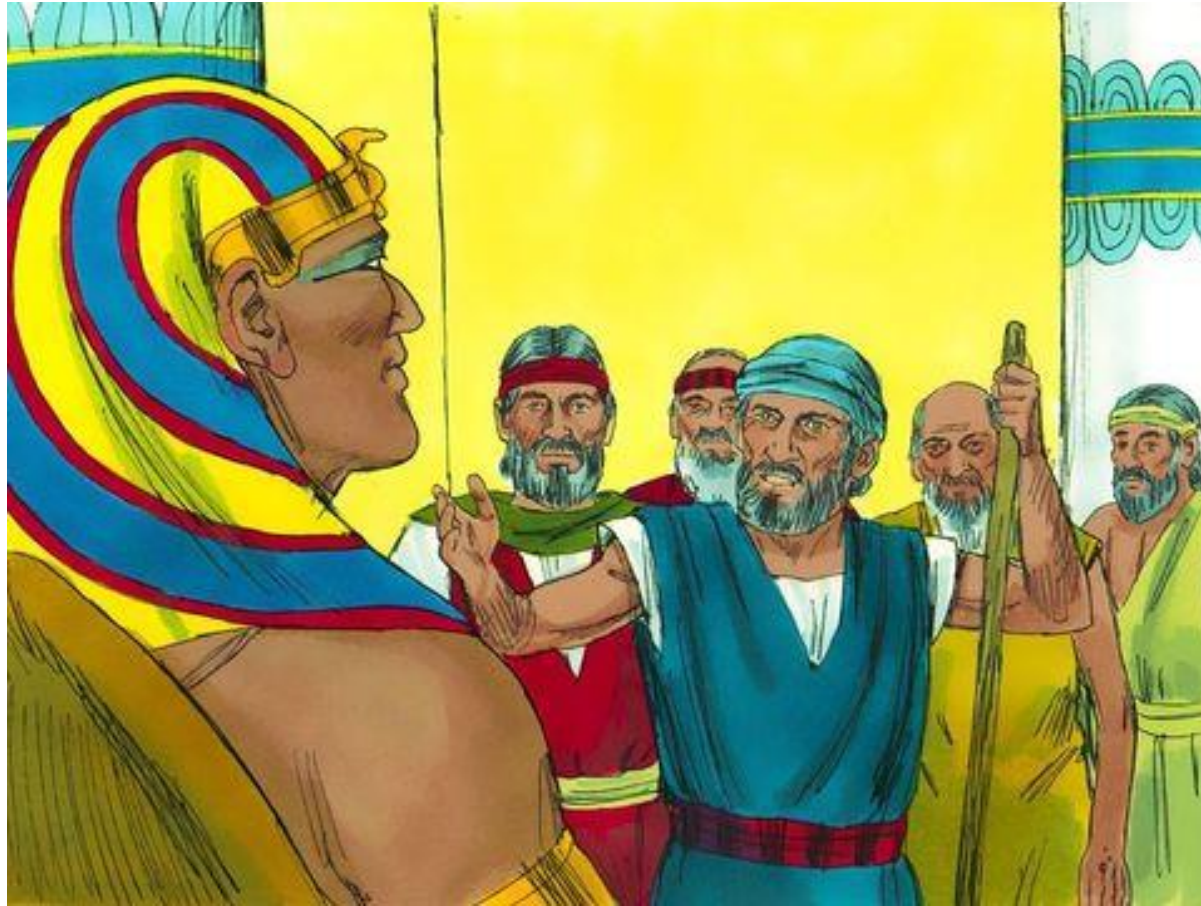




Last week we learned about Moses and the Burning Bush. This was God’s way of speaking to Moses to give him a big job – to lead God’s people, the Israelites, out of Egypt. The Israelites were servants to the Egyptians; the Egyptians were very mean to God’s people. The Israelites cried out to God for help, and God heard their cries. This is why God sent Moses. However, Moses was afraid to go to Egypt. He told God he could not do it alone. So, God told Moses, “I will send your brother Aaron to be your helper. I have already promised to be with you. Now go and tell Pharaoh, “The Lord says, ‘Let my people go, that they may serve Me.’” After all this, Moses was ready to obey God.



