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# Pearl Seeking

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## TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Ex. 6:2-12	Yahweh's covenant with Yisra'el
Tuesday:	Ex. 6:13-27	The genealogy of Aharon
Wednesday:	Ex. 6:28 - 7:13	Yahweh informs Mosheh of His plan to reveal His supremacy to the Mitsrites; Aharon performs the 1 <sup>st</sup> miracle with the rod
Thursday:	Ex. 7:14 - 8:19	Plagues 1-3: blood, frogs and gnats
Friday:	Ex. 8:20 - 9:35	Plagues 4-7: flies, death of livestock, boils and hail

In our last Parsha Pearls lesson, Yahweh appeared to Mosheh at the burning bush and revealed His Name. Yahweh told Mosheh that he was to lead His people Yisra'el out of Mitsrayim (Egypt). In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, Yahweh is sending 7 plagues upon Mitsrayim. Next week we will see 3 more plagues which will finally cause Pharaoh to allow the Yisra'elites to leave. Now, let's read Ex. 7:7 - 9:35.

## PARSHA POINTS

- Mosheh was 80 (**shmonim**) years old and Aharon was 83 years old when they went in before Pharaoh - 7:7
- Aharon threw his rod (**matteh**) before Pharaoh and all his servants, and it became a serpent - 7:10
- Pharaoh called for his wise men and magicians to show Mosheh and Aharon that their magic powers could perform the same wonder - 7:11
- Aharon's serpent/rod swallowed up the magicians' serpents/rods - 7:12
- Pharaoh's heart became strengthened (hardened) and he did NOT listen to them, just as Yahweh had told Mosheh would happen - 7:13-14

**Yahweh sends the 1<sup>st</sup> (**achat**) plague (**maggephah**) upon Mitsrayim**

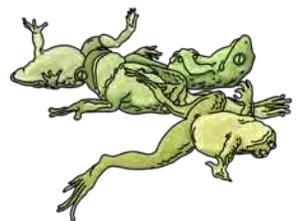
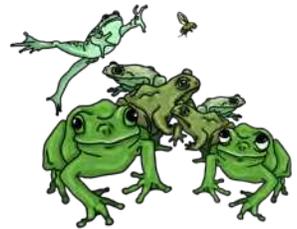
- Yahweh told Mosheh (7:15-18):
  - to meet Pharaoh by the riverbank in the morning
  - to bring his rod which had turned into a serpent
  - to tell Pharaoh that Yahweh the Elohim of the Hebrews had sent him to Pharaoh
  - to command Pharaoh, "Let My people go, so that they serve Me in the wilderness"
  - that He was going to cause the waters to turn to blood. The fish were going to die, and the river would stink so badly that the people would be unable to drink the water



- Yahweh told Mosheh to tell Aharon to take his rod and stretch it out over the waters of Mitsrayim so that all the water would become blood, even water stored in wooden and stone containers - 7:19
- Everything Yahweh said would happen, did happen - 7:20-21
- The magicians of Mitsrayim imitated the same plague through the use of their magic - 7:22
- Pharaoh's heart became strengthened (hardened) and he did NOT listen to them, just as Yahweh had told Mosheh would happen - 7:22-23
- The Mitsrites dug in the ground around the river to get clean water. However, for 7 days the water in the river remained blood - 7:24-25
- Yahweh instructed Mosheh to command Pharaoh to let His people go, so that they might serve Him - 8:1

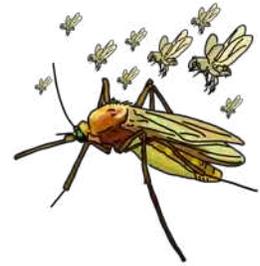
### ***Yahweh sends the 2<sup>nd</sup> (shtayim) plague upon Mitsrayim***

