

**Discussion Questions**  
**Exodus 7:1-9:12**

**1. Who do the following verses say hardened Pharaoh's heart?**

- A. Ex 4:21; 7:3; 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10, 14:4,8
  
- B. Ex 8:15, 32; 9:34
  
- C. Ex 7:13, 22; 8:19; 9:7,35)
  
- D. Why was Pharaoh's Heart hardened?

2. Looking at Exodus 7:8-13, the "secret arts" of Pharaoh's wise men and sorcerers were done in the name of Egyptian deities. In response, the staff that the Lord had miraculously turned into a serpent swallowed up the staffs of Pharaoh's wise men and sorcerers. Considering that this act comes just before the ten plagues, what might the Lord be asserting here and how does this inform your understanding of the plagues to come?

3. Exodus 7:14-25 tells of the first plague: the turning of the Nile River into blood. Considering their pantheistic view of the universe, Egyptians understood the Nile to be one of many Egyptian deities. The Nile was especially revered as a source of life, both as a source of water and as a means of transportation. By turning this source of life into a current of blood, what was the Lord asserting about Himself over against one of Egypt's major deities?

Exodus 8:1-15 tells of the second plague: the swarm of frogs. Though the Egyptian elite, like Pharaoh, could have avoided much interaction with the first plague of blood by way of sending servants dig wells for water along the Nile for them (cf. Ex. 7:24), this second plague of frogs was unavoidable. The frogs were everywhere, and their slimy, odorous presence and constant croaking effected both the lowly and the lofty. But consider Moses' intercession in Exodus 8:12-13. What does this plague reveal about the Lord's character, especially the balance between His sovereign power and mercy?

Exodus 8:16-19 tells of the third plague: the gnats. Looking at the details of this text, note that in the previous plagues, the Lord instructed Aaron to strike the water. Here, Aaron is instructed to strike the dust of the earth. Why might the Lord include these sign-acts of striking water and land? What does this communicate to the Egyptians about the Lord's power in contrast to the false gods of the magicians who failed to replicate this miracle in Exodus 8:18-19?

Exodus 8:20-32 tells of the fourth plague: the flies. Looking especially at Exodus 8:25, Pharaoh's resolve is at last wearing thin. He concedes that Israel may make their sacrifices, but they must do so in Egypt and not in the wilderness. Though seemingly generous, this still went against what the Lord specifically ordered. Though Moses might have viewed such a concession from the "mighty" Pharaoh as a victory, Moses did not compromise and stuck with the Lord's exact commands. How might this be an example for our own walk with the Lord?