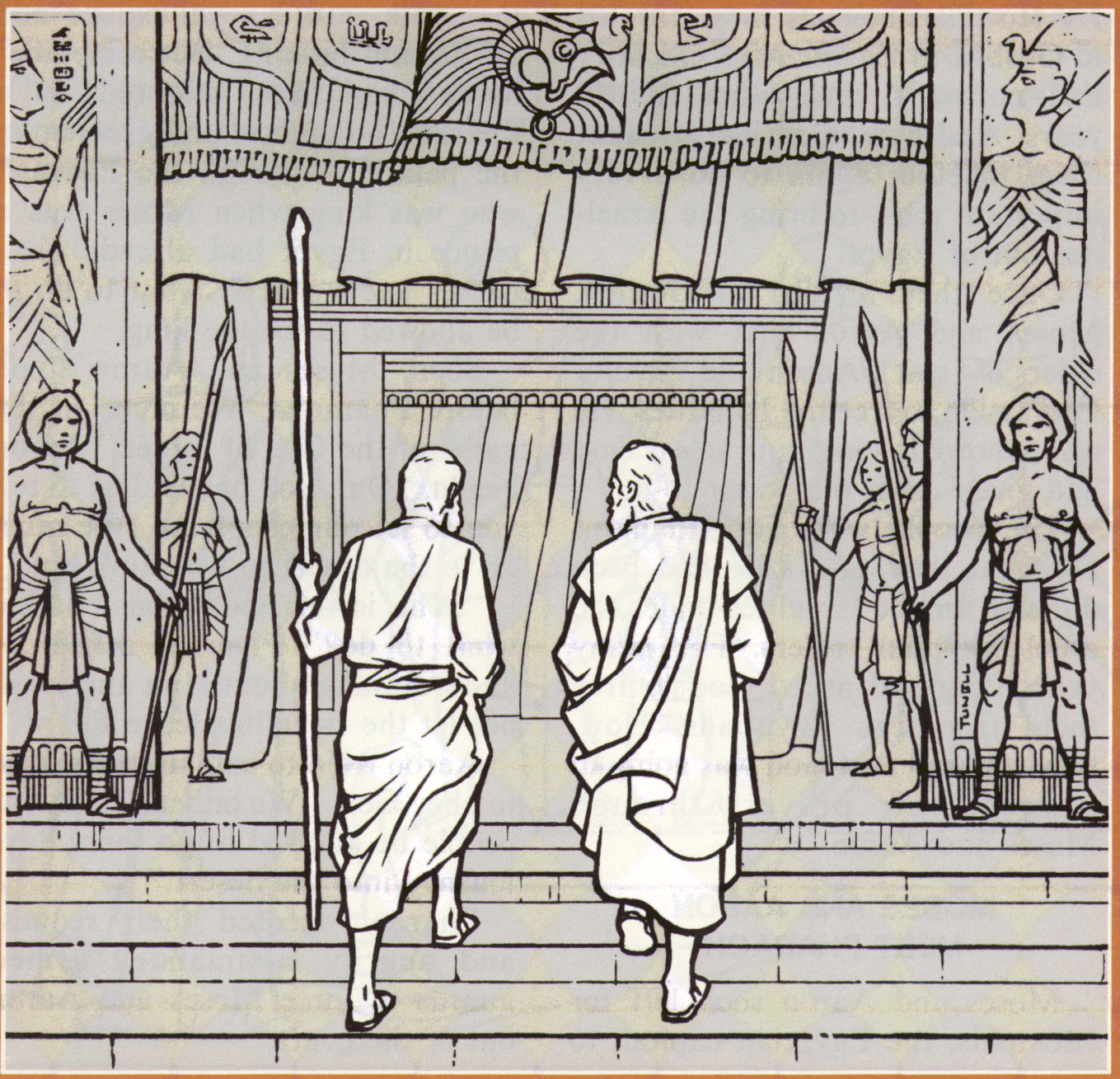
YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

LEVEL 4

LESSON 4



"Let My People Go!"

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Moses and Aaron had quite a lot to talk about as they traveled to Goshen in Egypt. After all, they had not seen each other for 40 years. And now, God had brought them together again to do a very important job—to bring the Israelites out of Egypt!

Once they arrived in Goshen, Moses and Aaron met with the elders of Israel. Aaron told them of God's plan to free the Israelites. He also showed some miracles God had given them the power to do.

