

**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 believed and bowed down in worship 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 wilderness to hold a feast to the Lord. The Pharaoh refused, and in turn, greatly increased their work load. (5:1-23)
- The people and Moses were discouraged, 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 purposes. (6:1-7:6)
- God sent a series of ten plagues to come upon the Egyptians as the Pharaoh continued to refuse to let the people go:
  1. Water into blood (7:14-25)
  2. Frogs (8:1-15)
  3. Lice (8:16-19)
  4. Flies (8:20-32)
  5. Death of cattle (9:1-7)
  6. Boils (9:8-12)
  7. Hail (9:18-35)
  8. Locusts (10:3-20)
  9. Darkness (10:21-23)
  10. Death of firstborn (11:4-7)

**What's God doing?**

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

**What's to learn?**

→ 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 faithful and know that God is in control.

→ The whole of human history is moving forward with the purpose of bringing glory 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 God's plan and live our lives to His glory! So, are you on board?

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