## Character Study: Moses Part 4 – The Contest with Pharaoh Exodus 4:18-11:10

#### What's happening?

- Moses returned to Egypt with Aaron and showed the Israelites the signs God had told him to perform. The people <u>believed</u> and bowed down in <u>worship</u> to God for seeing their affliction. (4:18-31)
- Moses and Aaron went to the Pharaoh and asked that he let the Israelites go to the <u>wilderness</u> to hold a <u>feast</u> to the Lord. The Pharaoh refused, and in turn, greatly increased their work load. (5:1-23)
- The people and Moses were <u>discouraged</u>, but God confirmed His promise to deliver them from bondage. He warned Moses that He would first harden Pharaoh's heart so that through signs and wonders God would accomplish His <u>purposes</u>. (6:1-7:6)
- God sent a series of ten <u>plagues</u> to come upon the Egyptians as the Pharaoh continued to refuse to let the people go:

| 1. Water into blood (7:14-25) | 6. Boils (9:8-12)    |
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| 2. Frogs (8:1-15)             | 7. Hail (9:18-35)    |
| 3. Lice (8:16-19)             | 8. Locusts (10:3-20) |
| 4. Flies (8:20-32)            | 9. Darkness (10:21-2 |

## *5. Death of cattle (9:1-7)*

> God was using these plagues for several purposes: to reveal <u>Himself</u> to the Egyptians (7:5), to reveal <u>His power</u> to the Israelites (8:22), to have His power and name <u>declared</u> in all the earth (9:16), to serve as a <u>testimony</u> to future generations (10:1-2), and to bring <u>judgment</u> upon the gods of Egypt (12:12).

10. Death of firstborn (11:4-7)

#### What's to learn?

What's God doing?

- → Initially, things did not go as Moses had desired, which brought discouragement. In serving God, times of discouragement may come, but we must learn to be <u>faithful</u> and know that God is in control.
- → The whole of human history is moving forward with the purpose of bringing <u>glory</u> to God. God even used Pharaoh's hardened heart and the plagues to bring about His glory. We can do our own thing (like Pharaoh) and face the consequences, or we can jump on board with <u>God's plan</u> and live our lives to His glory! So, are you on board?

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Grow. Share

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