

## THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

**DATE:** November 2, 2014

**SUBJECT: THE TRAVELS OF THE CHOSEN CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: Plagues Upon Egypt (2)**

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 8:20-32; 9:1-35; 10:1-29

**AIM:** (1) As God's people, we should have a proper separation. (2) We should have the proper fear of God and His representatives to escape God's judgment. (3) To see how terrible it is to be a stubborn and hard-hearted person, and that we should be good listeners.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** 2 Corinthians 6:14a, 17 ("Do not become dissimilarly yoked with unbelievers....Therefore 'come out from their midst and be separated, says the Lord, and do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you';") Hebrews 4:7b ("Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."); Romans 13:1a ("Let every person be subject to the authorities over him, for there is no authority except from God..."); Proverbs 8:33 ("Hear instruction, and be wise; And do not neglect it.")

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** #5223 (BSS 1 – Our God Doesn't Give Up); #1614 (Cooperation); #3418 (I wanna be good ground); #3722 (Jesus I am listening); #4607 (Moses and God); #2807 (Go Down Moses - Sing to the Lord #100); #1314 (Brave Moses - Shining Star, Issue 29); #65 (God's Word); #173 (To the Foe My Word is Always "No"); #174 (When "Ugly Satan" Knocks at My Heart's Door)

**BACKGROUND/REVIEW:** In last week's lesson we saw that Pharaoh had a hard heart and did not listen to Moses, even though terrible plagues came to the Egyptians. The Lord had caused the river to turn to blood, covered the land with frogs, and caused the dust of the earth to become lice throughout all the land of Egypt. Still, Pharaoh did not listen. He was stubborn, hard-hearted, and not humble before the Lord. This week, we will continue to see how Jehovah sent more plagues because Pharaoh would not let God's people go.

### **CONTENT:**

**The Fourth Plague—Flies (Exodus 8:20-32).** Jehovah told Moses to tell Pharaoh that Jehovah said to let His people go that they may serve Him. If he didn't, He would at once send swarms of flies against him, his servants, his people, and his houses. The houses of the Egyptians would be full of flies as well as the ground they would stand on! But He would set apart the land of Goshen, where His people were staying, so that no swarms of flies would be there. Pharaoh wouldn't listen, so heavy swarms of flies came into Pharaoh's and his servants' houses, and throughout Egypt and the land was ruined because of the swarms of flies. Again, at Pharaoh's request, Moses prayed to Jehovah and the swarms of flies were removed. But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and he did not let the people go.

**The Fifth Plague—Pestilence (Exodus 9:1-7).** Jehovah told Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let His people go that they may serve Him. If not, then His hand would be on Pharaoh's livestock in the field: horses, donkeys, camels, herds, and the flocks. He would strike them with a very severe pestilence (a contagious, infectious disease or sickness that is very strong and devastating). But He would make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt. Nothing would die of all that belonged to the children of Israel. The next day, as Jehovah had said, all the livestock of Egypt died! But not one of the livestock of the children of Israel died. Pharaoh inquired, and indeed not one of the livestock of the Israelites had died. But his heart was stubborn, and he did not let the people go.

**The Sixth Plague—Boils (9:8-12).** Jehovah told Moses and Aaron to take handfuls of ashes from a furnace and have Moses sprinkle it toward heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. It would become fine dust over all the land of Egypt and would become boils breaking out with sores on man and on beast throughout the land of Egypt! But Pharaoh still didn't listen to them.

**The Seventh Plague—Hail (Exodus 9:13-35).** Jehovah told Moses to tell Pharaoh to let His people go that they may serve Him. Jehovah warned that he would cause very heavy hail to fall. The hail would kill every man and beast that was outside when the hail fell. Indeed, when Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven as Jehovah instructed, Jehovah sent thunder and hail, and fire came down on the earth. The very heavy hail came with fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail! The hail struck everything that was in the field, both man and beast, throughout all the land of Egypt. It struck

all the vegetation of the field and shattered every tree of the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail. Again, Pharaoh asked Moses to entreat Jehovah; there had been enough of God's thunder and hail! Moses prayed and the hail and thunder and rain ceased, but Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he still did not let the children of Israel go.

**The Eighth Plague—Locusts (Exodus 10:1-20).** Jehovah told Moses to go to Pharaoh again. If Pharaoh refused to let His people go, He would bring swarming locusts to cover the surface of the land. But Pharaoh was still so stubborn and wouldn't listen. So Jehovah told Moses to stretch out his hand over the land of Egypt. And Jehovah drove an east wind upon the land all that day and all night and in the morning the wind brought the swarming locusts. There had never been so many locusts in Egypt! They covered the surface of the whole land, so that the land was darkened! They ate all the vegetation of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. Nothing green remained throughout all the land of Egypt! Pharaoh again asked Moses to entreat Jehovah. And Jehovah changed the wind into a very strong west wind and all the locusts were driven into the Red Sea—not one was left in all the territory of Egypt. But Jehovah hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he didn't let God's people go.

**The Ninth Plague—Darkness (Exodus 10:21-29).** Jehovah told Moses to stretch out his hand toward heaven that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even a darkness that could be felt. So there was thick darkness throughout all the land of Egypt for three days. They could not see one another, nor did anyone rise up from his place—for three whole days! But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. But Jehovah hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go.

Pharaoh should have listened for we will see next week that the next plague was the worst of all!

#### **SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:**

- **We should not be stubborn like Pharaoh.** As we heard last week and this week, Pharaoh was so stubborn and refused to give in! Each plague was terrible, yet he did not want to listen. When we get in trouble with our parents or teachers, we should feel sorry and try not to do the same thing again. Otherwise, next time we might get into worse trouble.
- **We should have the proper fear of God.** Pharaoh was not only stubborn, but he was proud and did not have the proper fear of God and God's representative Moses. As a result, God judged Egypt with terrible plagues. We need to have the proper respect and fear of authority, including our parents, grandparents, teachers, police officers, etc. God is righteous and will not let us get away with disobedience and rebellion. We may bring judgment upon ourselves if we do not respect and obey God's representatives.
- **We should have a proper separation and live differently from people who do not know God.** The plagues came upon the land of Egypt, but in the land where the children of Israel were living, they were okay. What if someone from the children of Israel was in the wrong place at the wrong time? We should be in the proper place at the proper time, and be with friends who do and say proper things. If we see that some people in school are fighting, cheating, making fun of others, and not behaving, we should not participate in what they're doing. They may even be doing something dangerous. We may need to physically separate ourselves by walking away so that we don't get into trouble too. We can pray for our friends that they would also know God.
- **We should be good listeners like Moses and Aaron.** Moses was God's representative, and Aaron his brother was helping Moses. It was very important for Moses to listen carefully to what God was telling him to say and do, and for Moses and Aaron to follow God's instructions. What if they had told Pharaoh the wrong thing, or inaccurately told Pharaoh about what would happen? They would have misrepresented God and Pharaoh might not believe them. When our parents ask us to tell our brothers and sisters something, we should listen carefully and convey it accurately. If our teachers tell us to do something, we should listen carefully and do it properly.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ in God's Economy*—Vol. 4, *The Travels of the Chosen Children of Israel*, Lesson 2, and from the Church in New York City's Children's meeting lessons: 5/22/88; 5/29/88; 10/15/95; 10/26/03; 4/9/06; 11/1/09