LET THE PLAGUES BEGIN
Exodus 7:14-8:19

Please turn in your Bibles to the 2nd book of the Bible: Exodus; and find chapter 7…Exodus 7.

This morning, we are entering into the passages of Scripture that specifically describe the 10 Plagues, that were unleashed by God on Egypt. One common theme we are going to see in the first 3 plagues, this morning, is the battle between those who were representing God and those who were representing God’s enemies. This is not an uncommon battle. It has been going on before the world was created, as Satan decided, as a created angel, to battle God Himself. Since then, nations and individuals have publicly fought against and battled God and those who represent God.

It is going on in the political arena, in our nation’s schools, in our neighborhoods, churches and even in public forums. On Thursday, March 26th, The ABC News program: Nightline, aired a debate entitled: Does Satan Exist? The debate pitted Evangelical Pastor Mark Driscoll and former prostitute Annie Lobert against former fundamental pastor: Bishop Carlton Pearson and Dr. Deepak Chopra, who is the author of many books and videos about health and spirituality. Others in the studio audience also chimed in with their questions and comments. Although the debate was about Satan, it comes down to what people believe about God and whether or not they have a personal relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

Let me just give you a few of the comments that were given that night, as you can hear the battle lines being drawn:

Pastor Mark Driscoll opened by saying that the dichotomy between Satan and God "is the essential belief of Christianity, that Satan is real but so is Jesus, and he works out all things for good and ultimately he will redeem all that has been lost through Satan, sin and death."

Dr. Chopra responded for the other side: "My position is that we have a huge problem with what people call evil in the world and they need a good rational explanation and not an irrational mythical explanation."

Audience member Mike Garcia said: "Nobody in the Bible talks about hell or Satan more than Jesus. If Jesus talks about Satan and the reality of hell, then it has to be true."
Another audience member, Danielle Wilken countered "I guess if Satan himself shows up, then I will say well, I guess you are right. But otherwise, I don't think you can convince me that you can go to hell and there would be Satan."

Bishop Pearson, who was on the side of disbelieving in Satan, said: "I'm from four generations of Demon caster-outers. I had tremendous faith in the Devil and his power and his omnipresence … I have reassessed all of that and I think that the best way to get people free is to get them to stop believing so much in this hairy, horny, freaky, scary, omnipresent entity and it will not manifest the way we have believed it to. And that will bring an element of peace."

Dr. Chopra, probably the most antagonistic against God and Christianity, said: "All I have to say is belief is a cover-up for insecurity. If something is real, you don't have to believe in it. You should be able to experience it. And the most fervent believers in the world are the cause of all the problems in the world right now, OK?"

Then, he concluded: "Healthy people do not have any need for Satan. Healthy people need to confront their own issues, understand themselves and move towards the direction of compassion, creativity, understanding, context, insight, inspiration, revelation and understanding that we are part of an ineffable mystery. …So I would say be done with Satan and confront your own issues."

If you would read more about that debate, or even watch it, I have included the website link on the back of your outline. No matter what time in history, there have always been those who have trusted in God and those who do not, who have done battle, in one form or another. The Bible declares that we are constantly in a spiritual battle, and that the Devil is constantly looking to deceive and devour.

Let’s take a look at the first 3 plagues this morning, seeing the battle between those who represented God and those who opposed Him; and finding out what we can learn from this today. Those who oppose God believe that the power they can possess is what is real and there is often a power struggle to try and prove God wrong.

Here is a question to consider as we look at the first 3 plagues:
**Who has the power: God’s servants or Pharaoh’s servants?**

Let me bring those of you who haven’t been here, up to date on this story in Exodus. After hundreds of years in bondage in Egypt, the nation of Israel was
about to be delivered by THE LORD: The one and only true God, who keeps His promises and wants relationship with His people. God chose Moses, an 80 year old shepherd, who had been wandering around in the desert for 40 years, to lead His people out of bondage. He also gave Moses a partner, in Aaron, Moses’ brother. They went to Pharaoh, King of Egypt, and delivered God’s message: Let My people go.

