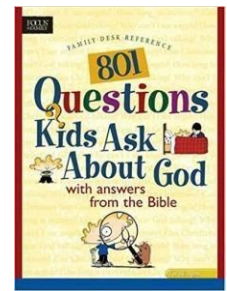




Why did God send plagues on Egypt?



God sent the plagues to Egypt to punish Pharaoh and to show God's power. The plagues were miracles-fantastic demonstrations of God's power. Pharaoh saw himself as a god, and God was showing him who the true God was. Also, God was answering the prayers of the Israelites to deliver them from slavery. The Egyptians were holding the Israelites captive and did not want to let them go. Each time pharaoh would refuse to let the people go; God would send a plague on the Egyptians (but not the Israelites) to help convince Pharaoh to change his mind. After each plague, Pharaoh would agree to release the Israelites, but then he would harden his heart and say no. Eventually, after the death of first-born male children, the Israelites were allowed to leave Egypt. But even then, Pharaoh changed his mind and chased after them. Pharaoh was an evil man.



“Go back to Pharaoh,” the Lord commanded Moses. “Tell him, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of the heavens, say: Let my people go, so they can worship me. If you continue to oppress them and refuse to let them go, the Lord will send a deadly plague to destroy your horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, and sheep. But the Lord will again make a distinction between the property of the Israelites and that of the Egyptians. Not a single one of Israel's livestock will die!’ ”

Exodus 9:1-4

May 17, 2020