

Moses had traveled to the land of Egypt with his brother Aaron in order to ask Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go. Moses and Aaron followed God's instructions and when Pharaoh wouldn't listen to them, God had them stretch out the rod and all the water of the Nile River turned to blood. When Pharaoh wouldn't listen, God caused a terrible plague of frogs in Egypt. Pharaoh begged Moses to pray for the frogs to go away. Jannes and Jambres were the names of Pharaoh's head magicians. Through trickery they also made the water seem to turn red and frogs appear. So Pharaoh hardened his heart...this means he got stubborn and refused to let the Israelites leave.

Moses and Aaron once again went to the palace and asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Pharaoh frowned and started to order them out when Moses told Aaron, "hit the ground with my rod." Aaron took the rod and hit the dust and suddenly the dust started moving! It was full of tiny insects that flew up and started landing on Pharaoh and all the people in his court. These tiny insects were something like ticks that we have in our area. They would land on people and animals, bite them and bury their heads into the skin to suck out blood. No matter how hard you try to pull them off, they are stuck tight. This caused very painful sores on animals as well as men, women and children. Everywhere the dust was full of these tiny insects. The magicians Jannes and Jambres tried to make some kind of trickery to show Pharaoh they could also had this kind of power, but they couldn't do it. The little bugs were biting Jannes and Jambres also, and they were frightened. They went to Pharaoh and said, "This is the hand of God!" Do you think this changed Pharaoh's mind? No, this king was very stubborn and angry and he wouldn't let the slaves go.

God told Moses to go to the river early in the morning and meet Pharaoh as he came out to bathe. It was cool in the early morning and as they stood by the gentle lapping water, they saw Pharaoh coming to the river with a frown on his face, trying to pick off the tiny insects. When he looked up and saw Moses and Aaron, the king frowned even more. Moses said, "The Lord says, 'Let my people go, so they may serve me.'" If you won't let them go, the Lord will send swarms of flies on you and your servants.



Moses said, "Tomorrow at this time, there will be swarms of flies on you and your servants. They will be in the houses, on the ground, on your food, in your hair and eyes. The land will be full of flies!" Moses continued, "However, so you may know these plagues come from the Lord, the children of Israel will have no flies in their homes in the land of Goshen." Pharaoh thought, "How could one stop flies at a certain spot? Moses and Aaron must be crazy!"

The next morning Pharaoh woke up with a noise in his ears and a crawling feeling on his skin. His room was filled with swarming black insects. These were probably not like the flies we see around our house, some say they were an Egyptian beetle. These ugly, black insects not only bite, they cause a burning itch on people. They also eat anything they come to...books, clothes, plants, etc. In all the Egyptian homes these ugly insects were crawling on the walls and in the beds. An Egyptian would go to put on his clothes and three or four beetles hidden in the cloth would bite him. When he shook them out he would find holes in his clothes where the beetles had been eating the cloth. The beetles slithered and crunched underfoot, ate all the plants and furniture they came to and made burning itches on all the people. But there were no beetles in the land of Goshen where the Israelite slaves lived.

Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and asked,
"What do you want? Get rid of this terrible plague!"

Moses and Aaron said, "You must let our people go into the wilderness so we can do sacrifices and worship our God."

Pharaoh thought he could make a bargain with God and he said, "Okay, you can make a sacrifice to your God, but do it here in Egypt." Pharaoh didn't want his slaves to leave the land of Egypt. He wanted the slaves to stay nearby so they could quickly continue their work. Pharaoh thought he could half-way obey God. Do you think this works? Can we ever obey God just "half-way?" No, we must obey all of God's words, not just the ones that we like. Pharaoh was the leader of all Egypt. He had a chance to listen to God and obey his words, but he refused. Years later a man named Joshua was the leader of the children of Israel. God asked him to obey and this is what God said:

"Be careful to obey ALL the law Moses gave you; do not turn from it ... that you may be successful wherever you go." Joshua 1:7

Learn this for your memory verse and put a check in the gold box when you know it.

