

GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE --THE TEN PLAGUES!

Introduction:

A. Texts: Ex. 3:19 - 13:22

B. Review Of Past Lessons:

- 1. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers.
- 2. Because of a famine, Jacob sent ten of his brothers to Egypt to get food.
- 3. Joseph finally revealed himself to his brothers; they returned home and brought Jacob to Egypt.
- 4. After Joseph died and as decades and centuries past, a Pharaoh came to power who did not know or respect Joseph; fearing the growing Israelites, he began to suppress and persecute them.
- 5. By the time of Moses' birth, the oppression had become almost inhumane. The people were crying out for relief.
- 6. God prepared Moses to be the leader of Israel by using his upbringing in Egypt during the 40 years in Pharaoh's house combined with his 40 year of tending sheep in Midian and in the land around Sinai.
- 7. Then God called Moses to lead His people out of Egyptian bondage.
- C. (**Slide #2**) Tonight: Why Did The Supernatural Events, Including The Ten Plagues, Occur?
 - 1. (▶) Pharaoh will have to be convinced supernaturally!
 - a. Ex. 3:19-21 "But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. ²⁰So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go."
 - b. Ex. 4:23 "And the LORD said to Moses, 'When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go."

- 2. (▶) Israel will have to be convinced! -- "What if the people of Israel don't believe you sent me?"
 - a. Moses' question: Ex. 4:1 "Then Moses answered and said, 'But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'"
 - b. God's answer provides two supernatural signs:
 - 1. Ex. 4:2-10 "So the LORD said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' He said, 'A rod.' And He said, 'Cast it on the ground.' So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Reach out your hand and take it by the tail' (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), 5'that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.' ⁶Furthermore the LORD said to him, 'Now put vour hand in vour bosom.' And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow. ⁷And He said, 'Put vour hand in your bosom again.' So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh. 8'Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign. ⁹And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. And the water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land.' ¹⁰Then Moses said to the LORD, 'O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."
 - a. His rod turned into a serpent; when he picked it up, it returned to be a rod.
 - b. His hand became leprous when he put it in his bosom; when he put it in again, it was restored to wholesomeness.
 - 2. Ex. 4:17 "And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs."

I. (Slide #3) Moses And Aaron Use Their Supernatural Powers To Convince The Israelites That They Are God's Chosen Leaders.

A. Ex. 4:29-31 "Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. ³⁰And Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people. ³¹So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped."

- B. When Pharaoh Made Their Burdens Harder: "So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage." Ex. 6:9
- C. Ultimately, The 10 Plagues Certainty Convinced Them!

II. (Slide #4) Moses And Aaron Use Supernatural Powers In Speaking To Pharaoh.

- A. (▶) Events Before The Plagues: When Moses And Aaron Requested To Take Israel Into The Wilderness To Observe A Feast, Pharaoh Demanded "Who Is the LORD? I Don't Know Him!"
 - 1. Pharaoh's immediate response: Ex. 5:2 "And Pharaoh said, 'Who *is* the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go."
 - a. Is he saying that he never heard of God? Likely not.
 - b. He is declaring that he has no affinity to and will give no submission to the God of Moses and Aaron.
 - 2. When they requested to take Israel a three days journey, Ex. 5:3, Pharaoh rejected their request and made their tasks much more severely harsh! Ex. 5:4-18
 - 3. When the Israelites tasks were made so much more severely harsh, they blamed Moses for their mistreatment! Ex. 5:19-21
 - 4. God reassured Moses that He would deliver Israel from Egypt!
 - a. Ex. 6:1 "Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land.""
 - 1. [NIV "Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country."]
 - 2. This seems to give a better sense of what God was saying.
 - b. God's promise to Moses: Ex. 6:2-8 "And God spoke to Moses and said to him: 'I *am* the LORD. ³I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but *by* My name LORD I was not known to them. ⁴I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. ⁵And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. ⁶Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I *am* the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will

rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. ⁷I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you *as* a heritage: I *am* the LORD.""

