

The Ten Plagues and Passover

Quote:

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”

1 Peter 1:18, 19

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.

Plague	Worker	Duration	Source	Effect	Who was / wasn't effected	Egyptian god judged
3. Lice Ex 8:16-19	Aaron		Earth	General annoyance	Everyone	The earth (Ex 8:16) was worshipped through the god Geb.
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.

The Significance of the Passover - Mark on an insert

Instructions (Exodus 12)	Significance
On the tenth day of the month (Abib) every household was to select a lamb (v.3)	On the tenth day of the month (Abib) Jesus entered into Jerusalem (Mat.21:10)
The lamb was to be male, under 12 months and without blemish (v.5)	Jesus was not blemished by sin (1 Pet.1:19, Luke 23:4)
The lamb was to be penned up for four days (v.6)	From the 10th to the 14th Jesus was “penned” up in Jerusalem (Luke 21:37-38)

Instructions (Exodus 12)	Significance
In the evening (between 3pm-6pm) the lamb was to be killed and its blood caught in a basin (v.6)	Jesus was slain shortly after 3pm (Mat.27:45-50) See 1 Cor 5:7; Heb 9:22
Hyssop was to be used to sprinkle the blood onto the doorposts and lintel of the house (v.7, 22)	Believers are baptised into the sacrifice of Christ, and through faith in his shed blood have their past sins "passed over" (Rom.3:25 see margin for "remission"). Salvation is only through the sprinkled blood of Christ (1 Pet.1:18-19, Heb.12:24, Rev.7:13-14; 1 Jn 1:7).
The lamb was to be roasted and then eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs (v.8-9)	In Jesus there was no "leaven of wickedness" (1 Cor. 5:6-8) and he knew the bitterness of trial.
In killing and eating the lamb, they had to make sure that no bones were broken (v.46)	No bones of Jesus were broken (John 19:33)
None of the lamb was to remain until the morning. Any left overs were to be burned (v.10)	The body of Jesus did not corrupt (Acts 2:27), as it was raised after three days.
They were to eat the lamb in haste, as if they were ready to go - have their loins girt, shoes on, staff in their hand (v.11)	The trial and crucifixion of Jesus was done in haste by the Jewish leaders (Mat.26:3-4)
They were to remain indoors all night (v.22)	Throughout the night of Gentile darkness we are to remain within the household of faith (John 15:4), waiting for the return of our Lord.
No uncircumcised stranger was to eat the lamb (v.48)	Today, baptism is the token of our covenant with God, through which we can identify with the sacrifice of Christ (Rom.6:3).
Israel was to keep this feast as a memorial every year (v.14)	We are commanded to keep the feast of remembrance to memorialise Christ's body and blood (1 Cor. 11:24-25).