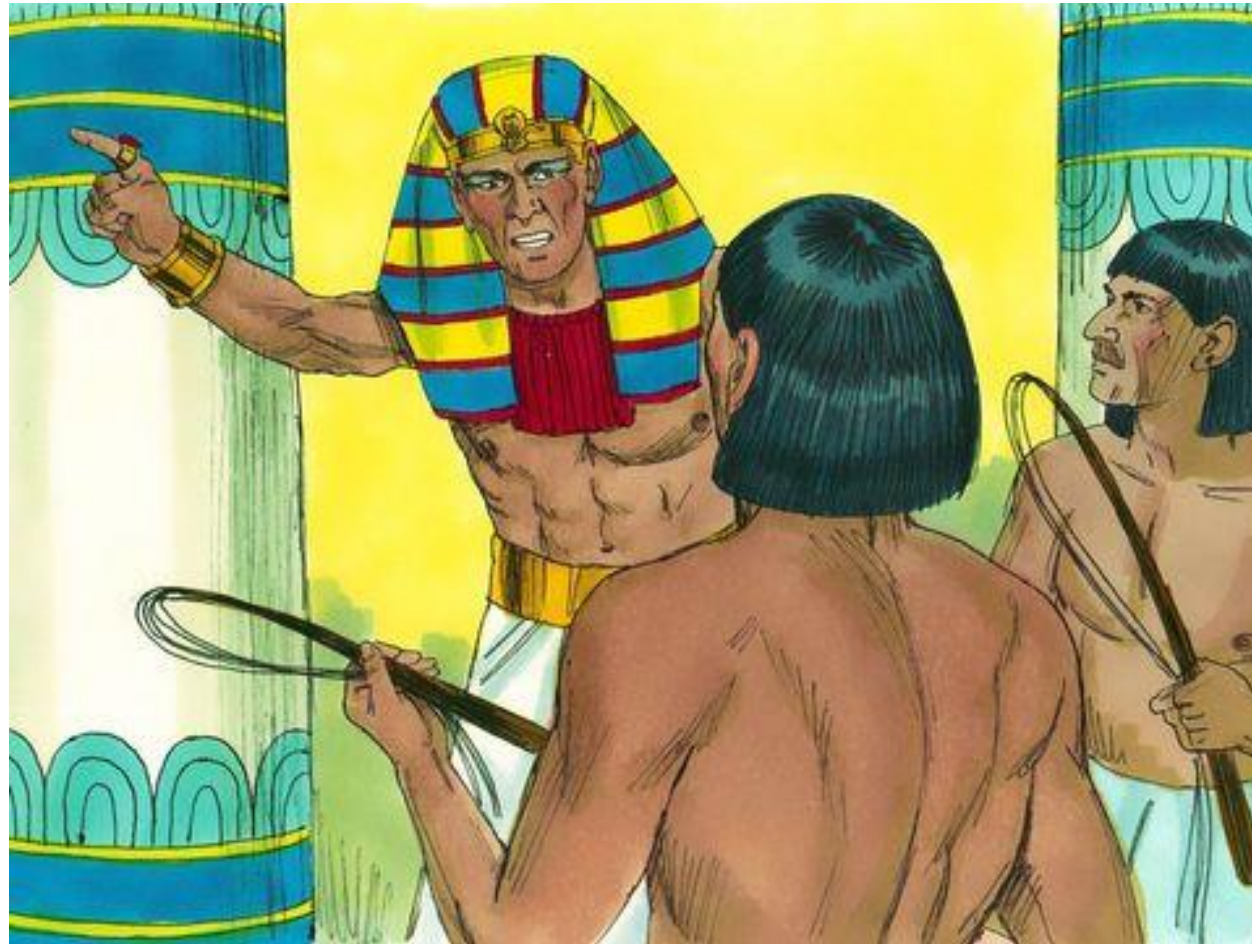
Moses and Aaron Before Pharaoh

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh as the Lord commanded. They said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: ‘Let my people go so they can worship me.’”

But Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord? Why should I obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord. And I will not let Israel go.” Pharaoh did not know the God of the Israelites. Pharaoh thought He was in control and all-powerful.

Then Aaron and Moses said, “God has talked with us. He wants you to let His people go, so they can worship Him.”

Both Aaron and Moses knew that to disobey God there would be serious consequences.



Pharaoh did not want to let the Israelites leave. He needed them to make bricks for his cities. Because of Moses and Aaron, Pharaoh made life harder for the Israelites. Pharaoh no longer gave the Israelites straw to make bricks instead they had to find their own straw. The Israelites learned that Moses was the reason why Pharaoh took away the straw. They became mad at Moses. Moses prayed to God. “Lord, why have you brought this trouble on your people? You have done nothing to save them.” Moses was upset with God. The Israelites did not believe God would help them and Moses was not quite sure either. But God was going to show everyone – Moses, Pharaoh, and the Israelites – that no one can stop His plans.



The Plagues

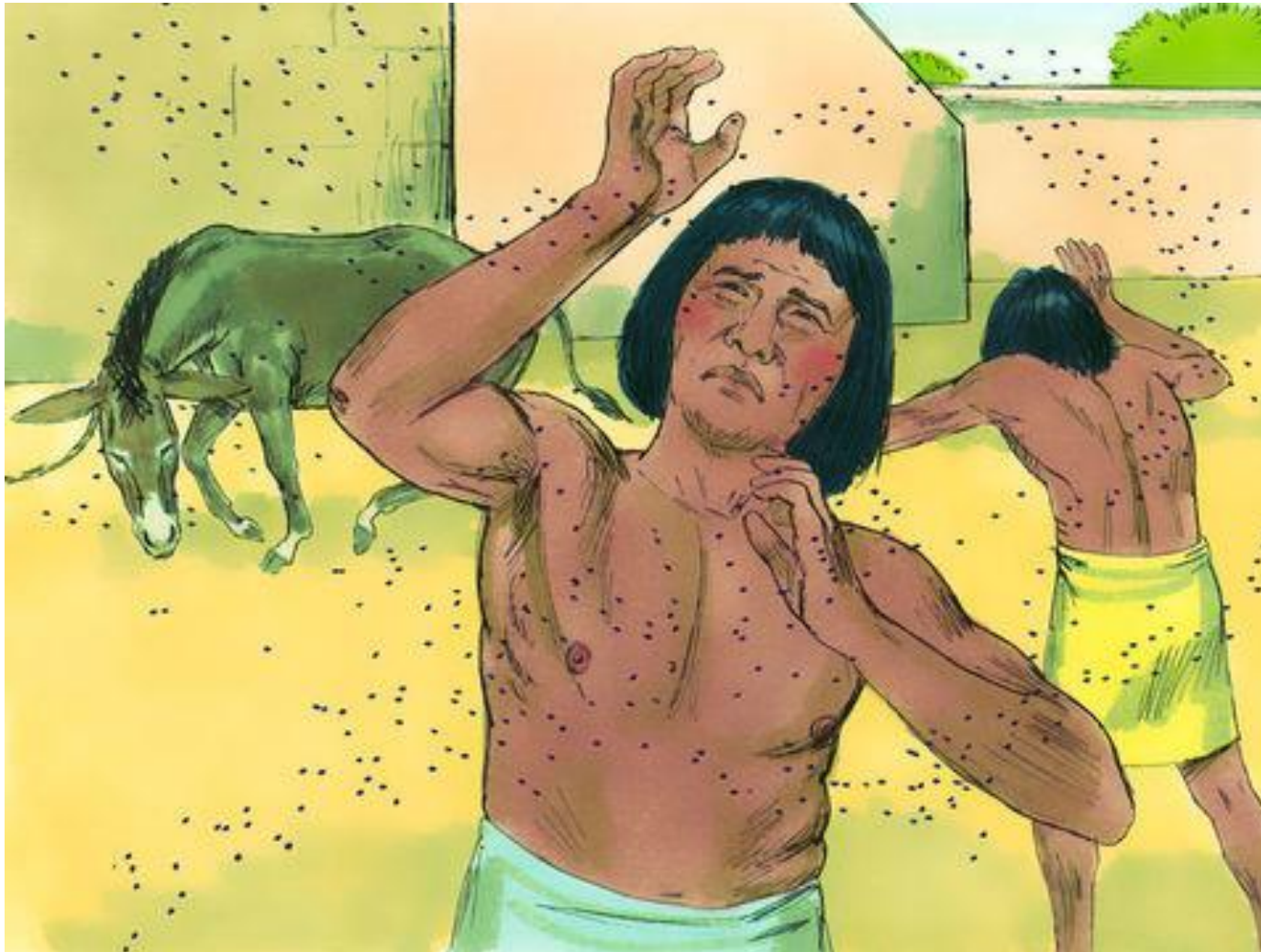
The Lord promised Moses that He was going to lead His people out of Egypt. And God was going to show everyone how powerful He was.

The Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh is very stubborn. He refuses to let My people go. Go meet him by the edge of the Nile River. Tell him this: ‘The Lord says, ‘Let my people go worship me in the desert.’ But Pharaoh refused to listen. So, the Lord, through Moses and Aaron, changed the Nile River into blood! The Egyptians could not drink the water from the Nile. For many days the Egyptians went looking for water. But only God could turn the Nile back to normal. After seven days passed the Lord changed the Nile River back to regular, normal water.

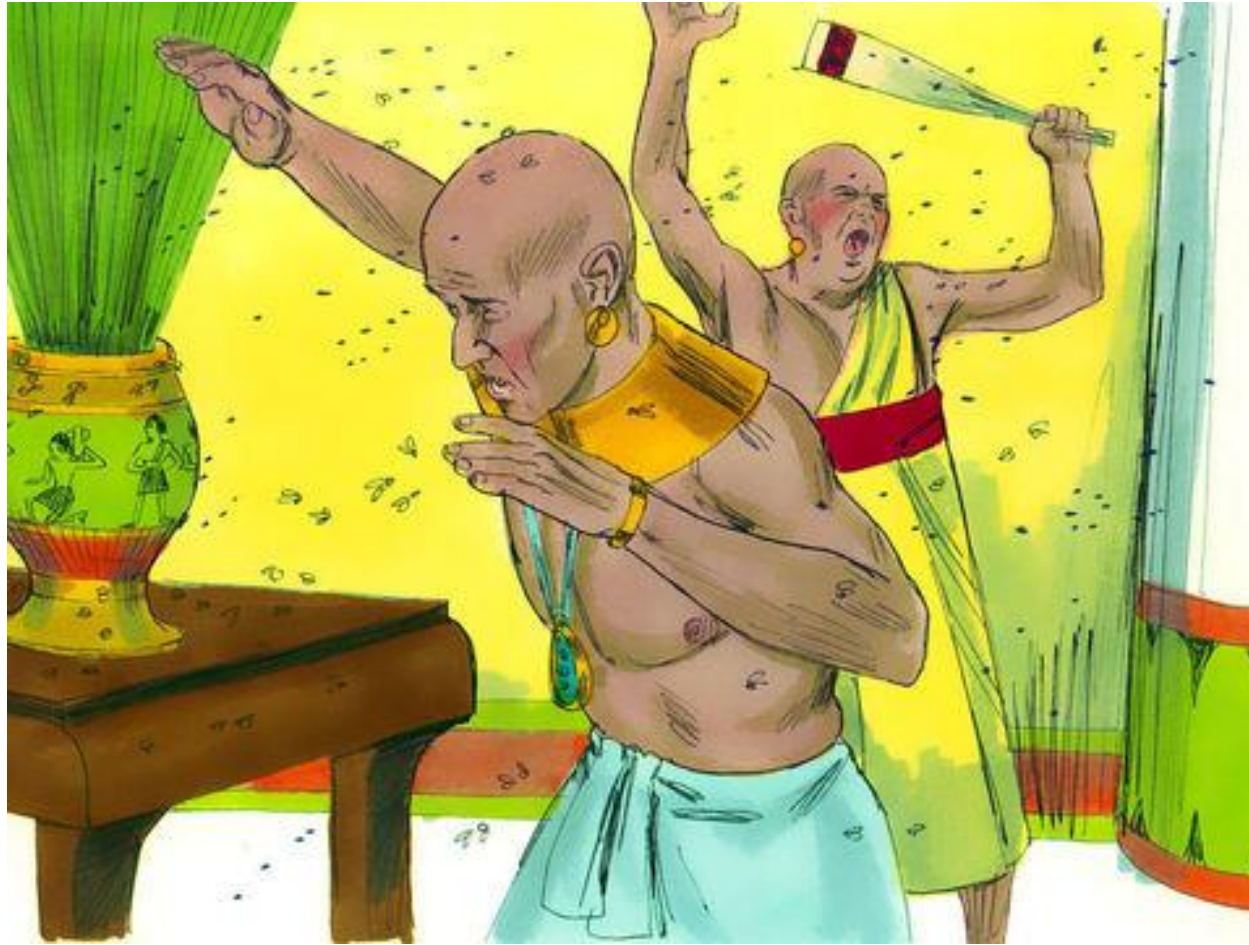


Seven days went by and the Lord said to Moses, “Go tell Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Let my people go, that they may serve me.’” But Pharaoh said “No!” God then told Moses and his brother Aaron, “Stretch out your rod over the waters of Egypt.” When Aaron did stretch out his rod over the waters, frogs began to jump out of the water. At first it was a couple of frogs, but soon a couple of frogs turned into hundreds and then thousands of frogs. Frogs were everywhere! They were all over the ground, in people’s homes, in their beds, bathtubs, and even soup bowls! All the Egyptians were miserable because the frogs were everywhere.