The people were very thankful for what they saw. Life had been difficult for the Israelites under the cruel Egyptian rulers. For many years they had asked God to free them from the Egyptians. Now, they realized that God was going to answer their prayers through Moses and Aaron.

MOSES AND AARON MEET PHARAOH

Moses and Aaron soon left for Memphis, the Egyptian capital, to see the king. Most people cannot just walk into a royal palace and ask to see the king. But remember Moses had been adopted by a Pharaoh's daughter and grew up in the palace. Although the Pharaoh who was king when Moses was a prince in Egypt had already died, Moses knew exactly what to do to be allowed to see the king.

Soon, Moses and Aaron stood before Pharaoh. "We come in the name of the God of Israel," Aaron began. "Our God has told us to tell you to let our people go. We must go to the desert to worship Him."

"Who is this God who tells me what to do?" Pharaoh asked. "I know nothing about Him and I will not let the Israelites leave Egypt!"

Aaron tried to explain their need to obey God. "We only ask that our people be allowed to go three days journey into the desert."

Pharaoh refused their request and angrily commanded armed guards to force Moses and Aaron out of the court.

Illustrations by Ken Tunell

Moses was terribly discouraged and went to God in prayer. But God reminded Moses that He had not forgotten the Israelites.

"Remember, I am God Almighty, your Creator, the One who made a promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I know how the children of Israel are suffering now. But tell them I will bring great things to pass to rescue them from Egypt. Then they shall have the land that I promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

GOD PERFORMS MIRACLES THROUGH HIS SERVANTS

God again sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh's court. This time, however, Pharaoh wanted a sign to prove the power of Moses' God.

There were many servants, guards, and guests in the court. And so Pharaoh expected this to be embarrassing to Moses, while amusing to all the others.

"Throw your rod on the floor,"

Moses said to Aaron. Aaron tossed his rod onto the carpet directly in front of the king's chair. The people stared in amazement! Suddenly, the rod turned into a large snake.

Immediately, Pharaoh called for his magicians. When Pharaoh commanded they throw their rods down, they, too, became live serpents. Their trick made God's miracle look like mere trickery, too. A delighted grin came across Pharaoh's face.

But when Aaron reached down to pick up his snake by the tail, it quickly moved away toward the magicians' snakes.

Suddenly, Pharaoh's grin became a startled look of disbelief. He watched Aaron's snake move quickly here and there and gulp down all the other snakes!

All those present were quite shaken and rose to leave. Even the magicians shook their heads in defeat.

Moses and Aaron moved quickly toward the king as Pharaoh rose and started out of the court.

"We gave you the sign you asked for," Aaron reminded Pharaoh. "Now will you let our people go?"

"I will not let them go!" he angrily answered back as Moses and Aaron were taken away.

GOD SENDS PLAGUES ON EGYPT

Later that day God instructed Moses to see Pharaoh again the very next morning at the edge of the river where Pharaoh bathed.

The next day, Moses and Aaron did just as God told them. They warned the king, "If you refuse to let the Israelites leave to worship God, He will cause the Nile River to become blood! All the fish will die and you will have no fresh drinking water."

The idea of the entire Nile River turning to blood was quite amusing to Pharaoh. But in just a few minutes, his expression became quite serious. After Aaron lifted his rod and struck the river, the water in which Pharaoh bathed turned to blood right before his eyes!