This is good advice for all of us - obey God completely and we will be successful!



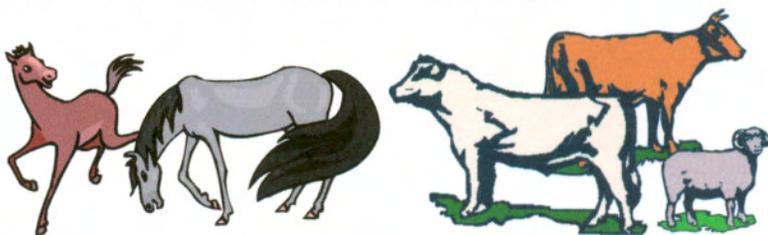
Pharaoh jumped as a beetle bit him and he shook several off his robe. He seemed to relent and said, "Very well, I'll let you and the Israelites go and sacrifice, but just don't go very far away. Now pray to your God and have him stop this awful plague!" Moses said, "I will pray to God and have him stop this swarm of insects, but don't deal deceitfully with God. Let the people go."

You would think by now Pharaoh would realize how powerful God was and he would obey God's words, wouldn't you? But Pharaoh was a very stubborn man. As soon as the insects were gone and his itches and sores were getting better, Pharaoh thought to himself, "Why should I let my slaves leave, Egypt's gods are more powerful than this God of the slaves. These things just happen, it's not a God's fault." and Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites leave.

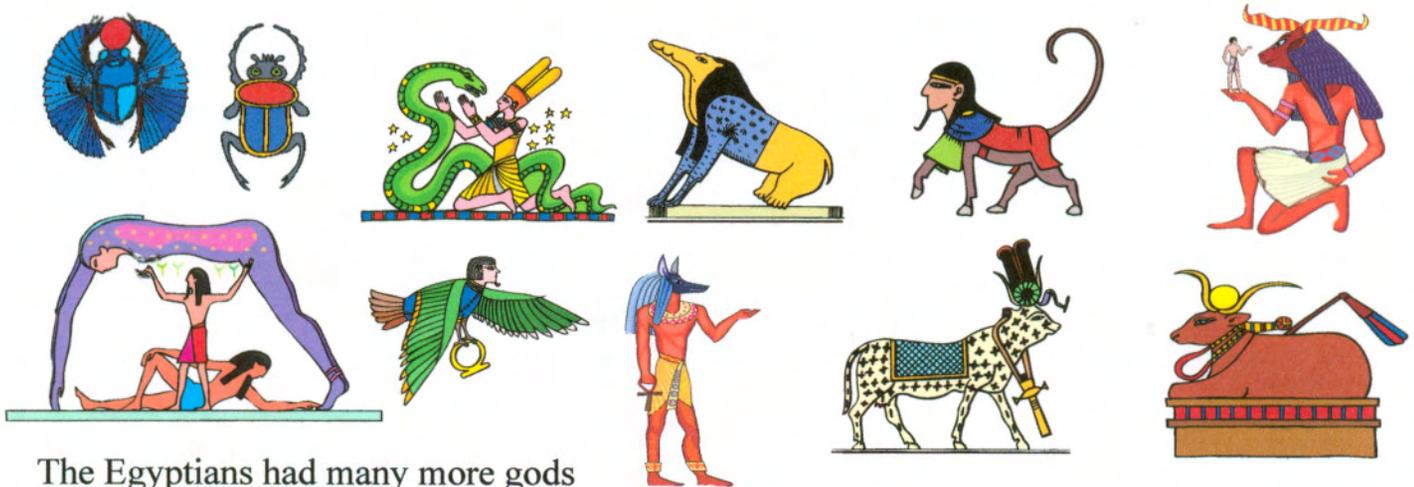
Once again Moses and Aaron walked to the palace. They passed some slaves cleaning up piles of dead frogs, they passed little children scratching at ugly red bites and a woman bent over her plants that had been eaten into the ground. God had tried to teach the Egyptian people that their idols were not the true God and that evil acts and cruelty to others were not the right way to live. A few of the Egyptian people were starting to believe in this God of the Israelites but the majority listened to Pharaoh and followed whatever their king said and did.

