

## SESSION 13: THE PLAGUES

---

### A. God's plan for deliverance.

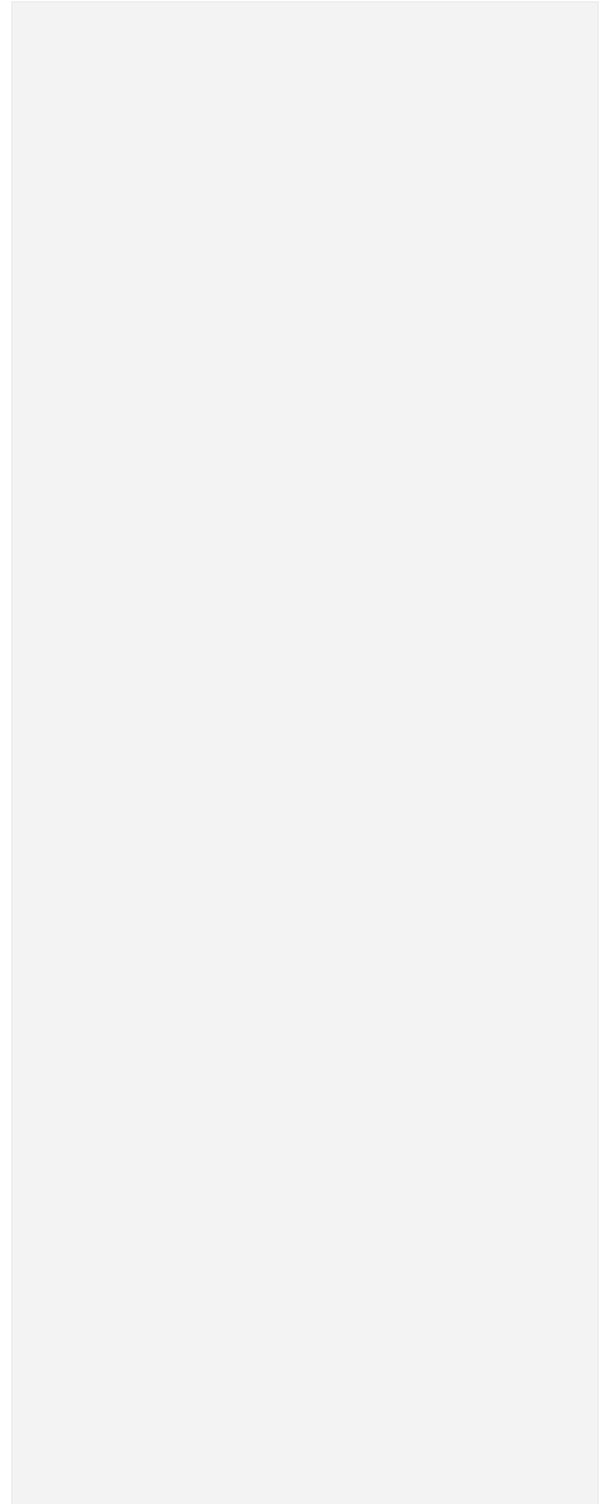
1. Moses is to return to Egypt and ask for Israel's release
2. Pharaoh will refuse
3. God will display His power.
4. Pharaoh will relent and send Israel out.

### B. The display of God's power which we call the plagues is a key feature of the plan.

1. Plagues are a systematic display of God's power
2. Plagues are a prolonged display of God's power
3. Plan will mean suffering for both Egypt and Israel.

### C. Why does God send the plagues?

1. Two suggestions which the story confirms:
  - a. To deliver Israel. (Note Moses' call)
  - b. To judge Egypt. (Ex 12:12)
2. Since God is unlimited in power both could have been accomplished by faster means.
3. God's purpose in His actions is always to *make Himself known*.
4. Four groups who needed to know God:



**a. Moses**

- i. We noted already that at the burning bush his faith was lacking
- ii. Moses needed a deeper understanding of God -
  - (1) To build his faith
  - (2) To prepare him to lead the nation.

**b. Israel**

- i. An oral tradition about their history remained.
- ii. Practical faith had been obscured by
  - (1) Constant exposure to idolatry
  - (2) Problem of their slavery.
- iii. To do the will of God they would have to live by faith.
- iv. Moses had ask the question. "Who shall I say sent me?"
  - (1) Answer: Jehovah- I am
  - (2) Explanation of who Jehovah is comes by way of demonstrations of His power and love.

**c. Egypt**

- i. Pharaoh to Moses, "Who is Jehovah that I should obey His voice?"
- ii. Pharaoh speaks from the world view he had embraced - "Your experience in life is a

reflection of the greatness of the god you serve.”

1. All Egyptians shared that view
  2. The error had to be exposed
- iii. Pharaoh also speaks for all mankind. He honestly does not know God.
- iv. The plagues displayed the emptiness of the Egyptian's gods.  
(1) Goal was opportunity to repent.  
(2) Some Egyptians did respond.
- v. Note: Hardening of Pharaoh's heart.  
(1) Pharaoh made his heart dull to God.  
(2) God made Pharaoh's heart strong to keep on resisting.
- d. The Canaanite Nations**
- i. Plagues are slow enough for the story to reach them.
  - ii. Note that Rahab's treatment of the spies in Joshua is because of the report about the plagues.