

## Exodus Ch. 8

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V: 1-15 Plague of frogs, God continues his direct challenge to the false deities of Egypt.

V: 1-4 Moses is again instructed to speak to Pharaoh, invoking the name of God in the process.

- Moses at God's instruction repeats the same basic demand as before: "*Let My people go that they may serve Me.*"
- Speak the word of God to Pharaoh: It may seem like he's wasting his breath, but...

**Isaiah 55:11** "*So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*"

- If you refuse, you will be smitten with frogs.
- This almost sound like slapstick humor, or a far side comic strip, three stooges tom foolery – yet there is meaning that goes a little deeper.
- The Egyptians worshipped a pagan god / false deity, or goddess in this case by the name of "Heqt", a fertility goddess whose face was in the form of a frog.
- The form of a woman and the face like a frog, you'd think that would put a stop to things right there.
- Part of this worship of developed from the fact that Frogs were also important to the Egyptians economically; the frogs kept the insect population at bay and from destroying all their crop by eating the insects.
- Now frogs will invade your house, your bedroom, in all the houses of your servants, in your ovens, and your needing troughs.
- Frogs will be everywhere and in the most inconvenient places, completely underfoot.

V: 5-6 The Lord speaks to Moses who speaks unto Aaron, stretch forth the rod of God over the streams, rivers, and ponds – and cause the frogs to come up and cover the land of Egypt.

*"and cause..."*

- This simple act initiates this plague and eliminates any natural explanation.

- There are those who would try to explain this occurrence through the water turning to blood, and naturally driving the frogs out and everywhere.
- By using Moses and Aaron in this manner, predicting the exact timing and giving specific direction to this plague – God once again demonstrates that He is in control and omnipotent.
- And it happened, “cause & effect”.

*“covered the land of Egypt”*

- **Reality Check:** walking, crushing, like trying to dodge dog poop in the yard and not being able to.
- In the water, no where being able to get away from them.

V: 7 And the magicians made it worse...

- I don't doubt the ability of the magicians to invoke demonic power and to somehow counterfeit this plague because God's word says so.
- Part of me kind of wonders though if it wouldn't be like me getting up before sunrise and looking to the east and saying “sun arise!” and pretty quick the sun peeks over the horizon.
- Frogs are already coming out of the waters and going everywhere. How do you distinguish who's frogs are whose?
- The magicians couldn't put the frogs back or stop them from coming, they could only counterfeit and make worse.

V: 8 *“Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron...”*

- This is a first. Previously when the waters were turned to blood, Pharaoh wasn't impressed and the time that God had determined was fulfilled and things got back to normal.
- Notice that Pharaoh doesn't ask his magicians to fix things – because they cant'.

**Deuteronomy 32:39** *“See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with Me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.”*

*“...entreat the Lord...”* entreat: (H6279) 'athar, aw-thar'; to burn incense in worship, to intercede, entreat, to pray.

- Essentially “pray to Yahweh...”

“... that He may take away the frogs from me...”

- Pharaoh now understands where this plague came from, he is by implication giving credit to God for what He has done, acknowledging or at least inferring that the Lord exists.

“... and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the Lord.”

- Liar, liar, pants on fire... (Revelation 21:8)

V: 9 “*Glory over me*” – “Accept the honor” – “Do me the honor...”

“... when shall I entreat thee, and for thy servants?” - Name the time...

- Pharaoh would be forced to acknowledge that God is the one who brought the plague, and the only one who could end it.

V: 10 Answer: “*Tomorrow*” Mañana...

- Not today, not right now?

**Psalm 95:7-8** “<sup>7</sup>For He is our God; and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today if ye will hear His voice. <sup>8</sup>Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness.”

**2 Corinthians 6:2** “For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

- Then enemy uses that word all too effectively: **tomorrow**.
- I’ll start working out....tomorrow; I’ll start watching what I eat ... tomorrow

Just like when being imprisoned Paul testified to Felix:

**Acts 24:24-25** “<sup>24</sup>And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. <sup>25</sup>And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, go thy way for this time; **when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.**”

- Purpose: that Pharaoh may know that there is none like the Lord our God.

V: 11-14 Here is how it's going to be.