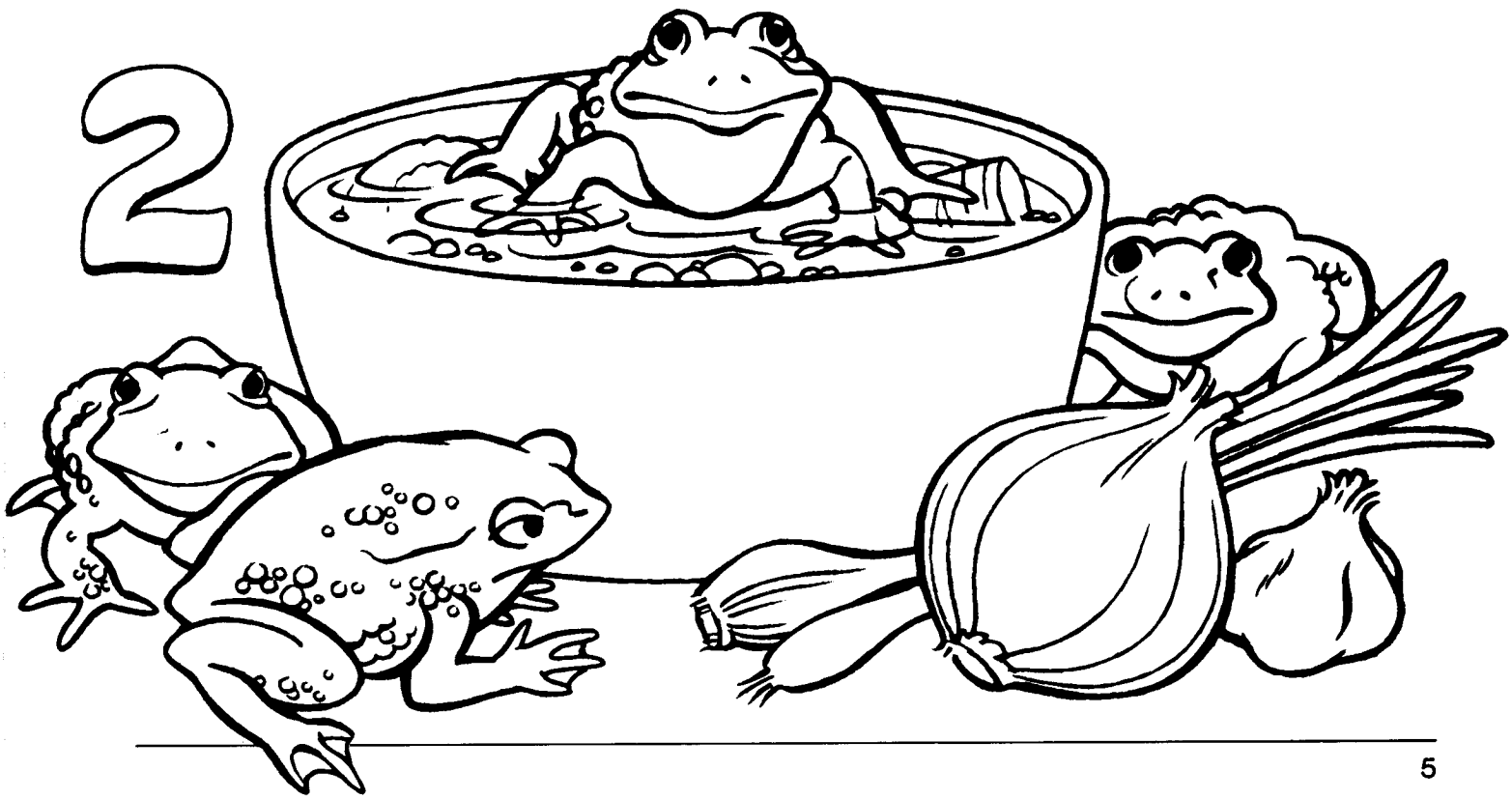
For seven days, the people suffered. The Nile was their main source of water. And now it wasn't good for anything. Even small ponds had turned to blood.

Before the week had passed, they were having a very difficult time keeping the livestock alive, since they had to dig for fresh water. Yet, Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites leave.

On the eighth day, the Nile was clear again. But Pharaoh still would not admit God's greatness. Instead, he thought that he had won the battle of patience against the Israelite God.

But Moses and Aaron again came before Pharaoh and asked him to let the Israelites go. "If you refuse, our God will bring up millions of frogs from the Nile. They will enter your houses and even your beds. You won't be able to get away from them."

The next morning, as Pharaoh awoke, he saw something move across his blanket. Imagine the king's surprise as he lifted the blanket to find several small, hopping frogs! He jumped out of bed and with every step he took, he



could feel more of the slimy little creatures under his feet.

Just as Moses had warned, frogs were everywhere! Hundreds of them came through the windows of every Egyptian home and into all parts of the palace. Servants working in the kitchen found it difficult to cook because frogs were getting into pots, pans and flour sacks. The frogs even found their way into food after it was cooked, and on the royal table ready to be served!