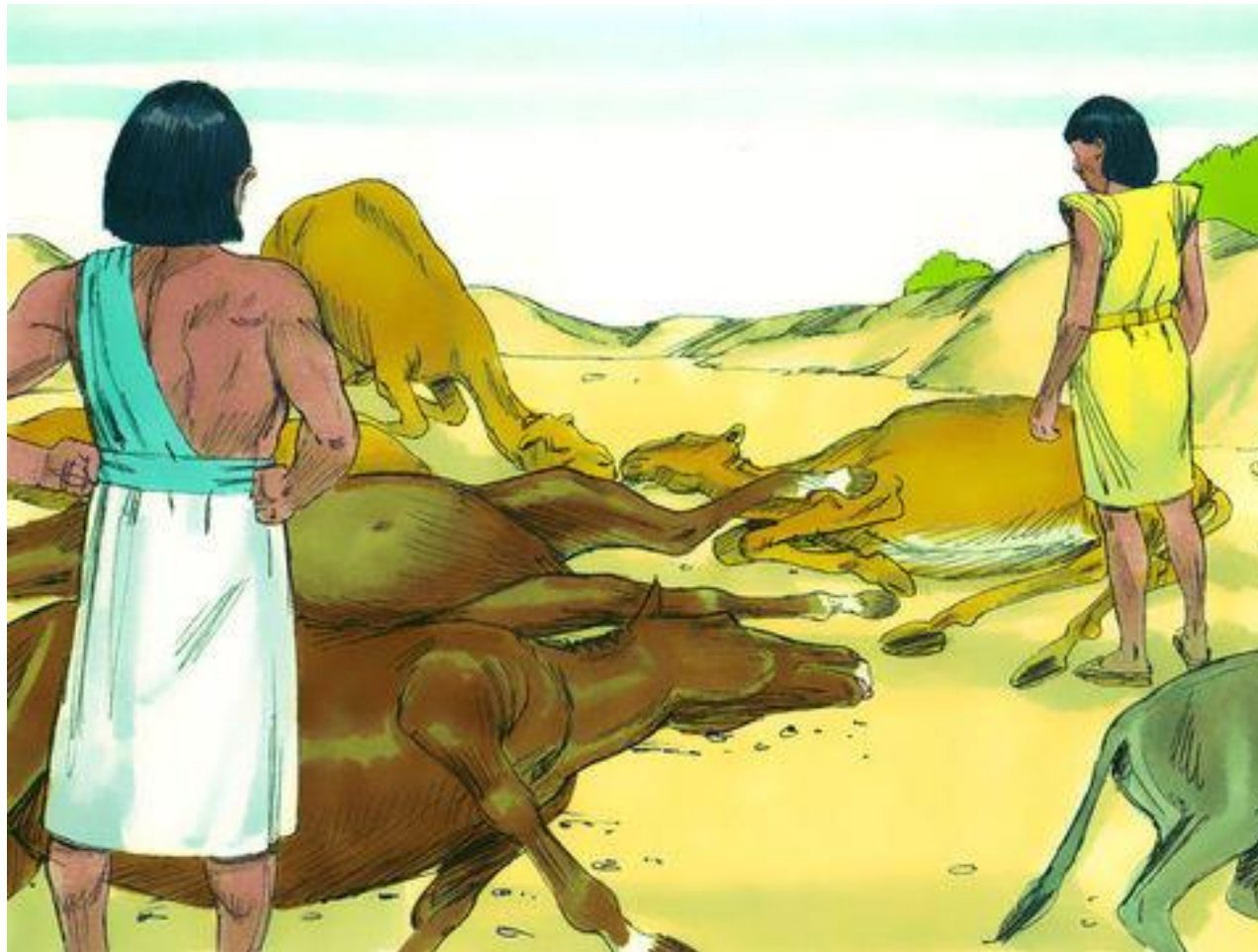
Then Pharaoh called for Moses. “Ask God to take away the frogs from Egypt and I will let the people go,” Pharaoh said. Moses and Aaron prayed to God and the frogs died. The Egyptians had to sweep up all the dead frogs in great big piles. The Bible tells us it smelled horrible. This was the second plague God sent to Egypt. But once the frogs were gone, Pharaoh’s heart changed, and he decided not to let God’s people go.



