Ra – the god of the sun (highest of all gods). Thoth – sets the sun & moon in their places.
10. Death of Firstborn (man and beast) Ex 12:29-30	Yahweh	1 night	Divine intervention	Every home mourns	The angel of death passed over those with blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, (Ex 12:23).	Domestic animals were worshipped as god. Really a judgement on all Egypt's gods. None of them could protect those who worshipped them.