- 5. The response of Israel: "So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage." Ex. 6:9
- B. (As Moses Struggled With Israel Not Believing Him And With His Doubt That Pharaoh Would Let Israel Go, God Gave Him Commands And Encouragements:
 - 1. Ex. 6:10,11 "Tell Pharaoh to let Israel go out of Egypt."
 - 2. Moses doubted that Israel or Pharaoh would listen: "And Moses spoke before the LORD, saying, 'The children of Israel have not heeded me. How then shall Pharaoh heed me, for I *am* of uncircumcised lips?" Ex. 6:12
 - 3. When God told Moses to speak to Pharaoh, he retorted, "But Moses said before the LORD, 'Behold, I *am* of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh heed me?" Ex. 6:30
 - 4. God's reassurance for Moses: "So the LORD said to Moses: 'See, I have made you *as* God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. ²You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall speak to Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land. ³And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. ⁴But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies *and* My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. ⁵And the Egyptians shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them." Ex. 7:1-5
 - a. God was going to make Moses to be revered before Pharaoh.
 - b. Moses and Aaron were to give Pharaoh God's commands!
 - c. God's commands would harden Pharaoh's heart -- he would resent and reject God's commands!
 - d. The supernatural events that God would bring upon Egypt would convince them that He IS the LORD!
 - 5. When Moses was 80 and Aaron was 83, they went in to speak to Pharaoh. Ex. 7:6,7
- C. (▶) Their First Miraculous Sign: Aaron's Rod! (Slide #5) Aaron Threw Down His Rod, It Became A Serpent. Ex. 7:8-13
 - 1. When the Egyptian magicians duplicated the event, they were in for a HUGE surprise.

- 2. Aaron's serpent ate all the Egyptian's serpents! This was a sign of power over the magicians and their power.
- 3. Yet, Pharaoh just hardened his heart.
- D. Pharaoh Totally Refused To Accept God's Existence And Authority And To Accept The Supernatural Signs God Gave Moses. Thus, The Ten Plagues Began!

III. (Slide #6) The Ten Plagues Brought Devastation To Egypt!

- A. (Slide #7) First Plague -- Water To Blood! Ex. 7:14-25
 - 1. This plague would occur because Pharaoh had hardened his heart and had not obeyed God.
 - 2. Moses, with his rod in his hand, met Pharaoh at the Nile River.
 - 3. Moses told Aaron to stretch forth his rod over the waters of the Nile; ALL the water in Egypt was instantly turned to blood!
 - a. Ex. 7:19 "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, 'Say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their **streams**, over their **rivers**, over their **ponds**, and over all their **po**ols of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both **in** *buckets of* **wood and** *pitchers of* **stone**.""
 - b. Imagine how unnerving that would be!
 - c. Imagine if the Ohio River, Pigeon Creek, the Bluegrass lakes, lakes near subdivisions, creeks, and small ripples were all blood!
 - d. Imagine if you turned on the faucet or put a glass to the refrigerator ice and water dispenser only dispensed blood!!!!!
 - e. Have you ever smelled dead fish one, two, or three days after they died??? The stench is putrid!!!
 - 4. And the awful results: for 7 days there was no water to drink, the fish died, and the country wreaked with the stench of dead fish!!!!! Ex. 7:20-24
 - 5. The Egyptian magicians imitated this plague. Ex. 7:22
 - 6. After 7 days, Pharaoh's heart was not softened; he did not flinch in his determination to continue to enslave the Israelites! Ex. 7:23
- B. (Slide #8) Second Plague -- Frogs! Ex. 8:1-15

- 1. Ex. 8:1,2 "And the LORD spoke to Moses, 'Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: 'Let My people go, that they may serve Me. ²But if you refuse to let *them* go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. ³So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. ⁴And the frogs shall come up on you, on your people, and on all your servants.'"
- 2. God told Moses to tell Aaron to stretch out his rod and frogs covered the land; it occurred! Ex. 8:5,6
- 3. The Egyptian magicians imitated this plague too. Ex. 8:7
- 4. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and promised to let Israel leave Egypt if they would just bring an end to the plague of frogs. Ex. 8:8
- 5. The next day the frogs that were in the houses, courtyards, and fields died. They were piled up in stinky piles! Ex. 8:9-14
- 6. Yet, as soon as the plague was removed, Pharaoh hardened his heart and did not let Israel leave! Ex. 8:15