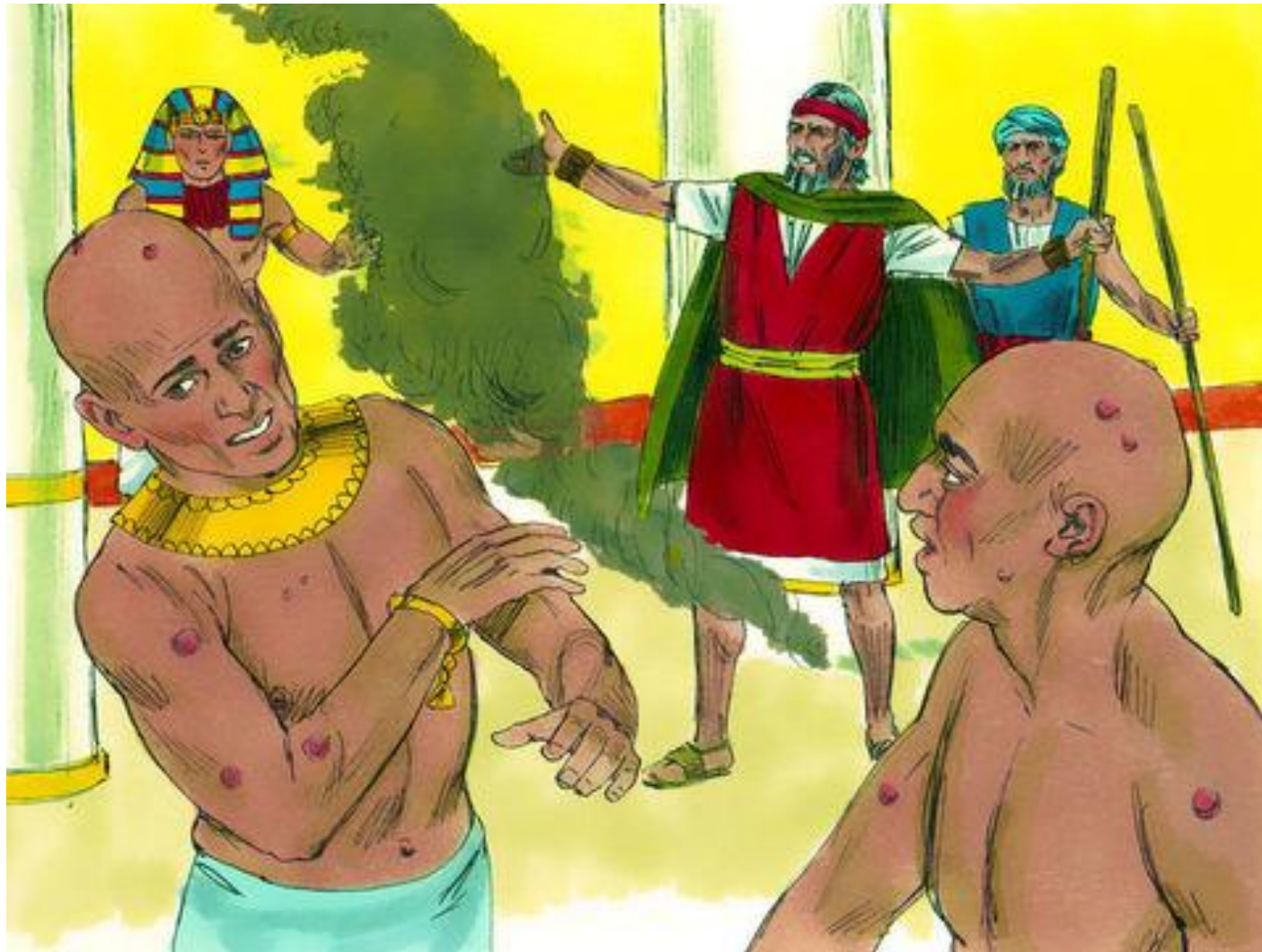
So, God spoke to Moses and Aaron again, “Take your staff and hit the dust on the ground.” When Moses and Aaron did this, tiny little bugs, called gnats, came out of the ground and started crawling all over the place. All of the dust in the land became little bugs. Little gnats crawled all over the people and all over their animals too. It was horrible! This was the third plague God sent to Egypt. But the Bible tells us, Pharaoh remained stubborn and would not let God’s people go.



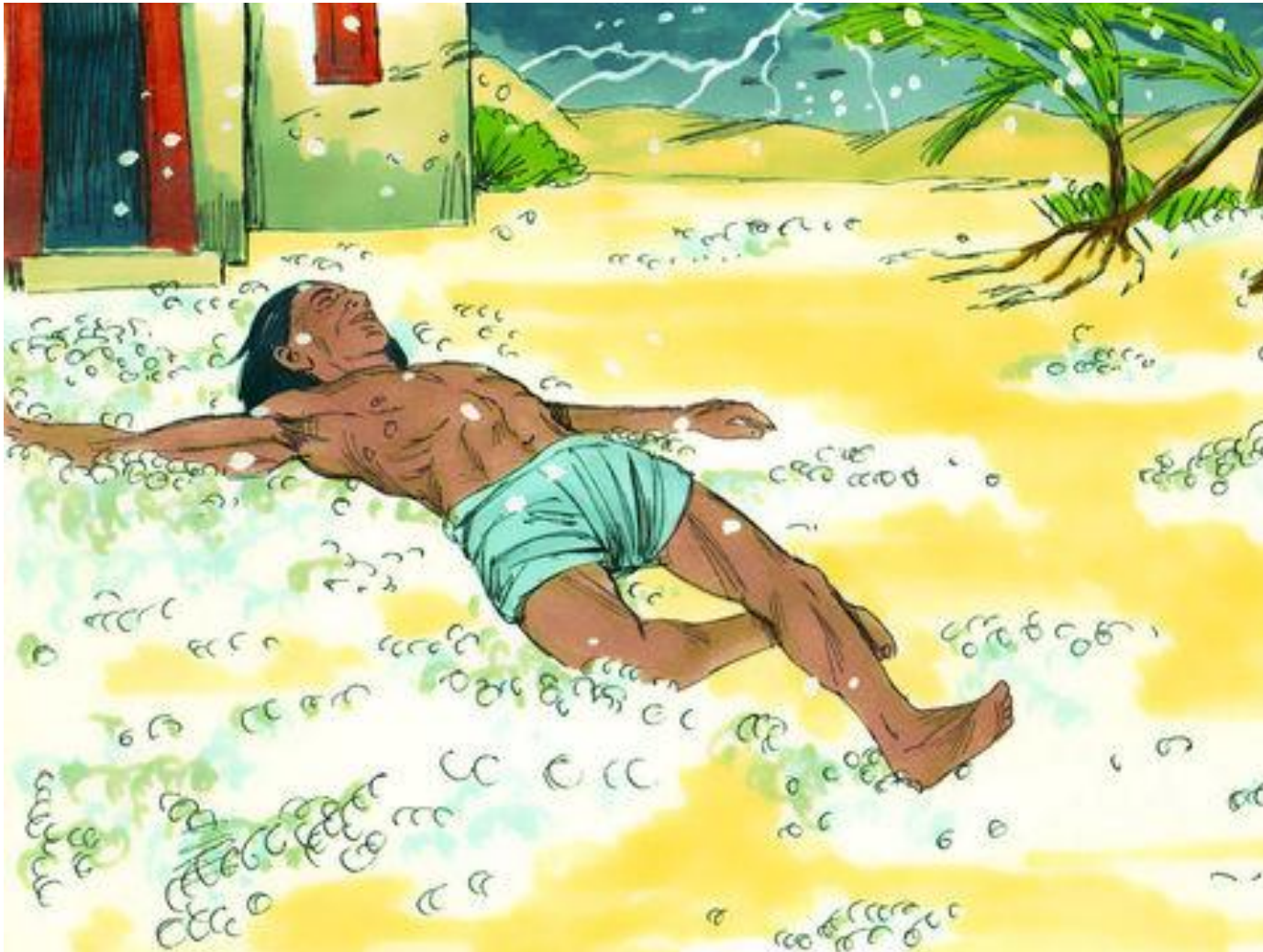
Then the Lord said to Moses, “In the morning, go to Pharaoh and tell him, ‘Let my people go, so they may serve Me, or I will send big bunches of flies on you and the Egyptians. But my people the Israelites won’t have any flies on them.’” But Pharaoh would not obey, and God kept His promise. God sent flies everywhere. They were in the Egyptians houses and all over them. But no flies bothered God’s people. Pharaoh called for Moses to come to him. “Help me!” begged Pharaoh. “Pray that your God will take away these flies and then I will let your people go.” So, Moses prayed, and God took the flies away. But Pharaoh’s heart remained stubborn, and he still would not let God’s people go. This was the fourth plague God sent to Egypt.