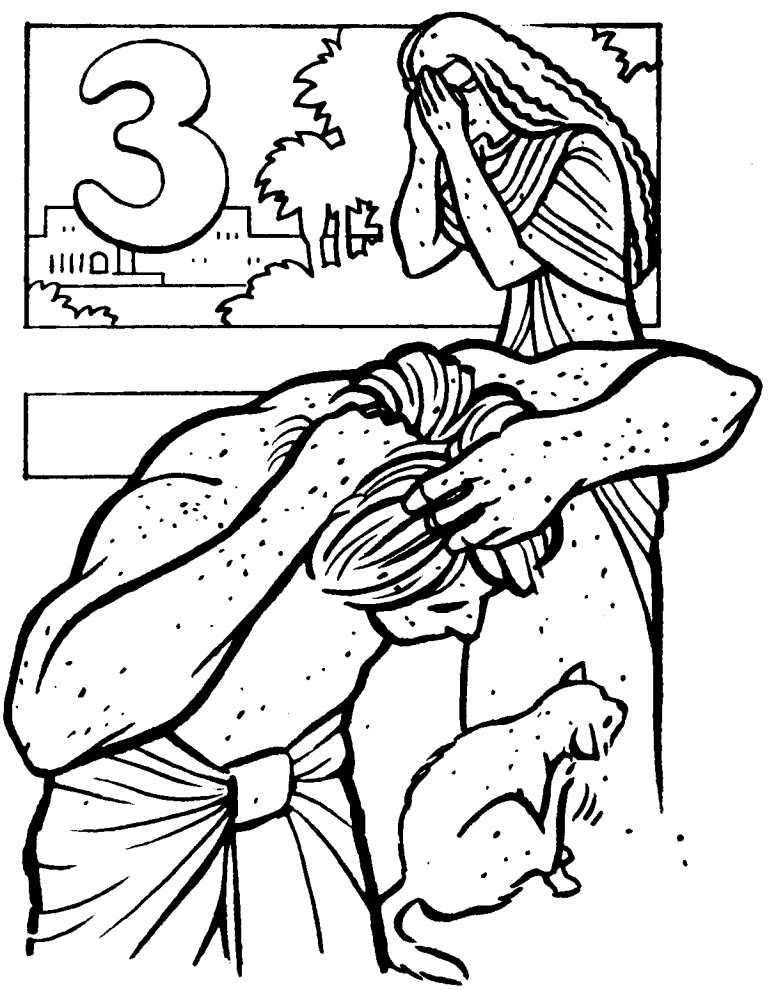
The Egyptians killed as many frogs as they could. But even as the frogs died, more continued to come up from the river. Pharaoh's magicians also brought frogs upon the land of Egypt, but they could not stop the plague. Pharaoh now knew that the God of Moses had the power to stop it.

Finally, Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron. He agreed to let the Israelites go if they would ask their God to stop the plague. The next morning the frogs that were not in the river died and there were heaps of dead frogs everywhere.

But when Pharaoh saw that the frog plague was over, he again changed his mind! So God told Moses and Aaron to strike the dust of the land to bring the next plague—lice!

The Egyptians were still cleaning up the huge mounds of dead frogs when the third plague began. People and animals were soon in pain and misery as their bodies were covered with the tiny stinging insects.

The king's magicians stood before him in fear and embarrassment. The head magician admitted to Pharaoh that they were powerless to copy the plague. "We cannot do what the God of the Israelites can do," he said. "We

