

# Traveling God's Word

A chronological study of the Bible

## WEEK 8

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Read:

## EXODUS

1-10

God has seemed to be silent and inactive for the 400 year gap between the end of Genesis and the beginning of Exodus. But in that time, the tiny nation of Israel that entered Egypt back in Joseph's day has grown large. New rulers have taken control of Lower Egypt where the Israelites dwell. Semitic peoples from Asia have brought changes to Egypt. The use of horses and chariots has been introduced. The Israelites have become slaves under harsh taskmasters who did not know Joseph. When enough dissatisfaction accumulates, the people cry out to God. They have finally become discontented enough to be open to a change. They are finally beginning to be ready to abandon the comforts and security of the past to grasp onto a new intimacy with God.

But change never comes easily, and for that matter, neither does intimacy—especially with the Almighty God. The story of Exodus is really about the stages of bringing sinful rebellious man into the presence of a holy God.

We see, in Exodus 1:7, the Egyptians unable to tolerate the “filling” of their land with Israelites. Soon the issue will be one of the Israelites being able to tolerate God's presence “filling” a dwelling among them. The story is not about the danger of the Egyptians, or the danger of the hostile desert. The real story is about God's people learning how to be WITH their God. It will be another long while before God's people will be ready for God to be close enough to rub shoulders with, to actually live within each of them as His holy dwelling, and finally for us to live fully in His glorious presence.

## SPOTTING CHRIST

In Exodus 3:2 we are told of the “angel of the Lord” appearing to Moses in the flames of fire from within a bush. In verse 4, God talks to Moses from within the bush. The whole picture of the flames, and angelic image, and authoritative voice kind of seem to embody the entire three-fold presence of God. But whether this is a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ or not, we see God initiating what will be an ever-increasing movement toward a closer and closer presence with mankind. The Encarta dictionary defines intimacy as a detailed knowledge resulting from a close or long association or study. God is giving Moses, then Israel, then the world the chance to draw nearer and nearer to Him.

How intimate are you with Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



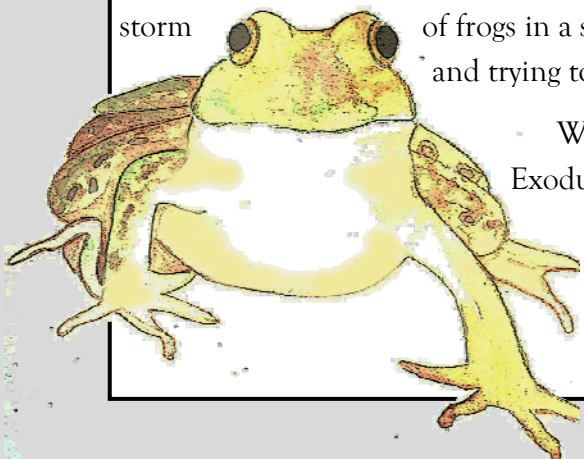
## Raining Frogs?

As remarkable as it sounds, there have been reports of frogs falling from the sky as early as the first century A.D. when the Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder described the event. In fact, it happens more often than one might think. It is caused by a waterspout that occurs because of a high-pressure system that precedes a thunderstorm. The waterspout picks up relatively light weight water creatures like frogs, fish, squid, worms and water birds. The storm carries the waterspout, and frogs, along with it until it reaches land. There the pressure drops and the clouds release the water, and frogs, that they carry. The number of frogs that rain down in a thunderstorm can be anywhere from a few dozen to thousands. Usually the frogs travel only a few miles before they fall, but it is possible for them to be carried thousands of miles. Though the frogs usually die by the time they fall to earth, there have been cases where they lived. After a rainstorm of frogs in a small town in Serbia, in 2005, the frogs were alive and well and trying to hop back to water.

What is different about the plague of frogs recorded in Exodus 8? \_\_\_\_\_

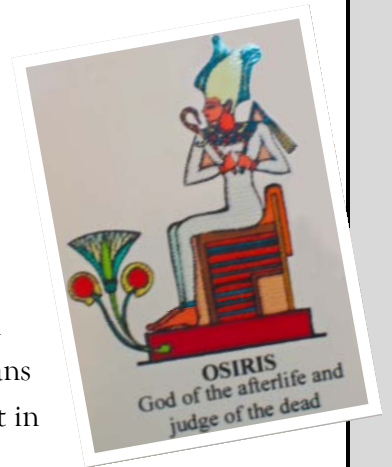
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## Perfectly Planned Plagues

Why did God go through the whole tedious and messy process of sending plagues on Egypt? Why not just soften Pharaoh's heart instead of hardening it? Why not have the Israelites bombard their Egyptian task-masters with mud bricks and win a miraculous battle victory over them? Why the strange and time consuming assortment of annoying problems? Because the plagues had an additional purpose other than gaining freedom for the Israelites. God also wanted to show everyone, Israelites and Egyptians alike, who He is. He wanted to show His power, and He specifically does it in a way that shows up the many major gods of the Egyptians.



