

# The book of Exodus

## The Long Walk to Freedom

### Study 4 – No God but the LORD

#### Introduction

Exodus 7:8 – 12:50 tells the story of the struggle between Pharaoh and the LORD. This struggle was in essence a struggle about authority and lordship, lordship over Israel to start with, but ultimately lordship over the world. From Pharaoh's point of view it was he, Pharaoh, the earthly representative of the gods of Egypt who had absolute authority. The account of the plagues tells a different story, for despite Pharaoh's stubborn heart and the sorcery of his magicians, the God of the Hebrews is shown to be Lord over all. Each of the plagues thus acts as a sign that the LORD is the One and Only God who rules over all things including the pseudo-gods of Egypt. The nature of each plague is chosen to show sovereignty over each of the Egyptian gods and the LORD's judgement against them (see Exodus 12:12). The escalation of the plagues leading to the final plague and the death of the first-born shows the LORD's patience (Exodus 9:15-16) but also the fact that in the end the LORD will overthrow those who rebel against Him. Because the LORD is the creator of all, he is the ruler over all, and His Word is thus to be obeyed by all, no matter how important they consider themselves to be.



#### Starting out...

1. Imagine that someone at church asks you to explain the plague stories in Exodus: What would you say?
  
2. How would you answer the same request from someone you know through work or university?



## Read and Think



### Read Exodus 7:8 – 12:50

1. The sign of the snake and the first two plagues (blood and frogs) are copied by the magicians of Egypt. How do we know even from these stories that the power of the LORD is greater than that of the Egyptian magicians?
2. What effect did the first two plagues have upon Pharaoh? Why was this so?
3. What is surprising about Exodus 8:8?
4. Throughout the plague narrative there are clues that underline that it is indeed the LORD rather than Moses the man who is confronting Pharaoh. What are these clues?
5. Look at Exodus 10:2 (the word *harshly* is literally *mockingly*) and Exodus 12:12. What do these verses teach us about the purpose of the plagues?



11. How does the Passover connect with the Gospel about Jesus?

## Apply



1. What do you think the main lessons of this study are?

2. What have you learnt about God from this study?



1. In what way has this study challenged or encouraged you?