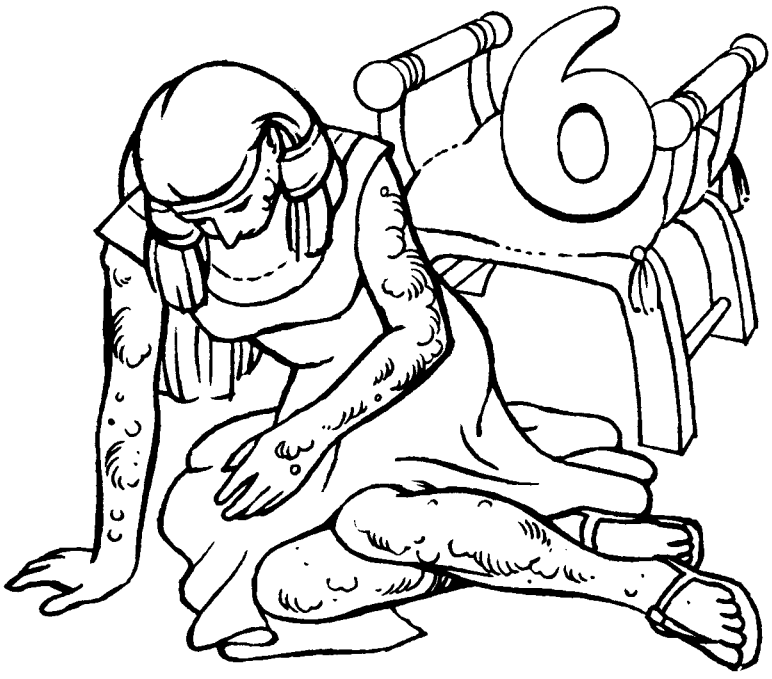


thought they were performing clever tricks. But we can now see that these terrible things can only happen because of a God who is all-powerful."

Of course, Pharaoh was very angry and his stubborn attitude caused God to bring the fourth plague—flies! It wasn't long before the Egyptians were again in agony. Many of their crops were ruined by the insects. And soon, many people suffered illness and fever from all of the insect bites. (Beginning with this plague, Goshen, where the Israelites lived, was spared from further plagues.)

Pharaoh promised to let the Israelites go if the plague stopped. But Pharaoh changed his mind after God removed the flies at Moses' request. So God brought another plague upon Egypt to punish the Pharaoh for refusing to let Israel go into the wilderness to serve God.

In just a few hours after the fifth plague began, there were dead animals everywhere—dead horses, goats, sheep and cattle. However, in Goshen, God protected the Israelites' cattle from the cattle disease. Not one animal belonging to the Israelites died from this plague!



But Pharaoh still would not let Israel go. So God told Moses and Aaron to go before Pharaoh again. He told Moses to take ashes and sprinkle them toward the sky in Pharaoh's sight.

"What terrible, evil thing are you going to do to us now?" growled Pharaoh as the two men climbed the palace steps.

"These ashes are from one of the brickdrying furnaces," explained Aaron. "Our God told us to bring them here and toss them into the air." As Moses tossed the ashes upward, the wind caught the tiny pieces of ash and scattered them in the sky. The ashes became small dust that began to settle upon the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh was quite puzzled by all this. But suddenly, all over the city, people complained of painful blisters and sores. Everyone the dust fell upon broke out with sores. Pharaoh, too, groaned in pain from this terrible plague. But he would not give in to the God of Israel and let His people go.

Again God told Moses to warn Pharaoh. The next morning Moses and Aaron stood before the king and said: "We are here to tell you to let our people go. If you will not let the Israelites go, tomorrow heavy hail will fall from the sky. It will be so terrible that any man or animal out in the storm will die."

The next day the sky darkened and bolts of lightning streaked through the sky. At the same time, large, heavy hailstones fell from the sky.

The hail broke all the trees, crushed the crops and killed both men and animals who were outdoors. But those who believed what God said through Moses and Aaron stayed in their houses. They also brought their animals inside and both were saved from certain death.

Meanwhile, in the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were, what do you think was happening? You're right! There wasn't any lightning or hail!

Pharaoh gazed through a window of the palace at the miserable state of his city. "Call for Moses and Aaron," he commanded a servant. "Somehow protect yourself and bring them here at once."

Later, when Moses and Aaron arrived, Pharaoh called them forward. "I admit I have done wrong," Pharaoh began. "I have sinned and I know your God has brought these terrible plagues upon Egypt because of our wickedness. I promise to let your people go. Please ask your God to stop this awful lightning and hail."

Moses left the city, stretched his arms toward the heavens and asked God to stop the plague. The lightning and hail then completely ceased.

Once the hail stopped, Pharaoh changed his mind again. And again God sent Moses and Aaron to warn Pharaoh of the next plague.

"Millions of locusts will enter the land," Aaron warned. They will eat up all shrubs and plants that have survived the last seven plagues. It will be the worst plague

of locusts to ever come to Egypt."

By now Pharaoh had a pretty good idea that whatever Moses and Aaron said would happen. "Who do you want to go with you to worship God in the desert," Pharaoh asked them.

"We will take everyone, young and old, and also our flocks and herds," Moses answered.

"Only the men can go," snapped Pharaoh. Angrily he commanded his servants to throw Moses and Aaron out of the palace.