- Yahweh warned that if Pharaoh refused, He would bring frogs upon the land of Mitsrayim - 8:2
- He said that the frogs would come into their homes, into their servants' homes, and upon the people. Frogs would even be found in their ovens and kneading bowls - 8:3
- Aharon stretched out his rod over the waters of Mitsrayim and frogs appeared; they covered the whole land of Mitsrayim - 8:6
- Once again, the magicians of Mitsrayim got the same result through the use of their magic - 8:7
- Pharaoh then bargained with Mosheh: if he would to pray to Yahweh to take away the frogs, then Pharaoh would agree to let the Yisra'elites go to sacrifice to Yahweh - 8:8
- Mosheh asked Pharaoh to name a time when he should pray to Yahweh to remove the frogs from the land - 8:9
- Pharaoh responded, "Tomorrow," and Mosheh declared that when Yahweh honored this timing, Pharaoh would know that Yahweh had both sent and ended this plague - 8:10
- Mosheh confirmed that the living frogs would remain only in the river - 8:11
- Mosheh did pray to Yahweh, and Yahweh listened. The frogs died, and the people gathered the dead frogs in heaps. But the land stank because there were so many of them - 8:14
- As a result of the relief, Pharaoh again hardened his heart and would NOT listen to them, just as Yahweh had told Mosheh would happen - 8:15



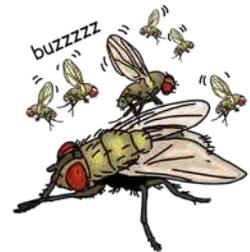
### ***Yahweh sends the 3<sup>rd</sup> (shalosh) plague upon Mitsrayim***

- Aharon stretched out his rod and struck the dust of the land so that gnats appeared all over the land of Mitsrayim - 8:16-17
- The magicians performed their magic to get the same result, but this time they failed - 8:18
- Gnats were all over man and beast - 8:18
- The magicians recognized that it was the finger of Elohim (**etsbah Elohim**) that had sent the plague of gnats - 8:19
- Pharaoh's heart again became hardened and he did NOT listen to them just as Yahweh had told Mosheh would happen - 8:19



### ***Yahweh sends the 4<sup>th</sup> plague (arba) upon Mitsrayim***

- Yahweh told Mosheh (8:20-23):
  - to stand before Pharaoh as he came down to the water early in the morning, and say to him that Yahweh commands him to 'let His people go' so that they might serve Him
  - to tell Pharaoh that if he did NOT obey, swarms of flies would be on him, on his people, in their homes and all over the ground
  - that this time, the Yisra'elites in the land of Goshen would be free of flies, to prove to them that Yahweh was in their midst
  - that Yahweh was going to put a distinction between His people and Pharaoh's people, and that this sign would happen the next day
- Yahweh did everything He said He would - 8:24
- Pharaoh again called for Mosheh and told him that his people could offer sacrifices to their Elohim, but to do it there in the land of Mitsrayim - 8:25
- Mosheh did NOT agree with this plan as he felt that their sacrifices would be an abomination to the Mitsrites and might cause him to be stoned - 8:26
- Mosheh negotiated with Pharaoh for a 3-day journey into the wilderness, so that the Mitsrites would NOT see their sacrifices - 8:27
- Pharaoh agreed to the plan, but insisted that they do NOT go very far into the wilderness and said, "Pray for me" - 8:28
- Mosheh agreed to pray to Yahweh to remove the flies, but warned that Pharaoh had better NOT repeat his deceptive game of changing his mind after he got his way - 8:29
- Mosheh did pray to Yahweh and the swarms of flies left - 8:30-31
- Pharaoh hardened his heart again, and did NOT 'let the people go' as he promised - 8:32



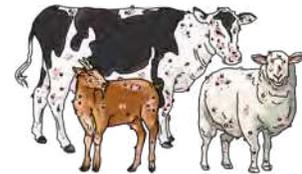
## ***Yahweh sends the 5<sup>th</sup> (chamesh) plague upon Mitsrayim***

- Yahweh instructed Mosheh to appear before Pharaoh again with the same words: "Let My people go, so that they serve Me" - 9:1
- If Pharaoh refused, Yahweh warned that He would send another plague upon Mitsrayim: a grievous pestilence that would cause the livestock to die - 9:2-3
- Yahweh said that He would separate the livestock of Yisra'el and the livestock of Mitsaryim, so that no animal belonging to the children of Yisra'el would die - 9:4
- Yahweh did all that He said He would do - 9:6
- Pharaoh's heart was hardened when he saw all the livestock of the Yisra'elites alive - 9:7



