

# What Are Our Ten Plagues?

The ten plagues may be divided into 4 sections, three groups of three and a final plague. The first three sections are each introduced by a warning to Pharaoh. They are each ended by a plague that comes without warning. Within the three sections we also see a distinct progression with regard to the long term effect the plague has upon the land. In **section one** we get **temporary inconveniences** that are applied to the Israelites and the Egyptians alike. In the **second section** we get the separation between Israelite and Egyptian, we also get plagues that may have some long-term side effects. In the **third section** Pharaoh is told that God is going to destroy Egypt (9:15) and the people saw this happen (10:7). The interesting point of section three is that **the servants of Pharaoh (and later the people of Egypt) start to get far more involved with proceedings. Each plague may also be viewed as an attack on one of the Egyptian gods.**

Plague	Warning	Replication	Respite	Response	God Attacked
Water into Blood	Pharaoh was warned and allowed to watch	Yes	The Egyptians managed to work around the problem	Pharaoh's heart was hardened	Hapi (the God of the Nile)
Frogs	Pharaoh warned but was not with Moses when it happened	Yes	Pharaoh named the time the frogs would go	Compromise but then Pharaoh hardened his heart	Heqt (interestingly many frogs was usually viewed as a good thing)
Lice	No Warning	No. The magicians saw the lice as an act of God	We're not told but presumably	Pharaoh's heart was hardened. He doesn't even speak to Moses.	Kheper (God of beetles and flies)
Flies	Pharaoh warned but not with Moses when it happened	No. In fact they didn't even try	The flies were removed when Pharaoh promised to let the Israelites go	Pharaoh hardened his heart	Kheper
Murrain	Pharaoh warned and told when it would happen	Again they didn't try	It was a one off action.. but the cattle stayed dead.	The heart of Pharaoh was hardened.	Apis (Sacred Bull)
Boils	Pharaoh not warned but was there when Moses did it	Magicians could not even heal themselves	We're not told but one would imagine scarring would result	The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart.	Imhotep (physician God) & Thoth (Magic and healing)
Hail	Pharaoh and servants warned. Those that heeded the warning escaped.	Didn't try.	No respite, crops destroyed although some crops left.	Pharaoh admits sin but then sins more by hardening his heart	Nut (Sky Goddess)
Locusts	Pharaoh warned and his servants almost cause him to give in	Didn't try	Complete devastation, this years harvest gone.	Pharaoh acts in haste and compromises. The Lord hardens Pharaoh's heart.	Seth (God of Crops)

Dark	No Warning	Didn't try	Yes, three days only	Pharoah heart hardened by God. Tells Moses to 'get out of sight'	Ra (Sun God)
First Born	Yes	No	No – firstborn dead	Israelites let go	Pharoah

## WHAT ARE OUR “TOP TEN” PLAGUES TODAY?

Keep in mind that the 10<sup>th</sup> should be:

- a) the worst one, with, b) the greatest long-term impact, and with,  
c) the people having the greatest degree of responsibility for the disaster.

Also, in some way, the plagues should come as result of the “false gods” that we worship.  
(What are our “false gods?”)

OR...

You might decide that “c” above doesn't apply and that the plagues that afflict us are not  
“our fault,” but instead are caused by others – or by nature.  
These are plagues that we have to fight.

## THE CANDIDATES for our Top Ten Plagues:

- Iran
- Cancer
- Smoking
- Hamas and Hizbullah
- Greed
- Poverty
- Racism and Prejudice
- Cell phones and Videogames
- Taxes
- The United Nations
- Anti-Semitism
- Homelessness
- Animal Abuse
- The Yankees (sorry)
- Global Warming
- Bernie Madoff
- Cynicism
- Depression (emotional)
- Lack of trust in Politicians
- The Economic Recession
- Domestic Violence and Child Abuse
- Alcoholism and Drunk Driving
- Murder
- Hurricanes
- Snowstorms (no Hebrew School)
- Gossip
- Anger and Hatred
- The Flu
- Lying and Cheating
- Self Centeredness
- Apathy (not caring)
- AIDS
- Alzheimers
- Mosquitoes
- The Internet
- Obesity
- Murder
- Worship of Celebrities
- TV
- Illiteracy
- Religion (or the lack of it)
- War
- *OTHER...*

*NOW, As we go through the service, let's look at each prayer and see which plague it is addressing, and what it is trying to tell us to about it.*