

WEEK 3 || *EXODUS 7-11*

THE ONE WHO STANDS OUT

In a book full of famous events, perhaps this is the most famous of all: the plagues on Egypt. Lots of people have heard of them, but not everyone likes them: Why would an allegedly good God bring such horrible plagues on an entire nation like Egypt? Well, the answer might surprise us...

Who stands out to you as a supreme athlete in their field? Mohammed Ali, Usain Bolt, Serena Williams? What makes them stand out?



KNOWING GOD FROM EXODUS

Read Exodus 6:28-7:13

1. What's God's purpose here and how will he achieve it?

Now the stage is set for the plagues. And because Pharaoh's heart is hard, as we've already heard, he won't listen, he won't let Israel go, not until there's been 10 plagues in all:

THE PLAGUES ON EGYPT EXODUS 7-12

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| 1 |  | BLOOD (7:14-24)
The Nile, along with all of the water in Egypt, turns into blood. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go. | 6 |  | BOILS (9:8-12)
Festering boils break out on the Egyptians and their animals. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go. |
| 2 |  | FROGS (7:25 - 8:15)
Frogs cover the land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind. | 7 |  | HAIL (9:13-35)
Hail strikes down everything in the fields - humans, animals and trees. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness and promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind. |
| 3 |  | GNATS (8:16-19)
The dust turns to gnats, which cover the people and animals of Egypt. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go. | 8 |  | LOCUSTS (10:1-20)
Locusts devour every tree and plant in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness, but does not let the Israelites go. |
| 4 |  | FLIES (8:20-32)
Flies fill the houses and land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind. | 9 |  | DARKNESS (10:21-29)
Darkness covers the land of Egypt for three days. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind. |
| 5 |  | LIVESTOCK (9:1-7)
All of the livestock of the Egyptians die. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go. | 10 |  | FIRSTBORN (11:1-10; 12:29-32)
Every firstborn son and firstborn of the cattle in Egypt dies. Pharaoh finally lets the Israelites leave Egypt, only to change his mind and pursue them to the Red Sea. |

Read the account of the first five plagues in Exodus 7:14-9:7.

2. How long do the Egyptian sorcerers stay in the contest?

How does God change tactics after that?

3. What do these plagues reveal to the world about God and his people?
4. If God hadn't hardened Pharaoh's heart, the world wouldn't have come to know this about God and his people. How do you feel about that? Is that a good enough reason for the plagues? Why or why not?

KNOWING GOD IN JESUS

In the plagues of Exodus, God revealed not just to Israel but to the whole world that he stands out as supreme over everyone and he makes his people stand out as his. But as we've seen in the last series and this one, the full revelation of God is found in Jesus...

Read Luke 11:14-28

5. How does Jesus demonstrate the **“finger of God”**? (Exodus 8:19// Luke 11:20)

6. How is this similar to the Exodus plagues? How is it different?

7. How should followers of Jesus stand out today? (Luke 11:27-28)

If we did stand out like that, how would this display the power of Jesus?

FEEL THE WEIGHT

8. Do you really want to stand out to other people as a follower of Jesus? What's good about it, what's scary about it?

9. List some concrete ways your obedience to God could show people the weight you give God.
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10. Does anything stop you from doing these things? What might help you to do them more?