God said to Moses, “Tell Pharaoh, let my people go, or all of your animals will get sick and die.” Pharaoh did not let God’s people go. God kept His promise and all the Egyptian animals died. The Bible says all of the cattle, the donkeys, the horses, the camels, the oxen, and the sheep that belonged to the Egyptians got sick and died. But God’s people had horses, cattle and sheep, and not one of them got sick and died. God protected His people. It happened just like He had said. But Pharaoh remained stubborn and he would not let God’s people go. This was the fifth plague God sent to Egypt.



Next God made sores come on the Egyptians. Sores are open spots on the skin, and they are itchy and hurt a lot. Every Egyptian had big sore spots on their skin. They would cry out in pain, but Pharaoh would not let God's people go. This was the sixth plague God sent to Egypt. But Pharaoh still would not obey God. He would not let God's people leave Egypt.



So, God told Moses to stretch out his staff to the sky and God sent a horrible storm. Lightening flashed and thunder boomed. Balls of hard ice, called hail, fell to the ground. There had never been a storm like this in Egypt.

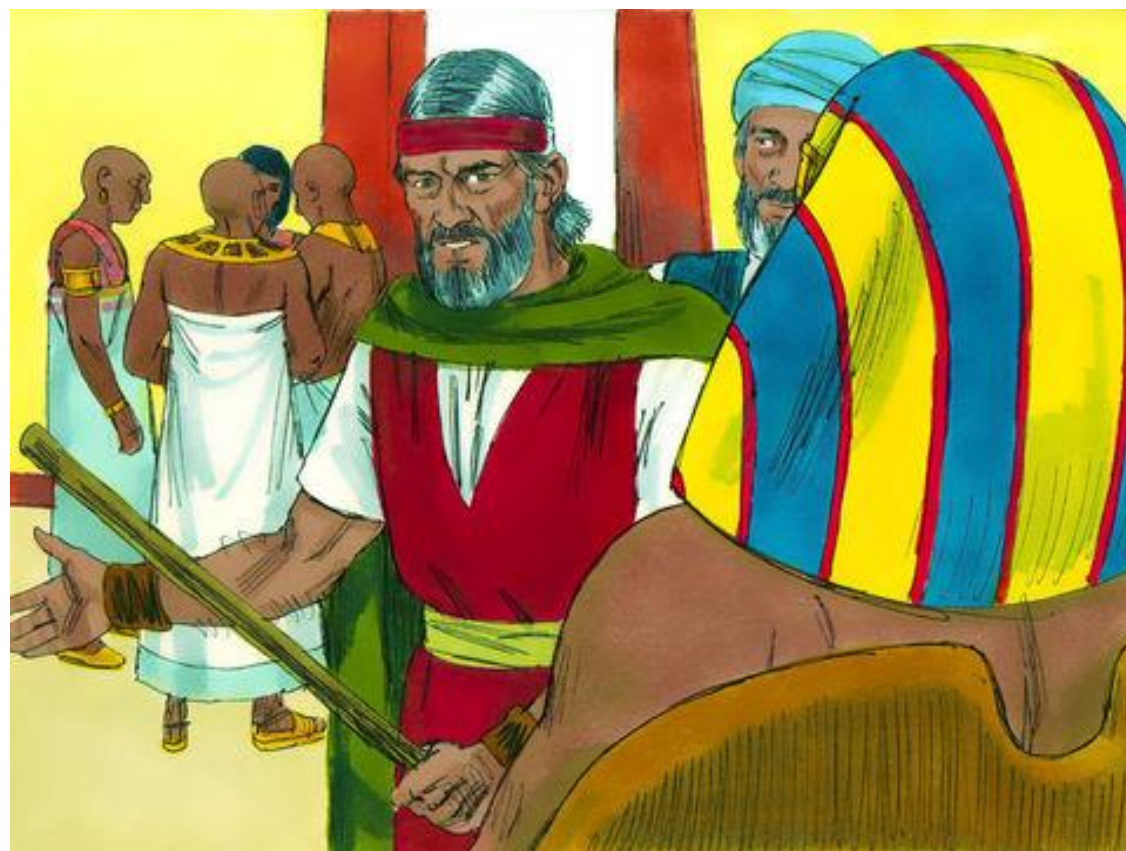
The hail hit animals and people and it even broke all the trees. All the crops were ruined because the hail damaged it. But in the part of Egypt where God’s people lived, there was no hail. God was taking care of his people. The hail was the seventh plague God sent to Egypt.



Still, Pharaoh would not let God's people go. God told Moses to stretch out his staff, and he did, and the Lord sent a wind and in the wind were locusts. Locusts are like grasshoppers, but locusts eat a lot. Locusts were everywhere. They were all over the ground, eating everything in the fields and on the trees. They were eating all of the Egyptians' food. The Egyptians were afraid they wouldn't have anything to eat. But the locusts did not bother God's people. The locusts did not eat their food. This was the eighth plague God sent to Egypt. But still wicked Pharaoh would not obey God and let His people go.



Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt.” Moses did as God commanded. For three long days the Egyptians could not see anything. There was no light, not from the moon or stars or anything. Everything was black. If the Egyptians walked around, they would stumble and even fall down because they couldn’t see anything. But in the houses where God’s people lived, there was light. God took care of his people! The darkness was the ninth plague God sent to Egypt. Then Pharaoh said he would let God’s people go! But as the darkness lifted, Pharaoh’s heart changed. He decided to keep God’s people in Egypt. Pharaoh was also very angry with Moses. He said, “Get out of here. Never come back to my palace again!” Pharaoh did not believe the Lord was all-powerful. Pharaoh did not listen to Moses and Aaron and he refused to let God’s people go. He made them stay in Egypt. But not for much longer.



The Last Warning

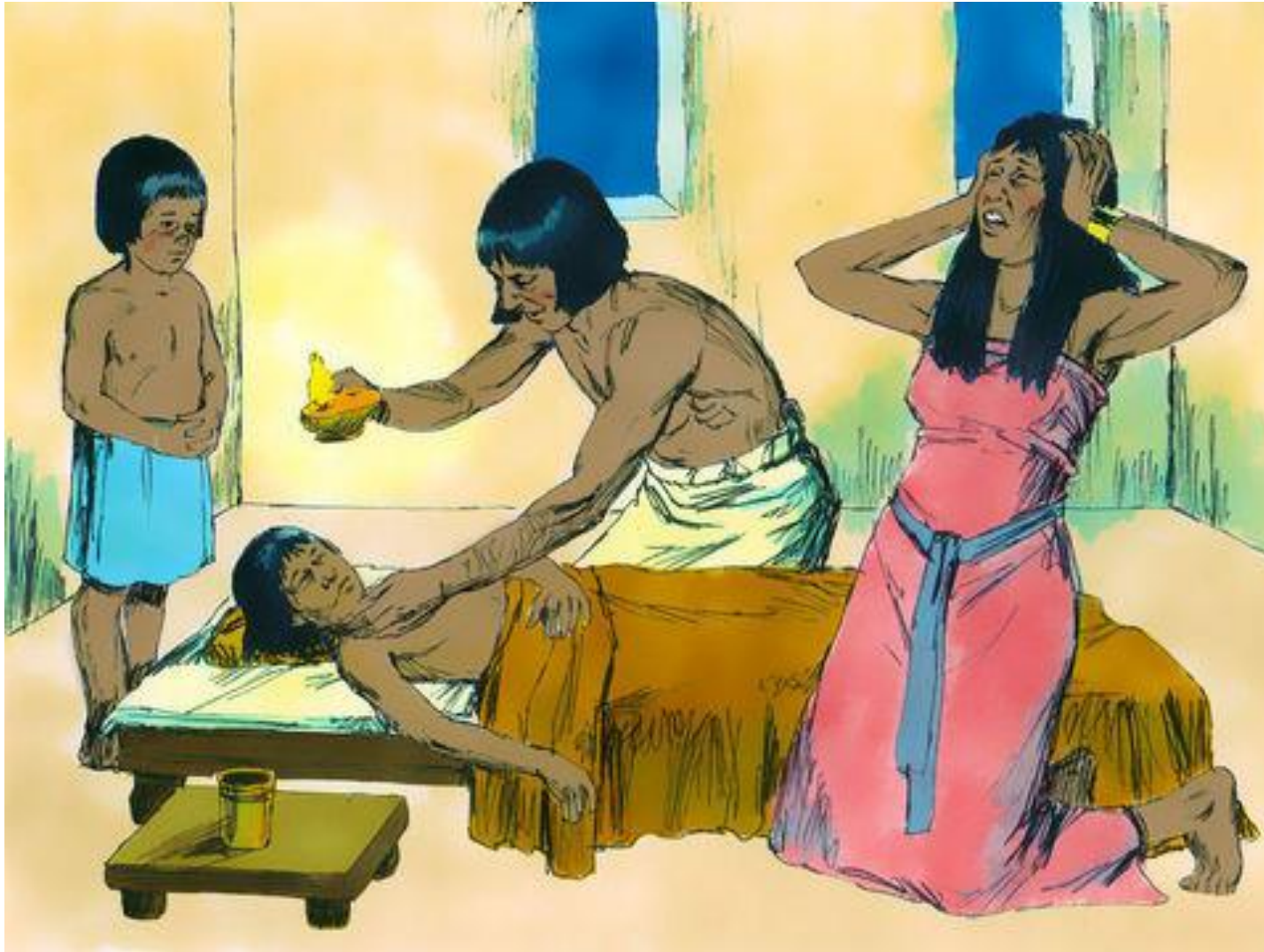
In Exodus 11 God told Moses about the next and final plague. “I have one more way to punish Pharaoh and the people of Egypt. After this, Pharaoh will send all of you away from Egypt.” Although Pharaoh had told Moses to never come back to his palace again, Moses went one last time. “This is what the Lord says: ‘About midnight tonight I will go through all Egypt. Every firstborn son in the land of Egypt will die. From the rich to the poor, all the firstborn will die. Also, the firstborn farm animals will die. There will be loud crying everywhere in Egypt.’” God had promised that not one Israelite or their animals would be hurt. Moses went on, “Then you will know that the Lord is all powerful and you will let us go.” But Pharaoh refused to listen to Moses and obey God.



The Passover

Before God would take His people out of Egypt, they were to have a special dinner to eat. This special dinner had important instructions for the Israelites. “Every person is to have lamb to eat, and if a family does not have enough people to eat the whole lamb, then they will invite over friends and neighbors.” The lamb could not be sick or hurt – it must be perfect. As soon as the sun goes down, the lamb will be killed and roasted over a fire. Each home must take some of the blood and wipe it on the sides and tops of the doorframes. The blood would be a sign on the houses where Israelites lived. God would see the blood, pass over the house, and nothing terrible would happen to the Israelites when God punished the land of Egypt. This is why it was called the Passover because God would pass over the homes that had the blood of the lamb on the outside. The blood of the lamb would save the people in the home.

