

LITTLE GEMS

Va'era

Shalom children! We are back to hear more of the story of Mosheh. Remember, he was told to go and stand in front of Pharaoh and ask him to let the Hebrews go. Well, on the long way back to Mitsrayim, Mosheh met his brother Aharon, who came alongside to help him. **(Place Mosheh and Aharon on board.)** But when they reached Mitsrayim and spoke with the Hebrews, the people couldn't really believe they would ever be free to leave, because they'd been working so hard for so long.

Mosheh told them Yahweh had sent him to help them get out of Mitsrayim, but he himself was not too sure that Pharaoh would listen, even though Yahweh had promised to show signs to Pharaoh to make him believe. It sure would take a lot of signs before Pharaoh would believe! But Yahweh wanted the Hebrew people to see what He was doing so they would be encouraged.

The first thing that Mosheh and his brother Aharon were to do in front of Pharaoh was to take Aharon's rod and throw it on the ground. **(Place rod and Pharaoh on board.)** That's exactly what they did, and Yahweh made the rod turn into a snake. **(Remove rod and place snake on board)**. But Pharaoh wasn't too impressed. He asked his magicians to do the same thing, and guess what? They threw down their rods, which all turned into snakes, too. **(Place small snakes on board.)** Well, we know Yahweh is still more powerful. The snake that used to be Aharon's rod ate up the magicians' snakes. **(Remove small snakes.)** Well, Pharaoh still didn't care. He just wanted Mosheh and Aharon to go away. **(Remove Mosheh, Aharon, rod, and snake from board.)**

Yahweh told Mosheh it was okay, because in the morning Pharaoh would go down to the river, and Mosheh was to meet him there. He was to take the rod and hit the water so it would turn to blood. **(Place Pharaoh, Mosheh, Aharon, rod, and blue water on board.)** That's exactly what Mosheh and Aharon did. And all the water turned to blood, and it made the fish die. **(Replace blue water with red water. Place some dead fish on board as well.)** Oh man, poor fishies! They died just because Pharaoh was stubborn. There was blood everywhere, no one could drink any water from the river, and man, did it stink! Oooh, gross.

Well, wouldn't you know it, there was already nothing to drink with the river being blood, but silly Pharaoh had his magicians do the same thing. Now why would he go and do something like that? Not very smart if you ask me! He just wanted to show off and convince Mosheh that his magicians were just as good as Yahweh. Well, we know better, but Pharaoh didn't care, so he went home and left the Mitsrites to dig for water to drink.

(Remove characters from board.)

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After 7 days, Yahweh told Mosheh to go back to Pharaoh and try again to get him to let the Hebrews go. **(Place Mosheh, Aharon, and Pharaoh on board.)** Mosheh was to tell Pharaoh that if he didn't let them go, Yahweh was going to make frogs come out of the water and get into everything. Pharaoh still didn't care. So Aharon stretched his hand over the water and frogs came up. **(Place live frogs on board.)**

Well, you won't believe what Pharaoh did. He asked his magicians to see if they could make frogs come up, too! I don't know if this Pharaoh guy was very smart. I certainly wouldn't want to see if there could be more frogs. There were already frogs in the ovens and the bowls and even jumping on the people. Pharaoh was like, "Okay, just ask your Elohim to get rid of the frogs already." So Mosheh said, "Name the time, and my Elohim will get rid of them." Pharaoh said, "Okay, tomorrow." So Mosheh prayed to Yahweh and the frogs died too. Aww, first the fish, now the poor frogs. There were dead frogs everywhere. **(Replace live frogs with dead frogs.)** They piled them up high, and you think it was stinky before? Now there were smelly dead frogs everywhere. Double gross!

(Remove characters from board.)

Wouldn't you know it, as soon as Pharaoh saw the frogs were gone, he changed his mind and didn't let the Hebrews go. Well, Yahweh knew this was going to happen. He had Mosheh tell his brother Aharon to take the rod again and hit the dust of the earth so that it would become gnats. **(Place Mosheh, Aharon, rod, and Pharaoh on board.)** Aharon did **(place gnats on board)**, and this time when that silly Pharaoh asked his magicians to do it too, they couldn't do it. That's a good thing--it was bad enough with the extra frogs. Who wants extra gnats?

The magicians realized this was no magic trick—Yahweh was making this happen. But Pharaoh still didn't care. So Yahweh had Mosheh tell Pharaoh that next there were going to be flies everywhere. They'd be all over the land of Mitsrayim, but this time not in Goshen where the Hebrews lived. Yahweh was not going to make the Hebrews suffer just because Pharaoh was stubborn. So that's what Yahweh did. **(Place Mitsrite house on one side of board and Yisra'elite house on other side. Place flies near the Mitsrite house.)** There were flies everywhere, but like an invisible wall, they did not go into the land where the Hebrews were living.

That must have been a pretty cool sight to see. The Hebrews could see flies, but they weren't coming into their houses. I wonder if the gnats were still around. Well, no matter, because Pharaoh had had enough and told Mosheh, "Fine, you can go worship your Elohim here in the land. Just ask your Elohim to make the flies go away." Mosheh said, "No, we have to go into the wilderness to worship Him." So Pharaoh said, "Fine, go. But not too far." So Mosheh asked Yahweh to take the flies away, and He did.

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(Remove flies and gnats from board.)

Do you think Pharaoh finally stopped being stubborn? Nope, not yet. Yahweh knew that, and He told Mosheh to warn Pharaoh that now He was going to send a sickness that would make all of the camels, donkeys, sheep, cows, and horses get so sick that they would die. But only the animals on the Mitsrayim side would die, and the Hebrew side would be okay. Oh no! More innocent animals died. Good thing the Hebrew animals didn't die. Pharaoh sent someone just to see, and sure enough, not one of the Hebrews' animals had died. **(Place live animals by Yisra'elite house and dead animals by Mitsrite house.)** But even seeing that, Pharaoh still didn't let the people go.

(Remove animals from board.)

This time, Yahweh told Mosheh to take some ashes and throw them up in the air. The dust went everywhere, and it made painful bumps get all over the Mitsrites and the animals that were left. **(Place Mitsrites with sores and animals with sores on board.)** Even the magicians had bumps, and they stayed in their rooms. Ouch, that's no fun. Maybe now that the Mitsrite people were getting some bad stuff, they would talk Pharaoh into listening to Mosheh. Do you think Pharaoh heard? No, of course not. He was as stubborn as ever, and he still didn't let the Hebrews go.

(Remove characters from board.)

But Yahweh already knew Pharaoh was going to be this way. He used Pharaoh and his stubbornness so that year after year, people would hear these stories and recognize that Yahweh is who He said He is.

Mosheh told Pharaoh that the next day there was going to be hail coming down from the sky. He said, "Make sure you bring any workers and animals inside their houses so they do not die, because it's going to be pretty bad." Well, some of the Mitsrites listened and put their animals and workers away, but some, who were stubborn like Pharaoh, didn't bring their workers and animals inside.

(Place Mosheh and rod on board.) Mosheh stretched out his rod, and hail started coming down hard. There was thunder and fire. **(Place hail on board.)** It was really bad. The people and animals that were still outside all died. The trees and the plants died. Not all of them, though, because some of them had not started getting very big yet.

Well, you would think that after all of that, Pharaoh would let the Hebrews go. But no, of course not. He was as stubborn as ever, and wouldn't let the people go. But Yahweh already knew that.

Well children, a lot has happened hasn't it? Yahweh promised to help the people be able to get out of Mitsrayim, and there is still more to come. But for today, that is all. We will see you next week for another exciting Little Gems story!