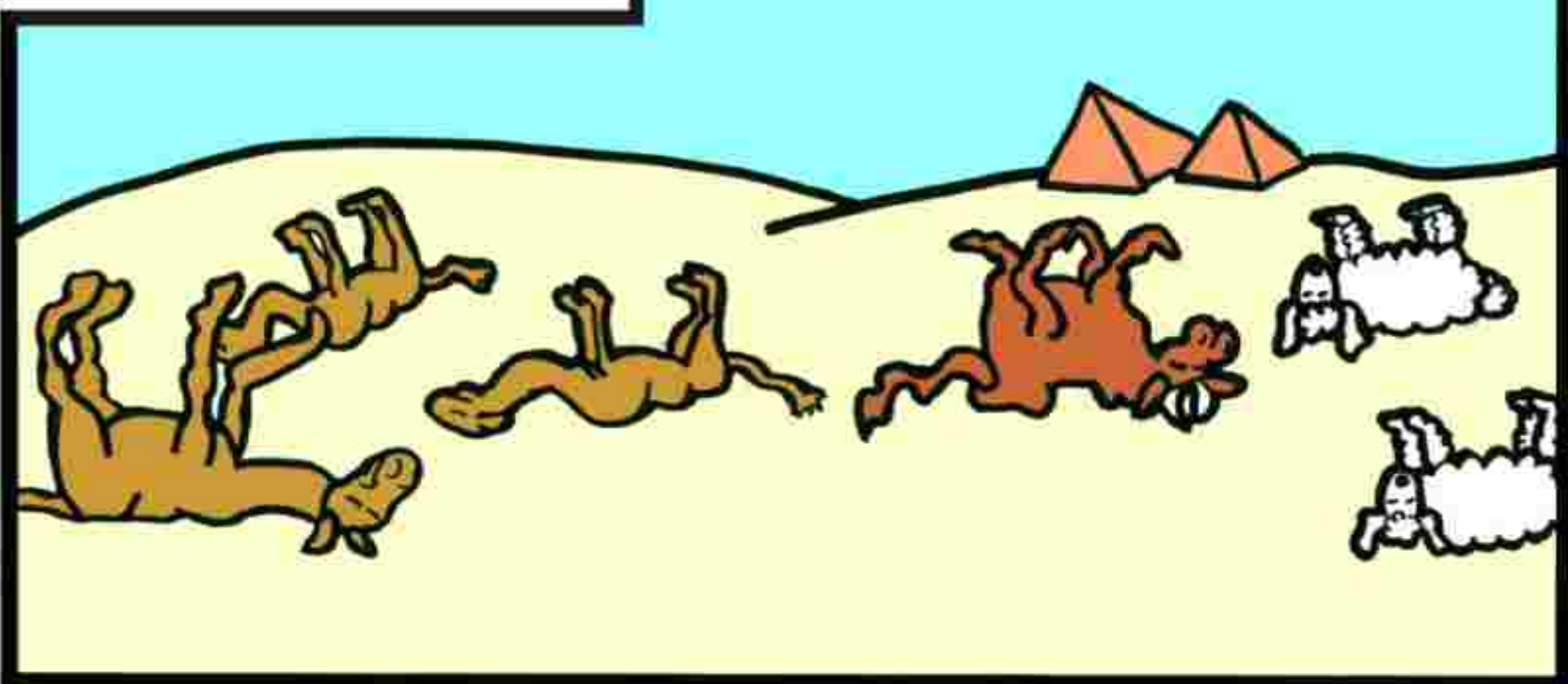


The Stubborn King Part 2

(Based on Exodus 7-10)

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Moses returned to Pharaoh. "God says, Let my people go or else there will be a terrible sickness on all of your farm animals. But, nothing will die that belong to the people of Israel." Pharaoh did not obey so on the next day their animals died.



Next the Lord told Moses and Aaron to take handfuls of ashes from a furnace and throw them up in the sky in front of Pharaoh. As soon as the ashes fell on people or animals, sores broke out on their skin. The magicians could not stay near Moses and Aaron. Pharaoh hardened his heart again.



God sent Moses once again to Pharaoh. "God says, 'Tomorrow I am going to send down heavy hail and rain like you have never seen. You'd better bring your people and animals in from the field.'" Some Egyptians believed and obeyed God's word.



The next day Moses raised his rod toward heaven. Thunder, heavy hail and fire fell to the ground. The hail broke trees, killed people and animals and destroyed all the crops. But, in the land of Goshen where the people of Israel lived, there was no hail.



"Moses and Aaron," said Pharaoh. "Me and my people are very bad. God is good. Ask God to stop the thunder and hail and I will let your people go." The Lord stopped the thunder and rain and once again Pharaoh broke his promise.



Moses returned to Pharaoh warning him that God would send locusts on the next day. Pharaoh's servants begged, "Pharaoh, please let these people go!" Pharaoh said the men could go and worship God in the wilderness. "No," answered Moses. "All of us must go, women, children and animals."



In the morning locusts covered the land. They ate every green leaf. Not a tree or plant had leaves in all the land of Egypt. "Please pray that God will take away these locusts!" pleaded Pharaoh. Moses prayed. The Lord blew the locusts into the sea. Again Pharaoh broke his promise.



"Stretch out your hand toward heaven," said the Lord to Moses. When he did, darkness covered the land. It was so dark that you could feel it. No one could see each other and no one left his house for three days. But there was light in the houses of the people of Israel.



"Go out into the wilderness with your little kids and serve the Lord but you have to leave all your animals here," said Pharaoh. "No", answered Moses. "All our animals have to go with us." Moses left and he was very angry.



Lord, I thank you that in the end, it is always better to be one of your people. Again, help me to be quickly obedient and to be a person who keeps promises.