

EXODUS WEEK TWO – “Hard Hearted Rulers”

September 10, 2020

Questions for Exodus 5-11

1. Why does God ask Moses to try to convince Pharaoh to let the Children of Israel free if God knows Pharaoh’s heart will be too hard?
2. In 5:2, what do you suppose Pharaoh means when he says, “I do not know the LORD?” in response to Moses and Aaron’s declaration of, “Thus says the LORD?”
3. What is Pharaoh’s intent when he tells the Hebrew people that they have to find their own straw to make bricks? How does Moses respond to this? Does this change God’s plan for deliverance?
4. During the first five plagues, how is it that Pharaoh’s heart is hardened?
5. What two forces are at odds with each other during the first five plagues?
6. Why do you suppose God went from simply asking for Pharaoh to allow the Hebrews a three day journey into the wilderness to worship to demanding that Pharaoh set them completely free?
7. At the end of chapter 6 into chapter 7, God equips Moses with additional provisions. Why does God do this?
8. Why do you think God can convince Pharaoh by using “parlor tricks” such as turning a staff into a serpent? Is there a lesson that God is trying to teach in these “minor miracles?”
9. What do the first five plagues accomplish? Who suffers because of them?

10. For the second five plagues, how is it that Pharaoh's heart is hardened? How does this change the dynamic of the story?

11. What patterns do you notice with the first nine plagues?

12. What is Pharaoh's response to Moses and Aaron's warning about the final plague? Why would Pharaoh risk losing such a large portion of his subjects by refusing to let the Hebrews go?