What plague did God bring on Egypt first? (7:14-25) \_\_\_\_\_

The Nile was the life of Egypt. It was considered sacred by the Egyptians, and was central to the power of several of their gods. Khnum was the guardian of the Nile; Hapi was the spirit of the Nile; the bloodstream of Osiris, god of the underworld, was the Nile; Nu was the god of life—which came from the Nile ... without the Nile these gods held little identity or power.

What plague is described in Exodus 8:1-15? \_\_\_\_\_

The goddess Heket was the wife of the creator of the world and the goddess of childbirth. She was always shown with the head and body of a frog. For an Egyptian to kill a frog was punishable by death!

Which was the first plague to distinguish between the Egyptians and Israelites? \_\_\_\_\_

Which plague would have been an affront to Apis the sacred bull/god, and Hathor the cow-headed goddess of the desert? \_\_\_\_\_

Serapis, the god of healing, and Imhotep, the god of medicine, were defeated by which plague? \_\_\_\_\_

Nut was the sky goddess, and the mother of Osiris, Hathor, Set, Isis, and Nephthys. Isis and Seth were gods that protected the crops. How did the plague of hail in 9:13-35 prove them powerless? \_\_\_\_\_

The gods of grain, crops, fertility, and harvest all remained silent through the eighth plague in Exodus 10:1-20. What was it? \_\_\_\_\_





## A Special Mother

How did Jochebed know that her infant son was someone special? To be honest, I am totally confident that each of my children is someone special. Did she really see something different about Moses than what she saw in her other children? What gave her the courage and confidence to act as she did in her son's behalf? Would we have done anything different? What part does a mother play in the plans God has for her child? Do we treat each of our children as if they are God's chosen one? Should we?

## Pharaoh's Compassionate Daughter

We just never know what God may have planned for those we help. Pharaoh's daughter saw right away that Moses was one of the Israelite children, but she was able to look past differences of nationality, social status, and religion to see a child in need. She overlooked the fear that her people had of "those" people. While we don't know what all of her personal motives might have been, we do know that she was moved to a compassion that took action.

How do you respond when confronted with a need? Do you look the other way and pretend you didn't see? Do the differences stop you cold? Do feelings of fear overcome your feelings of compassion? How can you prepare yourself to act rightly when confronted with an unexpected opportunity?

## A Wife Who Will Come Through Ex. 4:24-26

How did Moses and Zipporah meet? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who was Zipporah's father? \_\_\_\_\_

On the journey to Egypt, Moses nearly lost his life. How did Zipporah save him? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you think she felt about it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are some things a helpmeet might be called to do today? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## A Plague of Darkness

Nyctophobia is a fear of the dark. Many children fear the dark, and for that matter, many adults do as well. What is it that makes the dark so scary? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been in total darkness? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe how it felt: \_\_\_\_\_

The Egyptian sun god Ra, or Amon-Ra, was Egypt's most powerful god, considered the father of all the other gods. Ra was represented by a man's body with a falcon's head and was believed to carry the sun across the sky in a boat each day. The Egyptians understood the importance of the sun. Not only do we depend on it for life, but its recurring presence lights our way through the activities of the day. The sun produces  $3.83 \times 10^{26}$  watts of power in the form of light. Compare that to a light bulb's 60 to 100 watts! (Encarta)

What does God say about light in Genesis 1:4? \_\_\_\_\_

The Egyptians revered the created, but not the Creator. That's the reason for the plague of darkness—that everyone might know the power of God, THE GOD, over His creation.

How long were the Egyptians in the dark? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of problems did it cause them? \_\_\_\_\_

How is spiritual darkness similar to physical darkness? \_\_\_\_\_

According to John 3:19, why do some prefer darkness? \_\_\_\_\_

Sometimes I wonder if we are experiencing a plague of darkness today. Isaiah must have felt that way too, but he knew a light was coming.

What does he foretell in Isaiah 9:2? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is that light? (John 8:12) \_\_\_\_\_

What will put Ra out of business once and for all according to Revelation chapter 21? \_\_\_\_\_

What instructions are we given in 1 John 1:5-7? \_\_\_\_\_

# Puzzle Clues

Find the word that fits the crossword from each of the references below.