Pharaoh did not respond well, saying: Who is the LORD, that I should obey Him? And Pharaoh made the slavery even more difficult for the people of Israel. God did a miracle through the staff of Aaron, by turning it into a snake. But, Pharaoh’s magicians and sorcerers, according to 7:11,12, did the same thing and their staffs became snakes. However, as a preview of what as to come, Aaron’s snake opened its mouth and devoured all the other snakes! This brings us up to date:

**Plague 1**

Exodus 7:14-18 – “Then the LORD said to Moses, Pharaoh’s heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh in the morning, as he is going out to the water. Stand on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that turned into a serpent. And you shall say to him, The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness. But so far, you have not obeyed. Thus says the LORD, By this you shall know that I am the LORD: behold, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood. The fish in the Nile shall die, and the Nile will stink, and the Egyptians will grow weary of drinking water from the Nile.”

**The warning:** You have disobeyed the LORD; and He wants you to know who He is, so…

There are several interesting things that God includes in the writing of the story of the plagues. Before we get to the 10th and final plague, we have 3 cycles of 3 plagues a piece, and God wanted these presented in a certain way. At the beginning of each cycle, we have it recorded that the LORD told Moses to go to Pharaoh in the morning with the warning of what was going to happen.

Here, he was supposed to meet him on the bank of the Nile river – the same river where Moses had been hidden so that he would not be cast into the river to die. It is the same river, where Pharaoh’s daughter had found Moses and then brought him up in the palace, to live as a Prince. The LORD, who keeps His promises, protected
Moses from the King’s edict; and protected him in the palace of His enemies for 40 years. That is incredible. This river was now going to be the focus of the first plague. By the way, the word plague means a “blow or stroke”; so that these plagues are all about God punishing His enemies for their disobedience.

The warning given here is a pronouncement, really, of the fact that the King had disobeyed God’s command: Let My people go; and now, he and his entire nation was going to pay for it. Verse 14 reminds us that Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, just as God had said would happen. And the LORD told Moses, that when He went to Pharaoh: “Make sure you have that staff that turned into a snake, that swallowed up all the snakes that his sorcerers and magicians made.” God is going to use that staff, again, to show who has the power.

Remember, as is stated here: this is all about people finding out who God is: that He is the LORD, the promise keeping God who wants a special relationship with His people.

The Plague: The water in the Nile River turned into blood

Exodus 7:19-21 – “And the LORD said to Moses, Say to Aaron, Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and all their pools of water, so that they may become blood, and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone. Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood. And the fish in the Nile died, and the Nile stank, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.”

So, there it is: the first plague. In front of Pharaoh and all his servants, Aaron lifted the staff and hit the water with it. And before their very eyes, it turned into blood. I know it is difficult to picture, since we are so far removed from it; and it is hard to imagine exactly what that would have been like. But, understand the impact of making the water in the Nile River unusable. For the Egyptians, the Nile River provided the basic necessities for life. In that day, well water was often contaminated; so they depended on the Nile for their water needs: water for their crops, water for bathing, cooking, cleaning, laundry, and drinking. Not only that, but the fish in the Nile was a part of their regular diet. As Charles Swindoll describes the impact of this first plague: “God’s first punch was a body blow to the heart of Egyptian life.”
And we know that wasn’t just some natural phenomenon, that was happening in the Nile at the time, because verse 19 tells us that even in the wood and stone containers, where they stored the water they gathered from the Nile, that water turned into blood as well! So, this was not something that they could just forget about. It smelled terribly and affected their basic daily life, including essential needs. So, the power of God, through Moses and Aaron, with the staff was incredible. But, just as saw in the preview, in the first half of chapter 7, the servants of Pharaoh were not just going to let God get the glory that easily:

Exodus 7:22,23 – “But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh’s heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said. Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not take even this to heart.”

