

GOD WILL JUDGE THOSE WHO HURT HIS PEOPLE.

Plagues of Promise

Pharaoh's heart was hard toward God. God's people were suffering. He had heard their prayers for help and was going to rescue them. Moses had been sent to warn Pharaoh, but Pharaoh had refused to obey God's command and let God's people leave Egypt so they could worship Him. Now it was time for the consequences.

God told Moses to meet Pharaoh as he was going to the river early in the morning. This river or one of the creeks or ponds that came from it was where everyone got their drinking water and bath water. They didn't have sinks and faucets like we have today, so if there was water to drink or use, it came from the ground. God told Moses to tell Pharaoh that by this sign he would know that Moses brought the word of the Lord. Moses obeyed God by telling Pharaoh everything God had commanded him, and then Aaron did as God commanded and struck the water of the river with his staff. Immediately the whole river turned into blood. Aaron then took his staff and stretched out his hand over all the other waters of Egypt, and they turned to blood.

The people did not have water for drinking or cooking or bathing. All the fish in the water died. And it stunk. Boy did it stink. Plus, a huge river with flowing blood instead of flowing water is absolutely disgusting. This was Egypt's first punishment because Pharaoh was disobeying God. God called this punishment and the ones that were still to come *plagues*. A plague is a really bad situation that overtakes a lot of people. Because Pharaoh was the leader of his people, his heart being hard toward God meant that his disobedience toward God led to lots of other people suffering too.