Moses and Aaron approached Pharaoh's throne and said, "The Lord God of the Hebrews said, 'Let my people go that they may serve me!' If you refuse to let my people go, the hand of God will strike all your cattle, horses, mules, and sheep. A very bad sickness will strike your animals but it won't strike the animals of the Israelites. Those animals will be healthy and strong. This plague will strike at this time tomorrow." Pharaoh wasn't worried. These animals were considered gods in the land of Egypt. Nothing would happen to Egypt's gods! However, the next day herdsmen came running to the palace and bowed before Pharaoh. "Mighty Pharaoh, our cattle and horses are dying. They hang their heads down and gasp for breath and stagger about, then fall down and die. We are losing all our herds!" Pharaoh said, "Go to the land of Goshen and see if the Israelite's animals are also dying."

When the herdsman returned he said, "The animals of the Israelites are strong and healthy. None are dying."



Why do you think God was causing all these different plagues? Why didn't God just do one huge plague and wipe out Pharaoh and all the Egyptians so the Israelites could leave? God always has a reason for what he does; he wanted to prove to the Israelites that he truly was their God and he wanted to give the Egyptian people a chance to turn to him and see that all the idol gods they worshipped had no power and were nothing but empty statues. Each of the plagues God sent was against an Egyptian gods. They worshipped the River Nile as a god...God turned the water to blood. They worshipped frogs, insects and cattle as gods and bowed to statues of these so-called gods. Now these gods were what was destroying the land and causing distress to the Egyptians. Below are pictures of some of the Egyptian gods. Notice some are beetles, some are cows or bulls and some represent the river (alligator/hippo) and the purple woman represents the sky and earth.



The Egyptians had many more gods and statues and pictures that they painted on their walls and inside their tombs. They even worshipped their kings and thought the Pharaoh's were gods. Perhaps this is why most of the Egyptians followed Pharaoh even though Moses and Aaron were showing them that the Lord God of Israel was the **ONLY** God and he didn't need a statue to represent him, his power could be seen in everything that was happening to Egypt.

However, even after his cattle, sheep and horses started dying, Pharaoh turned angry and stubborn. He hardened his heart and wouldn't listen, so God told Moses what to do next. Moses and Aaron went to the big ovens where pottery was baked and they took a handful of ashes and threw them up into the air. God caused the ashes to blow over the Egyptians and their animals and suddenly big boils appeared all over their skin. Do you know what a boil is? It's a red, bump that sticks up on your skin and is very painful. The boils can cause fevers and sickness as well as hurting. Boils on the bottom of Jannes and Jambres feet were so sore they couldn't even stand up by Pharaoh's throne.

Moses thought surely now Pharaoh would let the people go, but no, Pharaoh just would not unbend. God told Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, "This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me, or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth. By now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. But I have brought you for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be told in all the earth. At this time tomorrow I will send the worse hailstorm that has ever fallen on Egypt, - on men and animals and everything growing in the fields." Then God showed his kindness to the Egyptian people. He gave them this warning. "If you have any livestock in the fields, put them under shelter and tell the people to stay inside, for anything left outside will surely die."

Some Egyptians and even some of Pharaoh's officials believed Moses and listened to God's words. They hurried home and brought their workers inside and put their livestock in the barns and sheds. But Pharaoh and many others didn't believe Moses. This wasn't the time of year for even a rainstorm, much less a hailstorm. They thought it would be just another day and they left their animals and workers outside.

When Moses had finished giving Pharaoh this message he raised his hands toward the sky and suddenly the sky turned dark, thunder boomed and cracked and crashed and lightning flashed back and forth. Huge hailstones fell and beat down all the plants and trees. It beat on the animals that were left in the fields and pounded on any people out in the storm. Many men and women and animals died that day and the trees were stripped of their fruit, with the leaves torn and branches broken off. The crops in the fields were beaten to a pulp and nothing was left to harvest. However, the skies over the children of Israel were clear. They didn't have a hailstorm and their plants and animals were safe. God was certainly showing his power and making miracles for all the Israelites and Egyptians to see, wasn't he?