The Response:

• Egypt’s magicians also turned water into blood

Just as with the snakes before, the magicians were able to duplicate this miracle by their sorcery, which although not mention specifically, was dependent upon the power of God’s ultimate enemy: Satan. These magicians took water from the well, that was not already bloody, and performed their magic trick. So, it seemed like, perhaps, the servants of Pharaoh had as much power as the servants of God. But, If they really had more power, they would have reversed the plague, not made it worse. The fact was, that even though they had some evil power, their power could only go so far. It could duplicate this particular miracle; but it could not overcome it. Because of this, verse 22 tells us, we have the other response:

• Pharaoh’s heart remained hardened

Just as the LORD had said, Pharaoh’s heart was still hard, even after this devastating plague. In fact, verse 23 tells us that went back into his house, where I’m sure, he would have been provided with clean well water; and didn’t even take it to heart. He basically pretended it didn’t happen! Unbelievable – or is it? God made it clear what would happen and why; and God wasn’t done yet. In fact, He was just getting started. But, Pharaoh was still responsible for his hardened heart, for not responding humbly to God’s discipline and command.
Exodus 7:24,25 - “And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile for water to drink, for they could not drink the water of the Nile. Seven full days passed after the LORD had struck the Nile.”

They were desperately trying to find some clean water to use for their daily lives. This went on for a full week. Can you imagine that?

There is a battle going on, even today, between those who follow Jesus Christ, and those who are trying to show a greater power than God’s. This past December, an article appeared in the USA TODAY newspaper, entitled: “Study suggests life created by asteroid collisions. It began this way:

“Asteroid impacts, which have been fingered for killing off the dinosaurs and other mass extinctions, may have helped kick-start life in the first place, experiments by Japanese researchers suggest. Earth’s oceans formed about 4.3 billion years ago, a time when lunar craters suggest Earth suffered a bombardment of comet and asteroid chunks, note the researchers…How life’s complex chemical building blocks – ‘organic’ molecules, such as amino acids – accumulated on Earth amid extraterrestrial impacts and the vibrant volcanism of a young planet has intrigued researchers for decades.

So the researchers investigated whether an asteroid impact could serve as a chemistry lab for cooking up the ingredients for living tissues, the ‘pre-biotic soup’ that some biologists suggest led to life…”

The enemies of God have to come up with an alternate answer for how life came to be on this incredible planet, and where this planet and all life came from in the first place. Now, for the follower of Jesus Christ, the answer is fairly easy: We believe that the Bible is true, when it says, in the very first verse:

Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

If God created life with His very words, and if the Bible is true, in that there was a world wide flood, thousands, not billions of years ago, then all can be credibly explained. There is a Creator who put this all together. We are not some cosmic accident. However, if you do not follow Jesus Christ as the only way to God, believing fully in the Word of God, then you must have another answer, so that you are not accountable to God as one of His creations. This is an incredible battlefield, as you probably know. And in public life, in our schools, man’s way is winning out, or at least it seems that way.
But the power of God is in the truth; and those who serve God can be confident, that even if we are silenced and seem to be defeated, in the end, the truth will win out, and Jesus Christ, God the Son, will be known for who He claims to be: the Creator, who deserves the worship of all. In fact, that is exactly what will happen, even with those who claim there is no God:

Philippians 2:10,11 – “So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

**Plague 2**

Exodus 8:1-4 – “Then the LORD said to Moses, Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, Thus says the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me. But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will plague all your country with frogs. The Nile shall swarm with frogs that shall come up into your house and into your bedroom and on your bed and into the houses of your servants and your people, and into your ovens and your kneading bowls The frogs shall come up on you and on your people and on all your servants.”

**The warning:** If you do not let the LORD’s people go, this will happen:

Once again, God instructs Moses and Aaron to go to Pharaoh with a warning. In both the first and second plagues, God mentions that Pharaoh is to let His people go, so that they may go serve (worship) Him. Over and over again, leading up to these plagues, and through them, God makes it clear: who His is, what He wants from His people, and what he wants from His enemies; and that it is up to the king to make the right choice. Just as the water is returning to normal, something else is going to make daily living very uncomfortable.

Exodus 8:5,6 – “And the LORD said to Moses, Say to Aaron, Stretch out your hand with your staff over the rivers, over the canals and over the pools, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt! So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.”

Another thing to note here: at the beginning of each plague, we have the words: “Then the LORD said to Moses”, reminding us that this is directly from God, even though He was choosing to use His servants to deliver His message.