## Across

- |                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>1</b> 6:20 (8)   | <b>39</b> 6:23 (8)  | <b>19</b> 8:7 (9)   |
| <b>4</b> 3:17 (8)   | <b>42</b> 5:19 (7)  | <b>21</b> 8:26 (10) |
| <b>6</b> 5:4 (4)    | <b>44</b> 9:10 (5)  | <b>24</b> 6:6 (6)   |
| <b>8</b> 5:17 (4)   | <b>47</b> 3:12 (7)  | <b>25</b> 3:11 (10) |
| <b>12</b> 3:22 (7)  | <b>48</b> 8:10 (8)  | <b>26</b> 10:23 (5) |
| <b>13</b> 5:14 (5)  | <b>50</b> 4:26 (12) | <b>28</b> 2:11 (5)  |
| <b>14</b> 1:15 (8)  | <b>51</b> 7:8 (7)   | <b>29</b> 4:3 (5)   |
| <b>16</b> 7:11 (9)  | <b>52</b> 3:5 (7)   | <b>31</b> 4:2 (5)   |
| <b>17</b> 8:17 (5)  |                     | <b>32</b> 3:1 (5)   |
| <b>18</b> 6:24 (5)  | <b>Down</b>         | <b>33</b> 2:10 (5)  |
| <b>20</b> 4:14 (6)  | <b>2</b> 6:9 (7)    | <b>34</b> 4:18 (6)  |
| <b>22</b> 7:7 (6)   | <b>3</b> 10:15 (6)  | <b>38</b> 10:2 (8)  |
| <b>23</b> 8:20 (8)  | <b>4</b> 7:23 (6)   | <b>40</b> 2:12 (8)  |
| <b>26</b> 4:1 (6)   | <b>5</b> 2:23 (7)   | <b>41</b> 5:7 (5)   |
| <b>27</b> 1:22 (4)  | <b>7</b> 1:9 (8)    | <b>43</b> 9:7 (5)   |
| <b>30</b> 10:14 (7) | <b>9</b> 2:21 (8)   | <b>44</b> 5:8 (6)   |
| <b>34</b> 2:15 (7)  | <b>10</b> 2:16 (6)  | <b>45</b> 10:3 (6)  |
| <b>35</b> 4:27 (5)  | <b>11</b> 8:24 (5)  | <b>46</b> 3:4 (4)   |
| <b>36</b> 1:11 (7)  | <b>12</b> 6:8 (10)  | <b>47</b> 10:13 (4) |
| <b>37</b> 3:1 (6)   | <b>14</b> 6:1 (6)   | <b>49</b> 5:2 (4)   |
|                     | <b>15</b> 1:6 (8)   |                     |

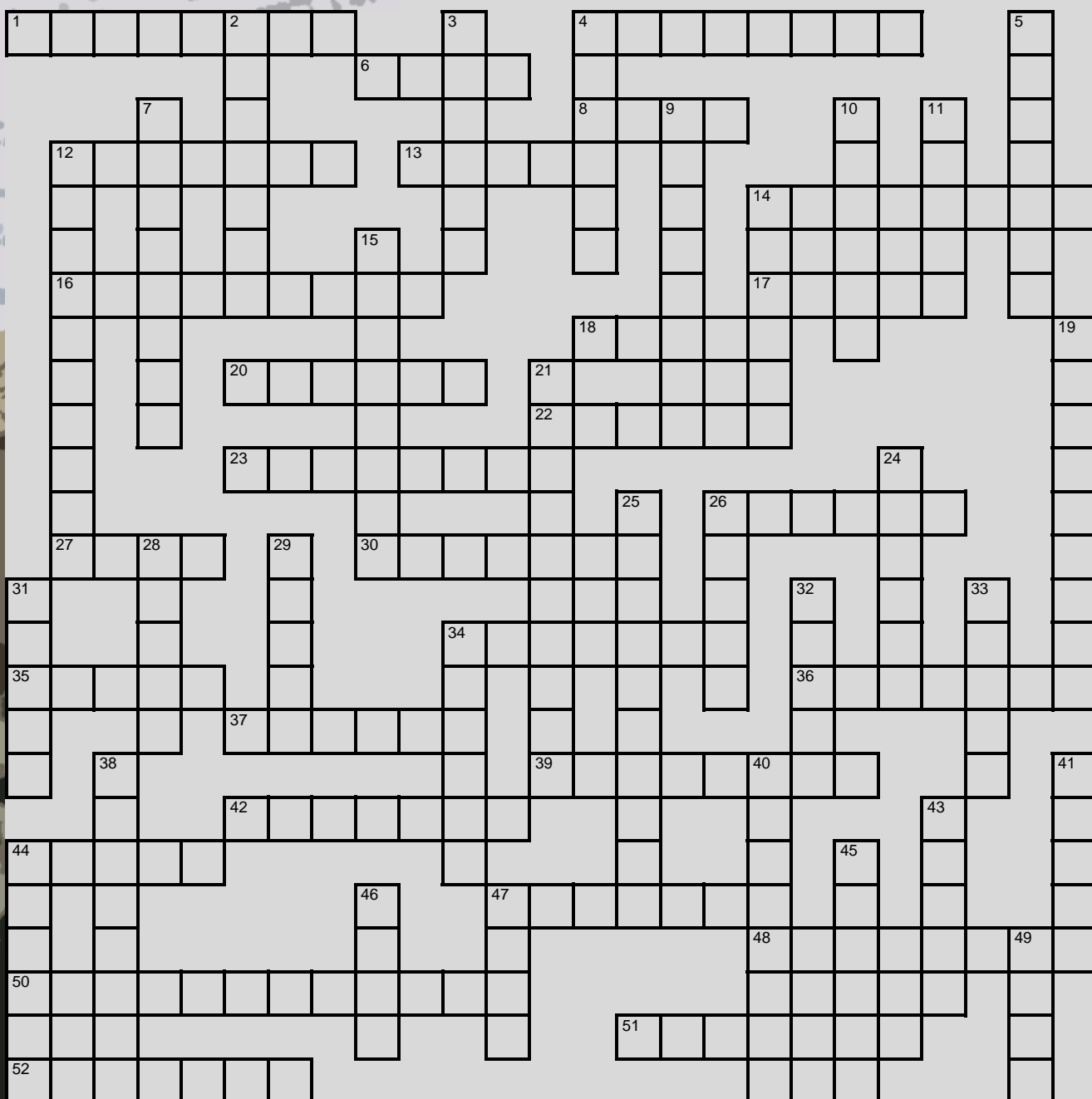
What God did to Pharaoh: **HINDERED HEAT RASH**