C. (**Slide #9**) Third Plague -- **Lice!** Ex. 8:16-19

- 1. God told Aaron to strike the dust of Egypt; it would become lice. Ex. 8:16
- 2. Aaron struck the dust of all of Egypt; it all became lice. Ex. 8:17
- 3. The magicians of Egypt could not imitate this plague! They declared, "This is the finger of God!" Ex. 8:18
- 4. The lice were upon man and beast! Ex. 8:18
- 5. Yet Pharaoh's heart just grew hard and he refused to let Israel leave Egypt! Ex. 8:19

D. (**Slide #10**) Fourth Plague -- **Flies!** 8:20-32

- 1. The next morning Moses met Pharaoh at the Nile and told him to let Israel go. If he refused, his land would be filled with flies! Flies would swarm the people, cover their land, and fill their houses. Ex. 8:20,21 [NIV & ESV -- "gnats"]
- 2. If Pharaoh refused to let Israel go to worship Him, God promised a very unique difference when this plague would come -- it would punish the

Egyptians; the land of Goshen where Israel lived would be spared! Ex. 8:22,23

- 3. The next day, the plague of flies swarmed the land including the houses of Pharaoh and his servants! Ex. 8:24
- 4. Pharaoh called Moses and told him to take Israel to worship within Egypt; Moses refused! He stated that the Egyptians would see their worship as abomination! Ex. 8:25,26
- 5. Pharaoh then appeared to agree to allow Israel to go into the wilderness to worship; however, he refused to allow them to go very far. Of course, he again reneged and refused to allow them to leave! Ex. 8:27-32

E. (Slide #11) Fifth Plague -- Pestilence Upon The Cattle! 9:1-7

- 1. God again told Moses to go and tell Pharaoh to let His people go; if he refused, God would send a severe pestilence [a plaque of epidemic proportions) upon the cattle, horses, donkeys, camels, oxen, and sheep of the land. Ex. 9:1-3
- 2. Again, this plague would not affect the Israelites in the land of Goshen! None of their animals would die! Ex. 9:4
- 3. The next day, God brought this plague upon the cattle of Egypt; they all died! Ex. 9:5.6
- 4. Pharaoh sought information about what had happened in Goshen; none of the animals of the Israelites had died; yet, Pharaoh's heart still became hard! Ex. 9:7

F. (**Slide #12**) Sixth Plague -- **Boils**! 9:8-17

- 1. God told Moses and Aaron to have Moses take ashes from a furnace and scatter them toward the heavens (throw it into the air)! Ex. 9:8
- 2. It would become fine dust that would turn into festering boils over all men and beasts in the land of Egypt! Ex. 9:9
- 3. Moses obeyed; festering boils came upon all men and animals; the Egyptian magicians could no longer stand before Moses! Ex. 9:10-11
- 4. The LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart; he still refused to heed their call to let Israel go and worship! Ex. 9:12
- 5. The next day God sent Moses to tell Pharaoh to let His people go; if he refused, God would bring plagues upon Pharaoh, his servants, and his people that will CONVINCE them that there is NONE like Him in all the

earth! In reality, God could have already destroyed Pharaoh and his people from the earth if He had chosen to do so! God had raised up Pharaoh to show His mighty power and name! Sadly Pharaoh continued to exalt himself. Ex. 9:13-17

G. (Slide #13) Seventh Plague -- Hail! 9:17-35

- 1. Because Pharaoh continued to exalt himself, God would send devastating hail upon Egypt! Ex. 9:17,18
- 2. It would be so huge and devastating that it would kill animal or human who was outside! Ex. 9:19
- 3. Those who would believe God's message would spare their animals and humans; those who would not believe would lose their animals and family members! Ex. 9:20,21
- 4. When Moses stretched forth his hand, thunder, lightning, and hail bombarded Egypt destroying animals, humans, and crops! Only Goshen was spared! Ex. 9:22-26
- 5. Pharaoh articulated penitence but Moses knew he still was not truly humble before God!
 - Ex. 9:27-35 "And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, 'I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I are wicked. ²⁸Entreat the LORD, that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer.' ²⁹So Moses said to him, 'As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the LORD; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, that you may know that the earth is the LORD'S. ³⁰But as for you and your servants, I know that you will not yet fear the LORD God.' ³¹Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley was in the head and the flax was in bud. ³²But the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they *are* late crops. ³³So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and spread out his hands to the LORD; then the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain was not poured on the earth. ³⁴And when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, he and his servants. ³⁵So the heart of Pharaoh was hard; neither would he let the children of Israel go, as the LORD had spoken by Moses."
 - b. He was remorseful but not penitent!
 - c. The flax and barley were destroyed (this was likely in February); the wheat and rye, later crops (harvested in late March and April), were not destroyed.
 - d. As soon as the plague ceased, Pharaoh hardened his heart again!