**The Plague:** Frogs everywhere!
Aaron stretched out his staff over the different water sources, and out came all the frogs! And as verse 3 stated, they were everywhere. They were swarming all over. They came into their homes, into their cooking utensils for food, into their bedrooms and on their beds! In fact, verse 4 tells us that the frogs were even jumping on the people themselves. Perhaps you have had a child bring one frog into the house and it got loose – no big deal; and maybe you have had a frog unexpectedly jump on you. But, to have your house swarming with frogs – everywhere? The final phrase of verse 6 sums it up: “the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.”

The Response:

Exodus 8:7 – “But the magicians did the same by their secret arts and made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.”

• Egypt’s magicians also produced frogs

Again, instead of reversing God’s power so that the frogs would disappear, the magicians brought even more frogs up to add to what was already described as frogs covering the land. There is no reason why they would want to do that, because it doesn’t make any sense, except to say: See, your God can do pretty incredible things, but we can do it too. No big deal. No difference. The enemies of God wanted it to seem like their truth was just as viable as God’s; and their power just as powerful as those who were claiming to be the servants of God.

Exodus 8:8-11 – “Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, Plead with the LORD to take away the frogs from me and from my people, and I will let the people go to sacrifice to the LORD. Moses said to Pharaoh, Be pleased to command me when I am to plead for you and for your servants and for your people, that the frogs be cut off from you and your houses and be left only in the Nile. And he said, Tomorrow. Moses, said, be it as you say, so that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God. The frogs shall go away from you and your houses and your servants and your people. They shall be left only in the Nile.”

• Pharaoh pleaded with God to stop the frogs and promised to let His people go
Pharaoh made a promise: if you will plead with your God to take away these frogs, then I promise to let His people go. Moses said that God would do it, so that Pharaoh would know that He is the LORD, and that there was no one like Him.

Exodus 8:12-14 – “So Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the LORD about the frogs, as he had agreed with Pharaoh. And the LORD did according to the word of Moses. The frogs died out in the houses, the courtyards, and the fields. And they gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank.”

Now, don’t think that God is fooled here, into thinking that Pharaoh was being honest and sincere. But, this was all a part of God’s plan. Pharaoh was given chance after chance; but even in this circumstance, he would be shown to be insincere. He was only out for his own benefit, and to show himself to be more powerful than Israel’s God. In fact, after God took away the frogs, Pharaoh did what was expected. But, please note, that God left them with a reminder of the consequences of disobedience, as verse 14 tells us that the land stunk with the smell of dead frogs!

Exodus 8:15 – “But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, he hardened his heart and would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.”

• Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not listen

Surprise, Surprise – Pharaoh hardened his heart, and would not listen to God’s servants, just like God had said. But, God’s plan was not thwarted by this.

The battle continues in our world today; even among the famous, who Americans idolize. We like to pay special attention to those who are rich and famous, and many people will accept the world view that they present, if they are their favorite actor or athlete. One of the constant battles between God’s servants and others is the belief about how one gets God in Heaven, when this life is over.

In the February 22, 2009 edition of the Plain Dealer, there appeared an article about the NBA superstar, Alan Iverson, of the Detroit Pistons. He was asked about why he doesn’t do public service in a way where cameras will catch him doing good, and make him more popular. Here is how he responded, referring to what happens when He faces God after death:

“When it’s time for me to get towards that gate, either He gonna say, Come in or He gonna say, Turn around. And a camera won’t decide whether I get in or not.”
One reporter couldn’t resist and asked Iverson if he thought he was going to heaven or hell.

And even though his basketball nickname is “The Answer”, Mr. Iverson doesn’t seem to have a credible one, when it comes to the most important question: How does a person get to Heaven? But, he does have what is probably the most popular answer out there, which battles against the truth of God’s Word. Here is what he said:

“I’ve done a lot of good things in my life and done a lot of bad things in my life, so I don’t know…I hope the good things I’ve done outweigh the bad things. I’m [damn] sure I don’t want to go to hell. I’m not saying that I’m not in, because I think I am. Unless some things go dramatically wrong in next how many years, I think I’ll be welcomed through those gates.”