Why did God send the plagues? **OH WOW! HOPE STIRS**



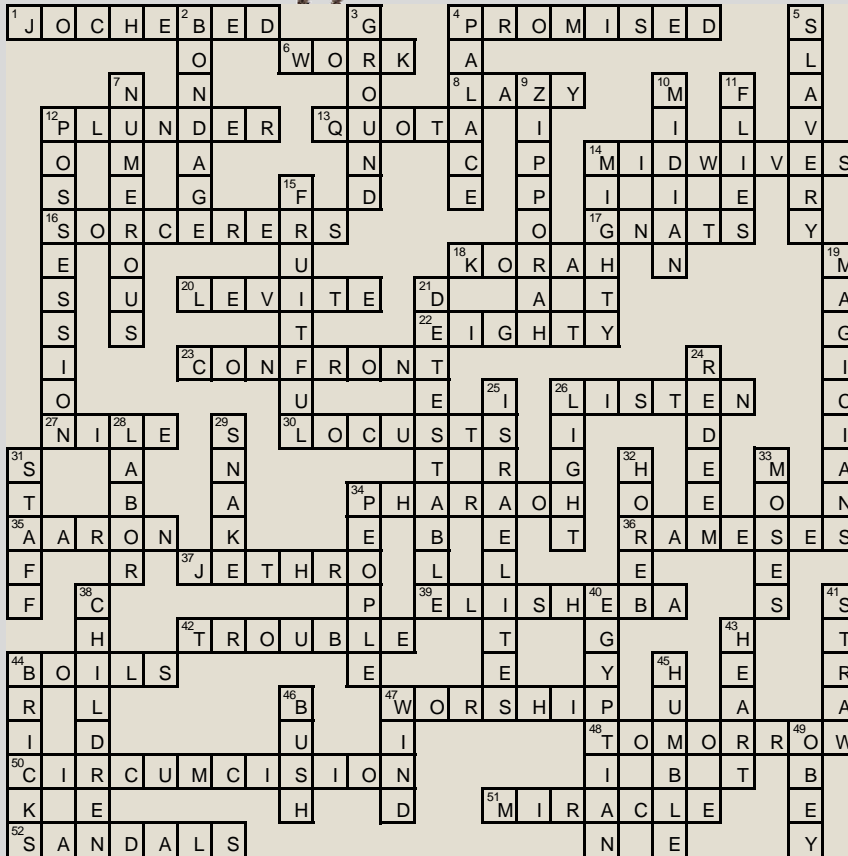
# Puzzle Page

## WORDS from Exodus 1-10





# ANSWERS AND SOURCES



What God did to Pharaoh:  
**HARDENED HIS HEART**  
Why did God send the plagues?  
**TO SHOW HIS POWER**



To find more studies go to:  
<http://www.downvictoryrd.com>  
To contact me by email:  
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## SOURCES

### Raining Frogs p.2

Layton, Julia. "Can it Really Rain Frogs?." *howstuffworks*. 6 Mar 2009

### Against the gods of Egypt p.3

Padfield, David. "Against all the Gods of Egypt." *padfield*. 2002. 6 Apr 2009 . [http://www.padfield.com/acrobat/history/gods\\_of\\_egypt.pdf](http://www.padfield.com/acrobat/history/gods_of_egypt.pdf)