## ***Yahweh sends the 6<sup>th</sup> (shesh) plague upon Mitsrayim***

- Yahweh told Mosheh and Aharon to go before Pharaoh yet again, having filled their hands with ashes from a furnace. They were to scatter the ashes up toward the heavens, in Pharaoh's sight - 9:8
- The fine dust would cause boils to break out in sores on man and beast, throughout the land of Mitsrayim - 9:9
- Mosheh and Aharon did as Yahweh commanded them, and the boils appeared on both man and beast - 9:10
- The magicians could NOT even attempt this action, as their boils made them too sore to stand before Pharaoh - 9:11
- Yahweh hardened Pharaoh's heart, and again he did NOT listen to them, just as Yahweh had told Mosheh would happen - 9:12
- Yahweh told Mosheh to appear before Pharaoh and tell him (9:13-17):
  - "Let My people go, so that they serve (avad) Me"
  - "I am sending My plagues on you and your people so that you know there is no one like Me in all the earth"
  - "I could have killed you through these plagues"
  - "I raised you up so that I could show you My power, and cause you to declare My Name in all the earth"



## Yahweh sends the 7<sup>th</sup> (sheva) plague upon Mitsrayim

- Yahweh said He was going to cause very heavy hail to rain down upon Mitsrayim such as they had never experienced or ever would - 9:18
- In His compassion, Yahweh admonished Pharaoh to bring his livestock in under cover for safety. Any man or beast left outside would surely die - 9:19
- There were those of Pharaoh's servants who feared the word of Yahweh and hid in their homes, but there were those who did NOT listen and left their servants and animals in the field - 9:20-21
- Mosheh and Aharon did as Yahweh commanded them to do - 9:22-23
- Hail and fire came down upon the land of Mitsrayim. The onslaught was more severe than any other occurrence of hail in the history of Mitsrayim - 9:24
- The hail destroyed everything outside - man, beast and every plant and tree of the field - 9:25
- The land of Goshen, where the Yisra'elites were, did NOT experience this plague - 9:26
- Pharaoh called for Mosheh and Aharon and told them (9:27-28):
  - that he had sinned against Yahweh
  - that Yahweh is righteous and that he and his people were wrong
  - to pray to Yahweh
  - that he'd had enough of the thunder and hail of Elohim
  - that he was letting them go, and did NOT want them to stay any longer
- Mosheh told Pharaoh that (9:29-30):
  - as soon as he was out of the city, he would spread out his hands to Yahweh, so that the thunder and the hail would cease
  - Pharaoh would recognize that the earth belongs to Yahweh
  - he knew Pharaoh and his servants still did NOT have any fear before Yahweh Elohim
- Pharaoh's crop of flax and barley were smitten by the plagues - 9:31
- The wheat and spelt crops were NOT smitten by the plagues because they were late crops - 9:32
- Mosheh went out of the city and fulfilled his promise to Pharaoh - 9:33
- When Pharaoh and his servants saw that the rain, hail and thunder stopped, they sinned against Yahweh by hardening their hearts - 9:34
- Pharaoh did NOT let the children of Yisra'el go, just as Yahweh had said would happen - 9:35



# DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Why do you think Yahweh said that he would harden Pharaoh's heart? Was it to strengthen the Yisra'elites' belief? Was it to show His might and power? (4:21; 7:3-4; 9:12)
- In ancient pagan culture, what was the role of the wise men, magicians and practitioners of witchcraft? Discuss this. (7:11)
- Why did Mosheh tell Pharaoh that slaughtering their sacrificial animals would NOT be right in the eyes of the Mitsrites? What animals did the Mitsrites worship? (8:25-27)
- This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time that stoning is mentioned in Scripture. Research the punishment for killing a sacred animal of the Mitsrites. (8:26)
- Each of the plagues represented Yahweh's mockery of certain elohim/gods that the Mitsrites worshipped. Research these false gods and how they were shown to be nothing.