That is one of the major battles for those who follow Christ, against all others – why? Because even though we are trying to communicate God’s love for other people, God’s enemies believe it is narrow, judgmental, hypocritical, and just plain hatred, to say that you can only get to Heaven one way: through Jesus Christ. Most people want to believe you can get there by doing enough good works…just like Mr. Iverson. For a while, it seems like the world is winning and seem to have the stronger voice. But, just like we will find with this 3rd plague, in the end, it is the servants of God who have the answer…the truth that comes from God.

Plague 3

Exodus 8:16,17 – “Then the LORD said to Moses, Say to Aaron, Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt. And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt.”

Before each of the first 2 plagues, God gave a warning through Moses and Aaron about what would happen since Pharaoh did not let His people go. But, do you notice something different here? That’s right, no warning.

The warning: NONE
This is something else we are going to see in the 3 different cycles of the plagues. There is a warning of some kind for the first 2, and then none for the final one. At some point, the warnings from God stop and the punishment just comes. The
message had been clear before: Let my people go, or you will experience plagues. The king had not responded; and even when he did after the plague of frogs, he was insincere, and did not let the people go as promised. Again, God’s Word was coming true: Pharaoh would not let the people go, no matter what, until God was through making Himself known in the way He chose.

The Plague: Gnats

“Gnat” is a word that describes a biting, stinging insect that penetrates the nostrils and ears of its victims. Perhaps you have been somewhere, maybe in the woods, and have had a swarm of mosquitoes all around you, drinking your blood dry and making you very uncomfortable? Or, maybe you have been at a place where those pesky biting flies abide, and it seems you are spending all your time fighting them off. Either way, I don’t think we can fully imagine what it was like, as verse 17 says, that the gnats came from the dust and were everywhere, on man and animal, in all the land of Egypt.

Have you checked, recently, to see all the dust that is in your home – dust you cannot even see, unless sunlight exposes it? Can you imagine all of that dust, in one moment, turning into mosquitoes, in your house? And you couldn’t escape out of your house, and be safe, because they were waiting outside as well. Everywhere you went, you would battle these tiny, biting insects. Well, I guess it is that time in the plague, where the magicians of Egypt come and they show they are just as powerful, right? Let’s see:

The Response:

Exodus 8:18 – “The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast.”

- Egypt’s magicians could not produce gnats

The magicians were able to duplicate the snakes from staffs, just before the plagues began. They were also able to duplicate, but not eradicate, the plagues of water into blood and the frogs. But, now, the plague of gnats is different. They tried to produce the gnats by their powers, but they could not. What happened? Was it that producing gnats is that much more difficult than turning water into blood or producing frogs? I don’t think so.
There is a point being made here, that is going to happen at the end of each cycle in the plagues: At some point, those who oppose God and His servants will not be able to match the power of the truth. At some point, God’s power proves to be the real deal, and the enemies of God are revealed to be the imitators. That is what took place here with the 3rd plague.

They could not produce the gnats, so, according to verse 18, the gnats that were produced by God’s servants were all over man and animals. Warren Wiersbe, in his book: Be Delivered, wrote:

“But something else was involved: The Egyptians in general, and the priests in particular, were fanatical about cleanliness; and the priests frequently washed and shaved their bodies in order to be acceptable to their gods. Imagine the chagrin and discomfort of the priests when their bodies were invaded by unclean gnats that made life miserable for them! And their gods could do nothing to deliver them!”

Exodus 8:19 – “Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, This is the finger of God…”

Something is different here. The magicians could not re-produce the gnats, and this leads them to a conclusion: This is the finger of God. There comes a time when, even the enemies of God see that something is going on that they simply cannot explain outside of a power outside themselves; even if that was God. These Egyptian magicians recognized that God, the God of Israel that is, the one they did not believe in, was bringing these things on Egypt and would not stop until they obeyed. They were basically trying to excuse themselves to the king, as to why they could not do this, and hope that instead of killing them, the king would release God’s people and remove God’s wrath from them. No such luck.

Exodus 8:19 – “…But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.”