H. (**Slide #14**) Eighth Plague -- **Locusts!** Ex. 10:1-19

- 1. Because of Pharaoh's refusal to humble himself, God was going to bring even more powerful supernatural devastation to Egypt! Ex. 10:1-2
- 2. God promised to send swarms of locusts that would literally cover the earth so that men could not see the ground! They would eat all the vegetation and trees that was not destroyed by the hail! Ex. 10:3-5
- 3. The Egyptians houses would be filled with the locusts! Ex. 10:6
- 4. Pharaoh's servants advised him to let Israel go into the wilderness to worship; if not, their land was going to be destroyed! Ex. 10:7
- 5. Pharaoh seemed to relent until he was told that Moses and Aaron were going to lead all of their children and animals. Ex. 10:8,9
- 6. Pharaoh agreed for only the men to go into the wilderness. He drove Moses and Aaron from his presence. Ex. 10:10
- 7. When Moses stretched out his hand over Egypt, God brought an east wind over Egypt all day and night; the next morning the locusts came with that east wind; the land was dark as they were covered with the locusts! They ate the herbs and fruit trees; no green thing was left on the earth! Ex. 10:11-15
- 8. Pharaoh quickly called Moses in and admitted that he had sinned, pled for forgiveness, and begged that the plague would cease. Ex. 10:16,17
- 9. When Moses made an appeal to God, the LORD brought a west wind (literally "a wind of the sea") that blew every locust into the Dead Sea where they were destroyed. Ex. 10:18
- 10. However, the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart; he refused to let Israel go! Ex. 10:19

I. (**Slide #15**) Ninth Plague -- **Darkness!** Ex. 10:20-29

- 1. God told Moses to lift his hands toward heaven, and darkness that literally could be felt would cover Egypt. Ex. 10:20
- 2. The darkness was so thick that people could not see each other; they could not move about for three days! Ex. 10:21,22
- 3. However, Israel had light in Goshen! Ex. 10:23
- 4. Pharaoh then called Moses and told him to take all the people of Israel and go into the wilderness; only leave the animals. Moses said that was unacceptable; they would needs animals to offer to the LORD. Ex. 10:24-26

- 5. The LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart; he would not let them go. Ex. 10:27
- 6. Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron that they would never see each other's faces again! Ex. 10:28-29

J. (Slide #16) Tenth Plague -- Death Of The Firstborn! Ex. 11:1 - 13:22

- 1. God then told Moses that He would bring one final plague upon the Egyptians; then they would let Israel leave. Ex. 11:1
- 2. God informed Moses about one final impending plague -- the death of the firstborn of humans and animals would besiege Egypt. This plague would attack every family in Egypt from the firstborn in Pharaoh's house to the firstborn of the female servant; it would also affect every firstborn of the animals throughout Egypt! Ex. 11:4
- 3. The Moses and Aaron departed from Pharaoh's presence as the LORD again hardened his heart! Ex. 11:8-10
- 4. Preparations for Israel to leave:
 - a. They were to ask for gifts of gold and silver from the Egyptians. (Moses was held in high esteem by Pharaoh's servants and citizens). Ex. 11:2.3
 - b. Prepare for the Passover Feast. Death would not come to the houses of those who observed that God-ordained feast. Ex. 12:1-28
- 5. The plague hit at midnight -- imagine the wailing that rose throughout Egypt that night! Ex. 12:29,30
- 6. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and told them to leave Egypt! The people were saying, "We will all be dead if we not get them out of here!" Ex. 12:31-33
- 7. Thus, after 430 years of sojourn in Egypt, Israel left Egypt led by Moses and Aaron and the MIGHTY HAND OF THE LORD!!!! Ex. 12:34-42
- 8. God led them toward the Red Sea as they exited Egypt! Ex. 13:18. He led them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Ex. 13:21,22