In our next lesson we'll see if Pharaoh had finally learned his lesson and let the children of Israel leave Egypt.

Question Page

1. Name all of the plagues God sent on Egypt so far. There are seven plagues starting with
(1.) the river turning to blood. (2.) _____ (3.) _____
(4.) _____ (5.) _____ (6.) _____
(7.) _____
2. Which of these plagues were the Egyptian magicians able to do with their tricks?
(these were in your last lesson) _____
3. What was the name of the Egyptian magicians? (hint: they both started with a "J")
4. In one of the plagues what happened to the Egyptian animals?
What happened to the Israelite's animals?
5. In one of the plagues what was bitten and what things were eaten up?
6. How many times did Pharaoh keep his word when he said he would let the slaves go?
7. Why did God cause plagues in Egypt?
8. What happened to men and animals that were outside in the hailstorm?
9. Did any of the Egyptians believe God's words and put their animals under shelter?
10. What was different about happenings in the land of Goshen from things that happened next door in the land of Egypt?

Put T or F in the blanks to show if the sentences below are True or False

1. ____ The Israelites lived in the land of Goshen where there were terrible plagues.
2. ____ Aaron smote the dust and it became frogs.
3. ____ Pharaoh tried to bargain with God's command and only follow it half-way.
4. ____ It's okay if we don't always obey God's word, just as long as we do it most times.
5. ____ God always gave the Egyptians warnings in time to obey before he sent plagues.

The Bible tells of other insects as well as the lice or ticks, flies or beetles that were in Egypt. Unscramble the names of the insects and if you need help, look up the Bible references.



O R E H N T _____

Exod.23:28



C L O S U T _____

Prov.30:27



S E B E _____

Judg.14:8



P E R S I D _____

Job 8:14



S F E A L _____

I Sam.24:13

T H O M S _____

Job 13:28



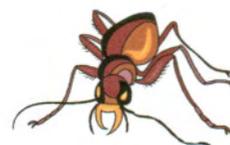
E L E T B T E _____

Lev.11:22



T A N S _____

Prov.6:6



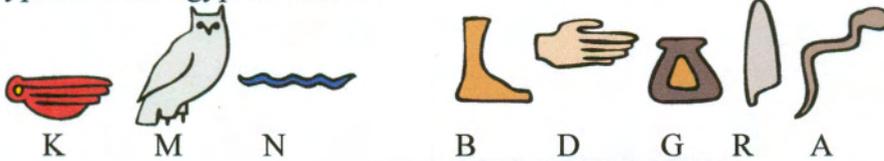
Follow the directions below to find out the verse hidden in these words.

- 1. Cross out every word that has double oo's in it (example: Cool)**
- 2. Cross out all the names of animals**
- 3. Cross out anything that is found in a kitchen**
- 4. Cross out any children's toys**
- 5. Cross out any names of fruit**

Circle the words that are left and then read them across to see the hidden sentence from the Bible

A	B	C	D
HOW	GIRAFFE	MOON	ELEPHANT
SINK	GREAT	MONKEY	IS
STOVE	THE	LOVE	DOG
THE	PANS	DOLL	FATHER
TOOLS	HAS	SINK	GIVEN
TO	ORANGE	NOODLE	BLOCK S
APPLE	POODLE	US	POOL

Egyptians used symbols called Hieroglyphics to write notes and letters and bills. Below are some Hieroglyphics from Egyptian tombs.



The symbols above are similar to the letters K,M,N, etc. The pictures in the frame > is called a Cartouche, it's a Pharaoh or a high official's name. Each picture is a letter.

Your job for this lesson is to write a secret message using the pictures above. If you need different letters (like an E or I or S ...etc.) make up your own drawings of an animal or object and see if a friend or mom or dad can read your message.