- Pharaoh’s heart was hardened and he would not listen

He had now seen 3 plagues; and he just viewed a plague that not even his own sorcerers and magicians could re-produce. Incredible discomfort and pain was being brought on his household and the entire nation of Egypt; and what did Pharaoh do? He continued to hardened his heart. Pharaoh was responsible for his own heart attitude; but we also knew this would happen: God had said that it would. This, too, was a part of God’s plan.
SO WHAT? What are we supposed to learn and apply from these first 3 plagues? Let me give you a few suggestions:

1. Do not harden your heart
This instruction is not just for Pharaoh and the current enemies of God, you know. It can also happen to those of us who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ. Do you remember the definition we gave for a hard heart last week? **A hard heart could be defined as a heart that is unresponsive to the truth. And, it usually revolves around power and control.** Do you see how evident that is here with Pharaoh?

This was also an instruction that God gave to the people of Israel:

Psalm 95:7-9 – “…Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as...your fathers put me to the test...though they had seen my work.”

God also made this a warning to all Christians:

Hebrews 4:7 – “…Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

Do you see how it can be evident in your life; how it could develop so easily? It doesn’t take much, really. You recognize something, from God’s Word, that He is asking you to believe or do, and you start to think of how difficult that thing is; and how maybe God can’t really expect that of you. It begins so easily. Before you know it, you have a heart that is not responding humbly to God and His truth. Let Pharaoh be a good reminder to you of what eventually happens to those who choose to have a hard heart.

2. Keep doing what God has asked
It would have been easy for Moses and Aaron to give up quickly, even though they were seeing God do great things. Why? Because it seemed like the world could duplicate what God was doing, and that perhaps they were still in control; or at the least, had as much power as God. At the worst, God was doing some type of magic trick and the Egyptians were the real deal. I mean, even after God did those incredible first 2 miracles, along with the preview miracle of the staff into a snake, the Egyptian King was still resolute and not willing to give in.

But, as Moses and Aaron continued to be faithful and do what God had asked, including the communication of God’s message, they began to see God’s power overcome the power of His enemies. And they realized the answer to the question we posed at the beginning of this message: Who has more power: God’s servants
or Pharaoh’s servants? God’s servants, eventually do, because they have the one and only true God on their side.

So, in your area of life, where you sometimes wonder who has the power: commit to being faithful, to continue trusting; and to keep responding to what God has asked of you. That is the only one you are responsible for: your own actions and attitudes to God.

3. Be aware that the enemies of God will notice His work in you
No, this may not happen all the time, or how you would like it to happen. But, if you will remain faithful, there will be times when those who have not yet trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation; and may even be antagonistic toward Christianity, will see God do something in or through you; and it will cause them to say something like the Egyptian magicians said: This is the finger of God.

If you will continue to live out Christ before your family and friends, classmates and co-workers, not afraid to talk about what you believe, there will come times when God will show that the God you serve is more powerful than any religion or self-worship that they abide by. And when that happens, you will have the opportunity to point them to the God that can save, by His mercy.

What is God asking you to do, in response to His Word today?
Let’s Pray.

This morning, we celebrate Palm Sunday, the day to remember when Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, hailed as a coming king. As we close our service this morning, let’s sing about the one who will reign as King one day; and then let’s claim Him as the king of our lives right now, based on His finished work on the cross. We introduced Hallelujah to My King at the beginning of the service. This is our song for this month, and fits very well with this time of celebrating the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I encourage you to pick up this easy song and sing with us as you can. Let’s worship together.
Resources:

www.abcnews.go.com/nightline
Then, find: The nightline face-off: Does Satan Exist?

*The Case For Christ* by Lee Strobel

*The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell

*Moses* by Charles Swindoll

*The Lie: Evolution* by Ken Ham

*Evolution Exposed: Biology* by Roger Patterson

*Evolution Exposed: Earth Science* by Roger Patterson

*How Good Is Good Enough?* By Andy Stanley

To learn our song of the month *Hallelujah To My King*:
Go to www.leadworship.com
Click on: Free online songbook
Choose Hallelujah To My King
Power point

1. LET THE PLAGUES BEGIN
   Exodus 7:14-8:19

2. [Plague 1 should be the title]
   Who has the power: God’s servants or Pharaoh’s servants?