IV. (Slide #17) Implications Of The Ten Plagues:

- A. (▶) They Were The Means By Which God Ultimately Forced Pharaoh To Let Israel Leave Egypt!
- B. Every Plague Seems To Be DIRECT ATTACKS Upon Many Of The "Gods" Of Egypt!
 - 1. Ex. 12:12 "For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the LORD."
 - 2. It may be that in these plagues, God is showing the impotence of the Egyptian gods and His own reality, supremacy, and authority!
 - 3. (Slide #18) Attacks that the plagues brought upon the "gods" of Egypt to show their lack of reality and their impotence (the Egyptians are said to have had about 1,500 gods):
 - a. First Plague -- water to blood -- Khnum, the guardian of the river; Hapi, the spirit of the Nile, and Osiris, whose blood *was* the Nile.
 - b. Second plague -- frogs -- Hapi and Heket who were symbolized by frogs and were related to Egyptian fertility rites.
 - c. Third plague -- lice -- Seb, the earth god.
 - d. Fourth plague -- flies -- Uatchit, the god of flies.
 - e. Fifth plague -- pestilence on the cattle -- Ptah, Mnevis, Hathor, and Amon, Egyptian gods associated with bulls and cows.
 - f. Sixth plague -- boils -- Sekhmet, the goddess of epidemics; Serapis and Imhotep, the gods of healing.
 - g. Seventh plague -- hail mixed with fire -- Nut, the sky goddess; Isis and Seth, Egyptian agricultural deities; and Shu, the god of the atmosphere, weather, and sky.
 - h. Eighth plague -- swarms of locusts -- Serapia, the god who was to protect Egypt from locusts.
 - i. Ninth plague, that of darkness, revealed the impotence of Re, Amon-re, Aten, Atum, and Horus, all of who were related to the sun; Thoth the moon god.
 - j. Tenth plague -- death of the firstborn of Egyptian humans and animals Pharaoh himself, who was worshiped as a deity in Egypt.
 - 4. The Point: God is the TRUE God! He is the GOD above all gods! Ex. 12:12
 - 5. At the first plague, the water to blood, God said, "Thus says the LORD: 'By this you shall know that I *am* the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which *are* in the river with the rod that *is* in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood." Ex. 7:17
 - 6. Pharaoh and his gods were helpless and defenseless against the Almighty God of Heaven!!!!!

7. Truly, "HOW GREAT THOU ART!"

- C. (**Slide** #19) God's People KNEW That God Was THEIR God And Would Bless Them!
 - 1. Ex. 6:6-8 "Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I *am* the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. ⁷I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you *as* a heritage: I *am* the LORD."
 - 2. When the third plague occurred, Pharaoh's magicians KNEW this was greater than they were! Ex. 8:18 "This is the finger of God!"
 - 3. Plagues four through ten brought devastation upon Egypt and the Egyptians; however Goshen had NONE of that devastation!

D. (▶) The Ten Plagues Were NOT Natural Events!

- 1. Many try to explain them away by natural phenomenon.
 - a. Water to blood -- flagellates made the water appear to be blood.
 - b. Frogs -- the flagellates caused the frogs to leave the water and come upon the land; their death was caused by anthrax caused from piles of rotting fish.
 - c. Lice or gnats -- they just came to feast upon the dead fish and frogs.
 - d. Flies -- they came to eat upon the dead fish and frogs; they spread disease to humans thus causing boils.
 - e. Pestilence on the cattle -- frogs and gnats spread anthrax.
 - f. Boils -- anthrax causes boil-like symptoms.
 - g. Hail -- violent thunderstorms occur in Egypt during the time of the barely and flax harvest.
 - h. Locusts -- swarms of locusts sometimes occur in the Middle East and in northern Africa.
 - i. Darkness -- this was a desert sandstorm.
 - j. Death of firstborn -- they present no answer.
- 2. These events are NOT natural occurrences; God was at work!

- E. (▶) Self-Exaltation And Pride Will Bring Destruction Upon You!
 - 1. Humility leads to respect for God and obedience!
 - 2. Pride brings haughtiness and disobedience!
 - 3. The danger of exalting self against God! Ex. 9:17 "As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go."
 - 4. Pr. 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall."
 - 5. Js. 4:6 "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."
 - 6. Js. 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."
 - 7. How sad that God can use His commands to harden our hearts; we can just become harder and harder; Pharaoh destroyed his nation and killed himself because of a hard, disobedient heart!
 - 8. Don't let that happen to you; submit yourself before and to the Almighty God of Heaven!