It was a restless night for Pharaoh. After so many terrible plagues, he couldn't help but think seriously about the warning of another plague to come.

Early the next morning, Pharaoh arose and looked out his window. In the distance, he saw a strange, dark cloud. The cloud grew larger as it moved closer. Suddenly, the room was invaded by locusts that were bigger than grasshoppers!

As the locusts swarmed over the land, they chewed up every plant that had not been destroyed by the hail. Everywhere the Egyptians

walked, they mashed the locusts which were under their feet.

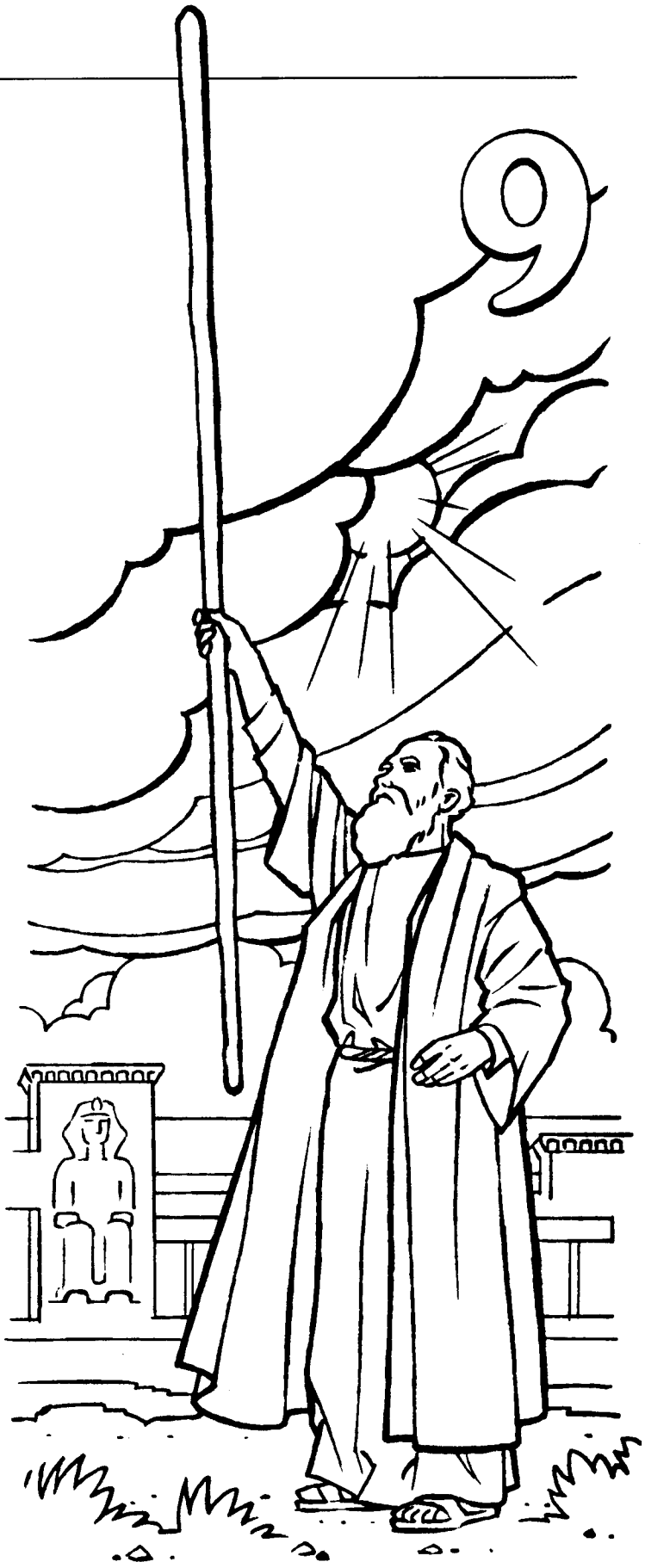
Pharaoh then called Moses and Aaron to the palace and again pleaded with them to ask God to stop the plague. So Moses prayed and asked God to take the locusts away.

Soon a strong wind came up and blew the locusts away toward the Red Sea. Pharaoh viewed the bare trees and the chewed stems of once-green plants. The more he saw, the angrier he became. "I'm not going to let the children of Israel go, he snapped at a nearby servant.

Moses was very disappointed when he received the news. But God gave him further instructions.

