

Monday (July 14 <sup>th</sup> )	<p><b>Scripture: Exodus 8:1-15</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is mentioned in this chapter as the double purpose of the plagues? Ref. Is.45:22-25; Rom.1:18.</li> <li>2. Pharaoh begins the first of his many deceitful negotiations. He begins with a hard heart and negotiates with skill as the head of the most powerful country in the ancient world. Have you yourself, or others, ever attempted to 'negotiate' with God and have felt successful or a failure at it?</li> <li>3. Moses understood the Pharaoh's deception and promises to pray for the removal of the frogs- he knew that the removal of the frogs would not result in the release of the people, <i>but "so that you may know there is no one like the Lord our God."</i> God's purpose is to increase the knowledge of Him. Do you realize that whether events happen for good or bad- it is still under God's all-powerful control and not yours?</li> <li>4. Moses also increases his trust in the ways of the Lord when he says to the Pharaoh, <i>"I leave to you the honour of setting the time."</i> How can you show your increased faith in the Lord daily?</li> </ol>
Tuesday (July 15 <sup>th</sup> )	<p><b>Scripture: Exodus 8:16-24</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The third plague was gnats that came from dust. Other suggestions are mosquitoes, ticks, lice. <i>"When Aaron stretched out his hand with the staff and struck the dust of the ground, gnats came upon men and animals."</i> The magicians could not produce gnats from dust. They conceded saying there is no one like the Lord "in all the earth" (9:14, 16).</li> <li>2. The fourth plague consisted of dense swarms of flies. For the first time the Lord made a distinction between <i>"my people and your people."</i> This distinction demonstrates the Lord's power to offer special protection from catastrophe.</li> </ol>
Wednesday (July 16 <sup>th</sup> )	<p><b>Scripture: Exodus 8:25-32</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God's own repeated request in the midst of each plague was that the people worship or "serve" the Lord, rather than "serving" Pharaoh (ref. 7:16;8:1,20; 9:1,13;10:3;11:4).</li> <li>2. Moses continued to find his way within God's direction and the resistant concessions of the king. Moses agreed to pray for the removal of the flies and was careful to name the time once more so that the Lord will receive credit.</li> <li>3. Are there any areas of your life that you can specifically pray for protection? Is there anything you can pray for someone today?</li> </ol>

Thursday (July 17 <sup>th</sup> )	<p><b>Scripture: Exodus 9:1-12</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does Pharaoh's attitude show the difference between sorrow for the consequences of sin and true repentance?</li> <li>2. The fifth plague brings the deaths of Egyptian domestic animals: horses, donkeys, camels, cows, sheep, and goats. <i>"The Lord will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field."</i> This threatens the Pharaoh's source of income and his source of food. First, God gave Pharaoh the power to set the time 8:9. Then, Moses set the time with the flies 8:23, 29. Hereafter, the Lord would establish the timing 9:18, 10:4.</li> <li>3. The sixth plague was an outbreak of boils, directly striking (for the first time) the bodies of the Egyptians. Up to this point the plagues have generally followed the pattern of creation as described in Genesis 1. The Lord had mirrored creation, undoing its goodness is a sign of the sin of Pharaoh's oppressive dynastic rule.</li> <li>4. The narrator announces for the first time that the <i>"Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart."</i> Six times previously the Pharaoh hardened his heart or had a hard heart. The Lord increasingly takes control to demonstrate who the true Creator is.</li> </ol>
Friday (July 18 <sup>th</sup> )	<p><b>Scripture: Exodus 9:13-21</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A thunderstorm with hail and ground-striking lightning killed the first Egyptians. The Lord's actions in carefully providing shelter for anyone who <i>"feared (or trusted) the word of the Lord"</i> demonstrates one of the purpose of the plagues- God's goal was that all would come to fear and trust the Lord (ref. 14:31).</li> </ol>
Saturday (July 19 <sup>th</sup> )	<p><b>Scripture: Exodus 9:22-35</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contrast the nature and the consequences both of faith in God's word, and of unbelief, as illustrated in this chapter.</li> <li>2. As the Pharaoh concedes once more and calls upon Aaron and Moses to pray for the hail storm to end, Moses displays the willingness to ask the Lord to remove the storm. Moses wanted the Pharaoh to recognize God's perspective- that removing the storm is a witness to God's lordship over creation. Is there anything about your own home, street, city, province, or country that you can pray over for God's continuing lordship today?</li> </ol>
Sunday (July 20 <sup>th</sup> )	<p><b>Scripture: Psalm 60</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the content of David's prayer. What does he do first (verses 1-5), second (verses 6-8), and third (verses 9-12)?</li> <li>2. What may we learn from David's example concerning the way (a) to meet bad tidings, and (b) to find help in God?</li> </ol>

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