Every year the Israelites would remember how God saved them by having a Passover meal.



The Tenth Plague

The Bible tells us at midnight the Lord killed all the firstborn sons in the land of Egypt just as he said. The rich and the poor, and even the firstborn animals all died. The firstborn son of Pharaoh died too. Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron, “Get up and leave my people. Take everything you have with you and leave us.”



The people of Israel took their possessions and left Egypt. The Bible tells us there were about 600,000 men walking. This does not include the women and children. Many other people who were not Israelites went with them. The people of Israel had lived in Egypt for 430 years. The Lord had saved His people and brought them out of the land of Egypt.



God's People Go

God's people left Egypt quickly. But they had never left Egypt before; they had no idea where they were going. But the Lord showed them the way. During the day he went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud. And during the night the Lord was in a pillar of fire to give them light. They could travel during the day or night. The pillar of cloud was always with them during the day. And the pillar of fire was always with them at night. A pillar is a tunnel that goes up and down, from the sky to the ground. It went way high into the sky. And at the bottom it spread out like a big cloud. During the daytime, it looked like a big cloud. The Israelites followed it. But at night, when it was dark, it became a pillar of shiny, bright fire. Then God's people could see it clearly. When the Israelites saw the pillar, they knew God was with them. The Israelites kept on walking until they got close to a sea called the Red Sea. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to camp for the night near the Red Sea. Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are lost, trapped by the desert.' Pharaoh has remained stubborn, so he will chase after them. But I will defeat Pharaoh and his army. This will bring honor to me. Then the people of Egypt will know that I am the Lord." The people of Israel did just as they were told.



Pharaoh was told that the people of Israel had already left. Once again Pharaoh changed his mind about letting the Israelites go. Not only was Pharaoh upset but so was his army. “What have we done? We have let the people of Israel leave. We have lost our slaves!” they exclaimed. Pharaoh went after the Israelites. He took over 600 chariots from Egypt to go get the Israelites back. Pharaoh eventually caught up with the Israelites while they were camped by the Red Sea. The Israelites saw Pharaoh and his army coming after them. They were very frightened and cried to the Lord for help. They said to Moses, “What have you done to us? Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in the desert? There were plenty of graves for us in Egypt. We told you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone! Let us stay and serve the Egyptians.’ Now we will die in the desert.”



But Moses answered, **“Don’t be afraid! Stand still and see the Lord save you today. You will never see these Egyptians again after today. You will only need to remain calm. The Lord will fight for you.”**

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Command the people of Israel to start moving. Raise your walking stick and hold it over the sea.” As soon as Moses held his walking stick over the sea, something incredible happened. The sea split down the middle and the Israelites began to cross the sea on dry land. The ground was not wet or even muddy! As the Israelites began to cross over, the angel of God protected them. The pillar of cloud moved from in front of the people and stood behind them. The cloud came between the Egyptians and the people of Israel. It made the Egyptians confused and kept them from the Israelites. All day and all night Moses held his hand over the sea. The Lord kept the sea split – a wall of water on both sides – so His people could walk on dry land.



Finally, all the Israelites had crossed over the Red Sea. And eventually Pharaoh, his chariots, and army followed the Israelites into the sea. But something strange happened. The wheels to the chariots got stuck. The Egyptians panicked and shouted, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them and against us Egyptians!” Then the Lord told Moses, “Hold your hand over the sea. Then the water will come back over the Egyptians, their chariots and chariot drivers.” So, Moses raised his hand over the sea and the water crashed down on the Egyptians. All of Pharaoh’s army that had followed the Israelites into the sea were covered. Not one of them survived.



The people of Israel crossed the sea on dry land. There was a wall of water on their right and on their left. So that day the Lord saved the Israelites from the Egyptians. And the Israelites saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore. When the people of Israel saw the great power that the Lord had used against the Egyptians, they feared the Lord. And they trusted the Lord and his servant Moses.

Israel Rejoices

The Lord saved Israel that day. God's people saw the great work God had done. They knew God had saved them. Only He could make a dry path in the sea. The Bible says they had a great big celebration. God saving His people would change them forever.

Questions for Review

Have the kids answer “Yes” if it is true, or “no” with the correct answer if it is false.

- God’s people were in bondage in Egypt. (Yes)
- Pharaoh had a stubborn heart and refused to let God’s people go. (Yes)
- Moses told Pharaoh his secret recipe for chocolate cake. (No! Moses told Pharaoh to let God’s people go.)
- Pharaoh was stubborn and would not listen to Moses and Aaron (Yes)
- After the Nile turned back to water, Pharaoh listened to God. (No! Pharaoh became more stubborn.)
- The first plague was the river of water changed into Apple Juice. (No! The river changed into blood.)
- The second plague was frogs everywhere. (Yes)
- The third plague was tiny little spiders came up out of the ground. (No! Dust in the land turned into gnats.)
- The fourth plague was flies were everywhere. (Yes)
- The fifth plague was large pancakes fell from the sky. (No! All Egyptian animals died.)
- The sixth plague was sores all over the bodies of Egyptians. (Yes)
- The seventh plague was everyone spoke like a baby when they tried to speak. (No! God made hail come down out of the sky.)
- The eighth plague was locusts came in a whirlwind and ate everything in Egypt. (Yes)
- The ninth plague was everyone sneezed for three days straight. (No! God sent darkness over all of Egypt for 3 days.)
- The last plague was the death of the firstborn whose homes did not have lamb’s blood on the door posts. (Yes)
- The Israelites left Egypt and made a map. (No! God used a pillar of clouds and a pillar of fire to guide them.)
- The Israelites built boats to cross the Red Sea. (No! God made the sea split so the Israelites could cross.)
- God protected the Israelites while they crossed the sea. (Yes)
- God saved the Israelites. (Yes)
- God always keeps His promises. (Yes)

Scripture Memory and Hand Motions for Summer:

“The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:14

- **The Lord** (point upwards)
- **Will fight** (punch the air or shadow box)
- **For you; you** (point towards audience)
- **Need only to be still.** (stand completely still or frozen)