As Moses stretched his rod toward the sky, a sudden gloominess settled in the sky. The sun slowly disappeared and left Egypt in darkness. It was so dark, people could not see each other and it was too dangerous to even go outside. For three days the eerie thick darkness remained.

What will Pharaoh do this time? Will He again give permission for the Israelites to leave? Will he keep his promise this time? Will he finally learn how great God is? We will learn the answers in the next lesson.



EDITOR IN CHIEF: **Herbert W. Armstrong**
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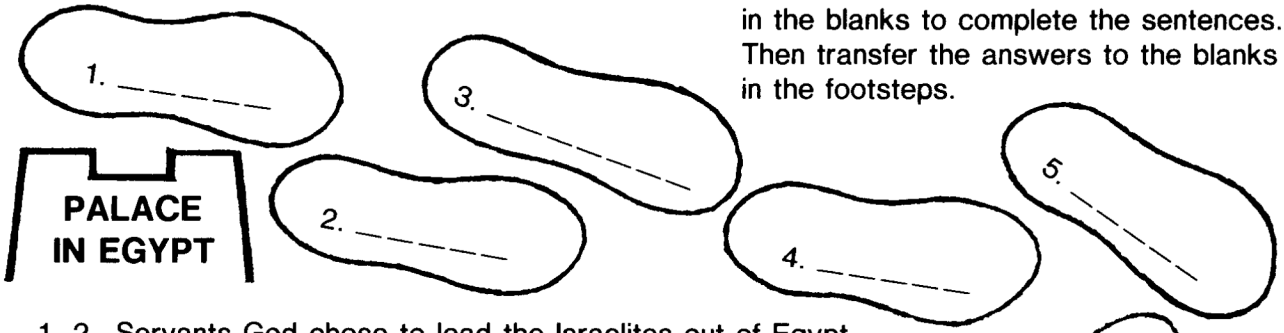
BIBLE MEMORY
Twelve Tribes of Israel

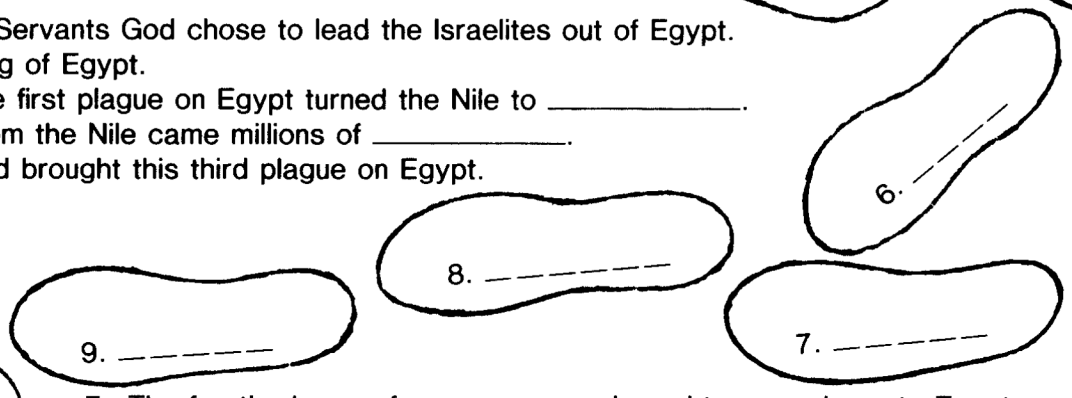
Reuben	Zebulun	Asher
Simeon	Issachar	Naphtali
Levi	Dan	Joseph (Ephraim & Manasseh)
Judah	Gad	Benjamin

FOOTSTEPS TO FREEDOM

Help the Israelites get from Egypt to the Red Sea! Answer the statements and fill in the blanks to complete the sentences. Then transfer the answers to the blanks in the footsteps.



1, 2. Servants God chose to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.
3. King of Egypt.
4. The first plague on Egypt turned the Nile to _____.
5. From the Nile came millions of _____.
6. God brought this third plague on Egypt.



7. The fourth plague of _____ brought more misery to Egypt.
8. The fifth plague brought disease and death to _____.
9. Ashes that touched the Egyptians' skin caused _____.
10, 11. Egyptians tried to find protection from the 7th plague of _____ and _____.
12. A plague of _____ ate any trees and plants that survived the other plagues.
13. A gloomy _____ marked the 9th plague.