

LITTLE GEMS

Bo

Shalom children! We are back to hear the rest of the story to learn what finally happened as Yahweh sent the last 3 plagues upon Mitsrayim. Didn't I say last week that there would be more to come? Yeah, I think I did a time or two. Well, that's because there were more plagues to come. Pharaoh and many of the Mitsrites had suffered with itchy skin, itchy heads, and terrible loss as their crops were scorched. Many of their animals had died as well, either from sickness or because they didn't listen and provide cover from the hail. They had to wash all the things stained by the blood from the Nile River, and then they had to deal with piles and piles of dead frogs everywhere, and wash everything they had climbed into. Can you imagine all those dishes they had to wash? Let's take a look at those first 7 plagues again. **(Place red water, dead frogs, gnats, flies, dead animals, Mitsrite family with sores, and hail on board.)** Children, can you say them aloud with me?

You would think that after all that had happened, Pharaoh would have had enough. Apparently he was still NOT convinced that he should let the Yisra'elites go. And even though the Yisra'elites had NOT suffered most of the plagues, I bet it was hard to sit and wonder if anything was going to convince Pharaoh to let them go. Do you think they had lots of days off work with all the mess everywhere, and sick Mitsrites? Perhaps a few of them had strong faith and were already packing. Or maybe they just went on to work every day, thinking things were never going to change. Well, let's see what happens next.

Yahweh told Mosheh and Aharon to go talk to Pharaoh once again, to warn him that if he didn't let them go, a new plague was coming. When Mosheh and Aharon went and spoke with Pharaoh, Pharaoh smiled and said, "Okay, no problem!" **(Place Mosheh, Aharon, and Pharaoh on board.)** No, that's right - he didn't! He wanted to know details. He asked, "So who exactly is going to go observe this special day for your Elohim?" Mosheh said, "Well, my brother Aharon and I will go, of course. Then we have our sister and parents, and of course there are all our cousins and their families, and then of course we need the animals too." Well, Pharaoh didn't like that! He was like, "Wait a minute, every one of your relatives will be going! You are just trying to trick me - I can see it in your face. No way am I letting anyone go! You can go worship if that's what you want, but no one else is going anywhere."

(Remove Pharaoh from board.)

LITTLE GEMS

So Mosheh stretched out his arm and pointed his rod, and Yahweh sent an east wind that blew all day and all night. I wonder if the Mitsrites were scared, wondering why the wind was blowing so hard. Maybe they had a hard time sleeping listening to that wind blow. **(Place east wind on board.)**

The next morning, the wind had brought locusts to eat up everything that had not burned up from the hail. **(Place locusts and chewed up fruit tree on board.)** There were so many locusts that you couldn't see one spot of land anywhere. They ate the fruit on the trees and everything that was still green. They came in the houses and were hopping everywhere. Maybe they ate the house plants, too. **(Place chewed up plant on board.)** Well, it didn't take long for Pharaoh to call Mosheh back and beg him to take the locusts away. He said he was sorry that he had sinned. So Mosheh prayed to Yahweh, and a west wind blew all the locusts away into the Sea of Reeds. **(Place west wind on board and take away locusts.)** Even after all that, Pharaoh still didn't let the Yisra'elites go.

(Remove characters from board.)

Well, this time there was no waiting around for a bargain. Yahweh told Mosheh to stretch out his hands toward the sky, and it got dark. **(Place Mitsrite and Yisra'elite house on opposite side of board, and Mitsrite family on one side and Yisra'elite family on the other.)** Maybe you are thinking that doesn't seem too bad, especially if you're not scared of the dark. **(Place black felt over Mitsrite house and family.)** But wait! This darkness was scary even if you weren't scared of the dark. No one could move around in their houses because they couldn't see each other. You couldn't even see your hand in front of your face. Well, that is, no one could except the Yisra'elites. There was no darkness on their side. They were able to do all their tasks, just as they'd do any other day.

3 days went by with nothing but this horrible darkness for the Mitsrites. Pharaoh finally called Mosheh to come over. **(Place Pharaoh under black felt.)** Do you think Mosheh needed a torch to go see Pharaoh on the dark side? Maybe Mosheh stayed just outside the dark side and talked to Pharaoh. Oh well, I am just glad Mosheh was finally getting called. Maybe this time Pharaoh would finally let Yahweh's people go.

(Remove all characters from board except Pharaoh and Mosheh.)

Pharaoh said, "Okay, okay, all of you go. Just don't take any of your animals with you." But Mosheh said, "No, we have to offer some animals to Yahweh, and you are going to give us some. Plus we are going to take all of our own animals, too, because we don't know which ones are the right ones Yahweh wants us to offer Him. What, do you think we have been doing this all these years?" Well, Pharaoh didn't like this at all.

LITTLE GEMS

He got so mad this time that not only did he kick Mosheh out, but he threatened his life if he ever saw him again. But Mosheh wasn't afraid of him. He had Yahweh on his side. He said that Pharaoh would never see his face again, so there!

Mosheh then gave the people special instructions from Yahweh. They were to ask their neighbors for gold, silver, and beautiful clothes. **(Place bag of gold and silver and robes on board.)** He told them that around midnight, Yahweh would go into Mitsrayim and all the firstborn were going to die. Pharaoh's firstborn, his servants' firstborn, even the animals' firstborn would never wake up again.

Oh man, that is sad! In fact, it was so heartbreaking that all through Mitsrayim, all they were going to hear was crying. But he encouraged the Yisra'elites to have no fear, because Yahweh would NOT touch even one Yisra'elite. Even a dog would not come near them. **(Place dog on board.)** They would be well-protected, and all their animals would be safe. He told Pharaoh that after that event, all of his servants would beg him to let the Yisra'elites go. "And guess what?" Mosheh said. "Then I am going to go." Mosheh was very upset with Pharaoh and walked out.

(Remove all characters from board except Mosheh.)

Yahweh gave Mosheh these instructions for the people because He knew that even with that last threat, Pharaoh would refuse to let the Yisra'elites go. This was sad, indeed, but very much needed so that Yahweh would be honored, and so there would never be a doubt who made these things happen.

By now the Yisra'elites had asked and received the silver and gold things and the fine garments from the Mitsrites. They had made some dough for their bread, but it didn't have time to rise. **(Place unleavened bread on board.)** They had to be dressed and ready, with no snacks or lunches packed. At midnight, they began to hear crying arise among the Mitsrites. **(Place sad Mitsrite mom with dead baby on board.)** Many people had died, and many animals too. Pharaoh then called for Mosheh and Aharon **(place Aharon on board next to Mosheh)** and told them to leave Mitsrayim, and to take all the people and their animals too, so that Pharaoh would be blessed. **(Place Pharaoh on board next to Mosheh and Aharon.)** All the Yisra'elites gathered everything quickly and left Mitsrayim. Remember, there were only 70 people when they started out, back when Ya'aqob came to live there. Now there were over 600,000 people that left. Wow, the Yisra'elites had really grown!

Yahweh sure provided for His children, didn't He? But He isn't done yet. Next week we will learn more about the Yisra'elites' journey and how Yahweh will continue to take care of them. But for now children, we have come to the end of our story for today. We will see you next week for another exciting Little Gems story!