

STRANGER WEIRD STORIES FROM THE BIBLE THINGS

Exodus 4 – Pharaoh's Hard Heart

Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.' But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

Exodus 3:18-20

God Knows Pharaoh
will not listen to Moses
unless compelled by a
mighty hand.

What are the things that make it difficult for Pharaoh to listen?

- **Belief System**
- **Power**
- **Wealth**
- **Pride**

Idioms are difficult
to translate.

Break a leg.

How does God
harden his heart?

- Heart was the seat of the intellect
- Making him stubborn
- Two phrases can be used interchangeably

The *Ten Plagues and Pharaoh's Heart

1. Blood: Pharaoh's heart "became hard" (7:22)
2. Frogs: Pharaoh "hardened his own heart" (8:15)
3. Gnats: Pharaoh's heart "was hard" (8:19)
4. Flies: "Pharaoh hardened his own heart" (8:32)
5. Livestock die: Pharaoh's heart "was hard" (9:7)
6. Boils: "The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart" (9:12)
7. Hail: Pharaoh "hardened his own heart" (9:34)
8. Locusts: God announces that he has "hardened Pharaoh's heart" (10:1,10:20)
9. Darkness: God "hardened Pharaoh's heart" (10:27)
10. Death of the firstborn: God "hardened Pharaoh's heart" (11:10)

10 PLAGUES

Jehovah God vs. gods of Egypt

The plagues of Egypt are well known, but a deep study reveals that each was a direct challenge to the various Egyptian gods and goddesses. The plagues affected the Egyptians' physical senses as well as their hearts with reminders that Jehovah God was far superior to any of their gods. He exercised power at will while the Egyptian gods remained helpless against Him.



PLAGUE 1: WATER TO BLOOD Exodus 7:14–25

The Egyptians were also able to turn water to blood, including the death of the fish and a smell that prohibited even trying to drink the water. Pharaoh's heart remained hard.

The Nile was the source of Egypt's power. There are several gods in their pantheon that draw life from the river.

Khnum was the guardian of the river's source.

Hapi was the god of annual flooding of the Nile and the lord of the fish.

Osiris had the Nile as his bloodstream.



PLAGUE 6: BOILS Exodus 9:8–12

This was the first plague to affect the body directly. God made a distinction between the Israelites and the Egyptians. The Egyptian priests were unable to appear in court.

Isis was the goddess of health and Imhotep was the god of healing.



PLAGUE 7: HAIL Exodus 9:13–35

This plague affected the agriculture and livestock that was left in the field. Such a storm of hail was unique to Egypt.

Nut was the goddess of the sky. Her father Shu, god of the wind and air, was a calming god.



PLAGUE 2: FROGS Exodus 8:1–8:15

The Egyptians also produced frogs. Piles of dead frogs filled the land with a foul odor.

Heqt was an Egyptian goddess with the head of a frog.



PLAGUE 8: LOCUSTS Exodus 10:1–20

This plague would be told to Pharaoh's sons and grandsons, serving the purpose of showing God's power for generations.

Neper and Nepri were the god and goddess of grain. Set was the god of disorder.



PLAGUE 3: GNATS OR LICE Exodus 8:16–19

The gnats or lice came up from the dust of the earth. The Egyptian priests could not duplicate this miracle. They declared, "This is the finger of God."

Geb was the god over the dust of the earth.



PLAGUE 9: DARKNESS Exodus 10:21–29

It was so dark for three days that the darkness could be felt.

Ra, the god of the sun, was the most worshipped and revered god in Egypt after the Pharaoh. Jehovah God showed He had power even over the mightiest of the Egyptian gods.



PLAGUE 4: FLIES Exodus 8:20–32

This was the first plague that affected only the Egyptians.

Khepri had the head of a beetle and also moved the sun.



PLAGUE 10: DEATH OF FIRSTBORN Exodus 12:29–36

Establishes the Jewish Passover festival.

This plague was a judgment on all Egyptian gods, including Pharaoh himself. In Exodus 1, Pharaoh had ordered the killing of Israelite babies, and now the firstborn of all Egypt was killed.

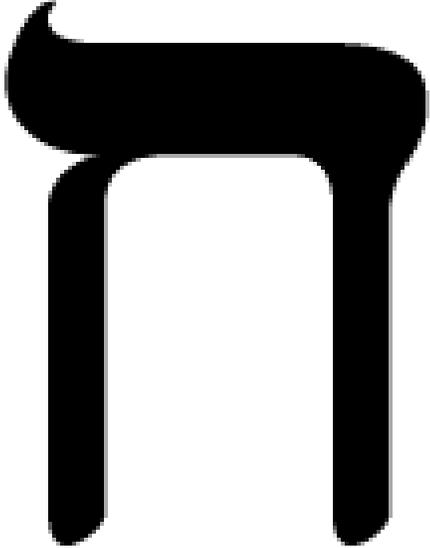


PLAGUE 5: SICK CATTLE Exodus 9:1–7

God continued to distinguish between the Israelites and the Egyptians. This plague affected only the Egyptian herds.

Hathor was a fertility goddess who was often depicted with the head or horns of a bull and sometimes as a bull wearing the symbols of Hathor.

The same action that
points one person to
God can harden
another.

- Chet is the letter of life
- 8th letter of alphabet, so chet is the number of grace
- Chet is also the  letter of light

The same action that
points one person to
God can harden
another.

Who are you in
the story?

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

Luke 9:24