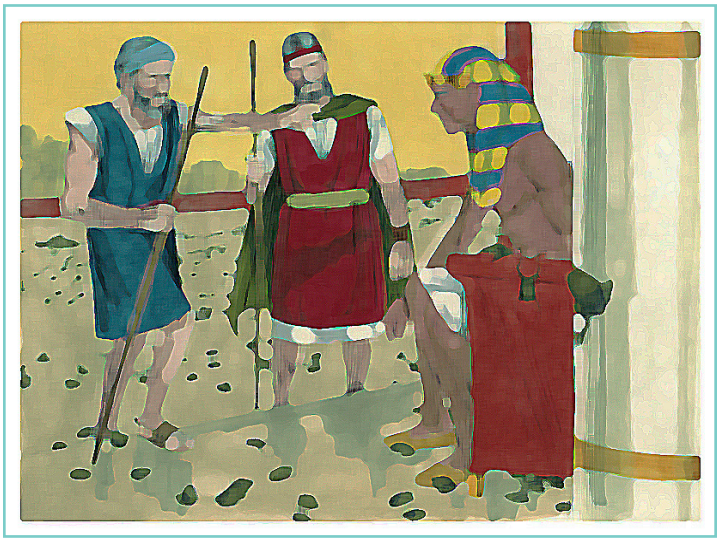
Lesson 5: Power



Introduction

Through Moses and Aaron, God had sent the message to Pharaoh to set his people free from their slavery in Egypt. Working many signs and wonders, God revealed his power to the Egyptians. Through ten terrifying plagues, the Egyptians were humbled.

Read: Exodus 9:13-26

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?



Where in the Bible?

Exodus continues as the second book in the Old Testament.

The Old Testament: Pentateuch

We have seen that the first five books of the Bible are known as the **Pentateuch** — meaning "the five scrolls." But they are often referred to as "the Five Books of Moses." Beginning with Exodus, Moses becomes the chief character in the rest of these books.

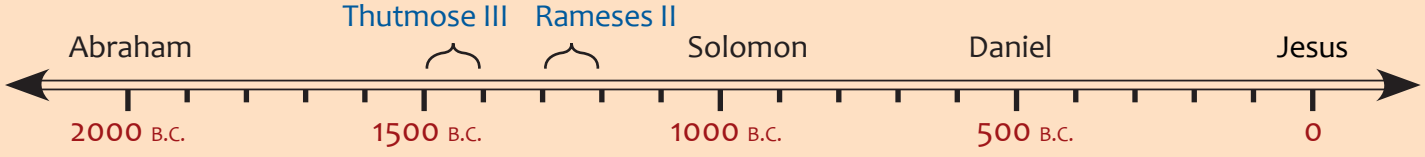
Biblical Time Period: Exodus

For many years, the Israelites endured a period of slavery in Egypt. As we read in the first chapters of Exodus, the Pharaoh had even tried to limit the population by killing all the baby sons born to the Hebrew people.

The word **Exodus** means "to leave." At this time, God raised up Moses as a prophet and deliverer in the period that shares the name of the book. Through many signs and wonders, God revealed his power and freed his peoples. This important time in history is often referred to in Scripture as a foreshadowing of our deliverance in Christ from our bondage to sin.

When in Time?

The word Pharaoh (FAIR-o) was a title like *King* or *President*, not a proper name. Many scholars suggest that the Pharaoh described in the Book of Exodus was **Rameses II**, who ruled from 1279-1213 B.C.; other scholars say it may have been **Thutmose III,** who ruled from 1479-1425 B.C. Each of these Pharaohs ruled Egypt for more than 50 years.



"Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt" (Exodus 3:10).

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Discuss: Exodus 9:13-26

1. In a Bible dictionary, online, or by going through Exodus 6-9, can you list all ten plagues in order? What number is the plague of today's lesson?

1)	6)
2)	7)
3)	8)
4)	9)
5)	10)

2. Pay close attention to what God says to Pharaoh in verses 13-16. What was God's primary purpose in sending the plagues? What did he intend to prove?

3. Did all the people of Egypt respond to Moses' warning in the same way the Pharaoh did?

4. Reread verses 20-21. How are these verses reflected in the lesson taught by Jesus in Matthew 7:24-27? What is the key to the different outcomes?

5. Visual dramatizations of this story have portrayed it in different ways. Was this a hail storm with flashes of lightning, or burning hail falling from the sky? By the description given in verses 23-25, what do you picture happened that day?

6. In response to the plagues, Scripture says, "Pharaoh's heart was hardened" (Exodus 7:13-14). Sometimes it says that Pharaoh hardened his own heart (8:15), but at other times that God hardened Pharaoh's heart (9:12). Is there a difference? Who is the cause of what happened?

7. In Romans 9:14-24, read what Apostle Paul says about God and the purpose God had for Pharaoh. Does this seem unfair? How does Paul respond? What point is Paul trying to make about the nature of God's grace vs. human action?

Where in the World?

The map shows a closeup of the land of Egypt. The great Nile River was the source of water for this whole region. On the east side of the Nile River was the land of Goshen, where the Hebrews lived and worked as slaves. They were being forced to build the Pharaoh's cities of Pithom and Raamses.

a) On the map to the right, label the Nile River in the land of Egypt.

Directly to the east of the Nile was the long finger of the upper Red Sea (in modern days, this narrow body of water is called the Gulf of Suez).

b) On the map to the right, label the Red Sea.

c) Then, circle the place where God parted the waters to allow the Hebrews to cross the sea on dry land.



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