

## Eight More Plagues

CHARACTERS: Thoth & Isis (TV News reporters), Cleopatra, Ramses

SETTING: Egypt's Nightly News TV Station TV

RUN TIME: 6 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Exodus 8-10

THOTH: This is Egypt's Nightly News with Thoth

ISIS: And Isis. Today in Egypt, the ninth plague continues for a third day. This darkness, which Moses and Aaron claim are from their God, Yahweh, affects only the Egyptian areas of Egypt.

THOTH: Israelite occupied areas have light. Sources in the palace tell us that Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship Yahweh. Even your families may go with you; only your flocks and herds must stay behind."

ISIS: Moses refused the offer saying the livestock needed to go because they would not know which animals to sacrifice until they got there.

THOTH: This plague is just one in a long line of disasters that started with the Nile being turned into blood.

ISIS: Next frogs swarmed out of the Nile and infested the land and houses.

THOTH: (*disgusted*) Those horrible things took over my bed, the ovens and even kneading bowls. I couldn't eat or sleep for days because even after Moses made them die, there were countless heaps of stinking dead frogs everywhere.

ISIS: Next came the plague of gnats on man and beast.

THOTH: But Pharaoh's magicians couldn't duplicate this plague. They claimed it was "the finger of God."

ISIS: Still Pharaoh's heart remained hard and he refused to let the Israelites go.

THOTH: Swarms of flies attacked, but only the Egyptians.

ISIS: Moses and Aaron claimed that this was proof that Yahweh was in the land and made a distinction between His people and the Egyptians.

THOTH: Those thick swarms of flies ruined Egypt, yet Pharaoh, after first giving the go-ahead, refused to allow the Israelite slaves to worship in the wilderness.

ISIS: We'll be interviewing several farmers about plagues five through eight which devastated our agricultural system: Farmer Ramses and his wife, Cleopatra. (*to RAMSES and CLEOPATRA*) Welcome.

RAMSES: Glad to be here and out of the darkness.

CLEO: At least the darkness covers up the fact our entire farm was destroyed.

ISIS: Tell us more about that.

RAMSES: We owned horses, donkeys, camels, herds, and flocks. Everything was fine and dandy, then poof, they all died.

CLEO: Every single one of them.

RAMSES: But nothing happened to the horses, donkeys, camels, herds, and flocks that belonged to our next door neighbor, Phineas.

ISIS: Phineas is an Israelite name, isn't it?

CLEO: It is. Not even one of the Israelite livestock was dead. (*Shaking her head sadly*) But hard hearted Pharaoh did not let those people go.

RAMSES: I had some silver saved up so I bought a couple sheep and goats from Phineas.

ISIS: Paid full price too. No sense getting their Yahweh mad at us.

RAMSES: Then the next disaster struck. Festering boils on man and beast.

ISIS: My cousin Nefertiti works at the palace. She said it was so bad there the magicians could not stand before Moses.

RAMSES: But Pharaoh did not listen to them.

CLEO: My cousin, Nefertiti, could barely bring the Pharaoh his meals, the boils were so bad. (*Dropping her voice*) But she did hear what Moses told Pharaoh.

THOTH: What was that?

CLEO: Yahweh could have stretched out his hand and obliterated Egypt from the earth. However, Yahweh is letting us live to show HIS power and to make HIS name known in all the earth.

RAMSES: Moses accused Pharaoh of acting arrogantly against His people by not letting them go.

CLEO: Then Nefertiti heard that Yahweh would rain down the worst hail that has ever occurred in Egypt from the day it was founded until now.

RAMSES: Moses warned Pharaoh to bring any livestock and all that he had in the field into shelters.

CLEO: We immediately brought in those sheep and goats and picked everything growing in the field that was even halfway ripe.

RAMSES: The flax and the barley. The wheat and spelt hadn't started yet because they grow later.

ISIS: What happened when the hail hit the next day?

CLEO: Severe hail, with lightning flashing through it, struck down everything in the field, both man and beast.

THOTH: It was the worst hailstorm in the history of Egypt.

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CLEO: The hail beat down every plant of the field and shattered every tree, yes – even full grown trees!

RAMSES: The only place it didn't hail was in the land of Goshen where the Israelites were.

CLEO: Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron. Nefertiti said he admitted he'd sinned, and I quote, "Yahweh is the Righteous One, and I and my people are the guilty ones."

RAMSES: He told Moses to make an appeal to Yahweh. "There has been enough of God's thunder and hail. I will let you go; you don't need to stay any longer."

CLEO: But Pharaoh didn't actually fear Yahweh. As soon as Pharaoh saw that the rain, hail, and thunder had stopped, he sinned again and hardened his heart.

THOTH: That Pharaoh's heart is harder than a rock.

CLEO: Moses warned locusts were next.

RAMSES: Even Pharaoh's officials urged him to just let the slaves go.

CLEO: Nefertiti thought he was going to because he said they could ... until Moses said they'd be taking their whole families and flocks and herds.

RAMSES: He said only the men could go.

CLEO: Right away Yahweh sent an east wind over the land.

RAMSES: It blew all that day and through the night.

CLEO: By morning, the east wind had brought in the locusts. (*horrified and shuddering*) There were so many, the land was black.

RAMSES: (*shocked and sad as he remembers*) They ate everything we had left. Everything.

CLEO: But even when Pharaoh begged and Moses prayed for a west wind, it was too late. Everything was gone.

ISIS: Yet still Pharaoh did not let the Israelites go.

THOTH: Our sources inside the palace said Pharaoh threatened the brothers?

CLEO: Nefertiti told us pharaoh said, "Leave me! Make sure you never see my face again, for on the day you see my face, you will die."

RAMSES: And Moses agreed saying, "As you have said, I will never see your face again.

ISIS: (*to RAMSES and CLEOPATRA*) Thank you for being on Egypt's Nightly News.

RAMSES: (*to camera*) Thank you for tuning in.

ISIS: Stay tuned for updates on the latest developments in Egypt.

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