   Plague 1 (7:14-25)

   The warning: You have disobeyed the LORD; and He wants you to know who He is, so…

4. Plague 1 should be the title
   The Plague: The water in the Nile River turned into blood

   The Response:
   • Egypt’s magicians also turned water into blood
   • Pharaoh’s heart remained hardened

5. [Plague 1 should be the title]
   Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

   Philippians 2:10,11 – “So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

6. [Plague 2 should be title]
   Plague 2 (8:1-15)

   The warning: If you do not let the LORD’s people go, this will happen:

   The Plague: Frogs everywhere!

6. [plague 2 should be the title]
   The Response:

   • Egypt’s magicians also produced frogs
• Pharaoh pleaded with God to stop the frogs and promised to let His people go

• Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not listen

7. Plague 3 (8:16-19)

The warning: NONE

The Plague: Gnats

8. [plague 3 should be the title]

The Response:

• Egypt’s magicians could not produce gnats
  • Pharaoh’s heart was hardened and he would not listen

9. [title: SO WHAT?]

SO WHAT?

• Do not harden your heart
  A hard heart could be defined as a heart that is unresponsive to the truth. And, it usually revolves around power and control.

10. [title: SO WHAT?]

Psalm 95:7-9 – “…Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as…your fathers put me to the test…though they had seen my work.”

Hebrews 4:7 – “…Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

11. [title SO WHAT?]

• Keep doing what God has asked
  • Be aware that the enemies of God will notice His work in you
LET THE PLAGUES BEGIN
Exodus 7:14-8:19

Who has the power: God’s servants or Pharaoh’s servants?

Plague 1 (7:14-25)

The warning: You have disobeyed the LORD; and He wants you to know who He is, so…

The Plague: The water in the Nile River turned into blood

The Response:
- Egypt’s magicians also turned water into blood
- Pharaoh’s heart remained hardened

Plague 2 (8:1-15)

The warning: If you do not let the LORD’s people go, this will happen:

The Plague: Frogs everywhere!

The Response:
- Egypt’s magicians also produced frogs
- Pharaoh pleaded with God to stop the frogs and promised to let His people go
- Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not listen

Plague 3 (8:16-19)

The warning: NONE

The Plague: Gnats

The Response:
• Egypt’s magicians could not produce gnats
• Pharaoh’s heart was hardened and he would not listen

SO WHAT?

• Do not harden your heart
A hard heart could be defined as a heart that is unresponsive to the truth. And, it usually revolves around power and control.

• Keep doing what God has asked
• Be aware that the enemies of God will notice His work in you
LET THE PLAGUES BEGIN
Exodus 7:14-8:19

Who has the power: God’s _______________ or Pharaoh’s _________________?

Plague 1 (7:14-25)

The warning: You have __________________________ the LORD; and He wants you to know _______ He ____, so…

The Plague: The ___________ in the Nile River ___________ into ___________

The Response:
• Egypt’s ________________ also turned water into ______________
• Pharaoh’s ____________ remained ______________________

Plague 2 (8:1-15)

The warning: If you do not _____ the LORD’s _____________ _____, this will happen:

The Plague: __________ ______________________!

The Response:
• Egypt’s magicians also __________________ ______________
• Pharaoh ________________ with God to stop the frogs and _________________ to let His people go
• Pharaoh ________________ his heart and would not ____________

Plague 3 (8:16-19)

The warning: __________

The Plague: __________

The Response:
• Egypt’s magicians ___________ ______ ________________ gnats
• Pharaoh’s heart was _________________ and he would not ________________

SO WHAT?

• Do not __________________ your ______________
A hard heart could be defined as a heart that is __________________________ to the _____________. And, it usually revolves around power and control.

• Keep ___________ what God has ______________
• Be aware that the ___________________ of God will notice _______ ____________ in you

Resources:

www.abcnews.go.com/nightline
Then, find: The nightline face-off: Does Satan Exist?

The Case For Christ by Lee Strobel

The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict by Josh McDowell

Moses by Charles Swindoll

The Lie: Evolution by Ken Ham

Evolution Exposed: Biology by Roger Patterson

Evolution Exposed: Earth Science by Roger Patterson

How Good Is Good Enough? By Andy Stanley

To learn our song of the month Hallelujah To My King:
Go to www.leadworship.com
Click on: Free online songbook
Choose Hallelujah To My King