- So that you'll know who I am, the frogs shall depart from you and remain in the river only.
- Moses cries out, God acts, and all the frogs die where they are. God's word is immediately fulfilled.
- The frogs all die, again the message is "your little god is dead" and now they stink!
- They get to keep the heaps of dead gods, they stink.

V: 15 Pharaoh hardened his heart (kabad), he rebelled against the word of God.

- Pharaoh immediately went back on his word and refused to let the children of Israel go.
- Pharaoh like many others to follow would at times find themselves in difficult or even life threatening circumstances and cry out to God – Oh God if you'll get me out of this – I'll... serve you, I'll go to church, I'll stop – whatever / fill in the blank.
- Then when the Lord does save, or get them out of the pinch they're in – often times they forget their vows.

King David found himself in a few tight spots, he declared:

**Psalms 66:13-14** <sup>13</sup>"I will go into thy house with burnt offerings: I will pay thee my vows, <sup>14</sup>which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble."

- We're told in scripture that it's better not to vow at all than to break a vow once made.

**Numbers 30:2** "If a man vow a vow unto the Lord, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth."

Jesus put it this way:

**Matthew 5:37** "But let your communication be, yea, yea; nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."

- In other words: Let your yes be yes, and your no be no.
- I've learned not to make promises to God or to people.
  1. Partly because I don't want to make promises that I can't keep.
  2. I want to be like God, if I say I'll do something, or not do something I want that to be good enough in my life.

3. As far as making vows to God, they're not necessary. He's already done His good work for me, I can't get any more saved, and there's nothing good in me to offer to God anyway.
4. God's not into making "deals" with men, His perfect will is accomplished, He is gracious and merciful – He blesses us in spite of who we are, because of His nature and character, not because of our misguided vows.

*"... as the Lord had said"* – **Psalm 138:2** "God values His word even above all His name..."

V: 16-19 The plague of lice.

V: 16-17 The Lord commands Moses & Aaron to strike the dust of the ground with the rod – and it becomes lice.

- This is without warning, no conversation with Pharaoh – God just acts in a sovereign way upon Pharaoh and Egypt.
- With the plagues of blood upon the Nile, and the plague of frogs – Pharaoh was commanded and warned, here he is not – it just happens.
- God takes "dust" / dirt an in-animate object and turns it into "lice".
- Man & beast, everybody get lice – bummer!

V: 18 *"... but they could not do so..."*

**1 John 4:4** "Ye are of god, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

- Demonic power is acknowledged, but it is also limited.
- Up to this point Pharaoh's "magicians" had been able to duplicate or counterfeit the various plagues, this is the first one that they couldn't do that.

Why?

- This is the first plague that involved taking dust, forming it into something else, and giving it life.

**1 Samuel 2:6** "The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up."

- Only God can give life, He is the life giver.

- Each of these plagues was an attack against the various Egyptian pagan deities and this is no exception.
- The Egyptian priesthood, the magicians – were in control of every aspect of Egyptian life; politics, the economy, and their various forms of worship.
- To be part of their priesthood, they were not allowed to have any blemish, perfect physical specimens. They shaved their entire bodies on a regular basis, went through numerous ritual baths and cleansings – and were the only ones allowed to directly worship the gods.
- But now they're infected with lice just like everybody else – so what is so special about them and their religious system – it's all a sham.

V: 19 The magicians declare to Pharaoh that this is the “finger” of God – meaning this is beyond their power.

- The word used to communicate this fact is “finger”

“Finger”: (H-676) 'etsba', ets-bah'; a finger. Why not the word “hand” as in “hand of God” – seeming giving God credit for being as the Hebrews have already described Him – the Lord God Almighty – didn't need His whole hand, just a flick of His mighty finger is too much for them.

- Later it would be the finger of God that would write onto a tablet of stone: (Exodus 33:18).

**Exodus 20:2-3** “I am the Lord thy God”... “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.”

**Psalm 8:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens. <sup>2</sup>Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. <sup>3</sup>When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained.”

- Pharaoh may not know who the Lord is that he should obey the word of God, but his magicians are starting to figure it out!
- Pharaoh's heart was hardened – (chazaq / confirmed)

V: 20-32 Plague of flies.

V:20 The same scenario begins to play out, with Pharaoh going to the river, most likely to worship the god of the Nile.

- Moses meets Pharaoh and is told *“Thus saith the Lord, let My people go, that they may serve me.”*
- Notice that God doesn’t just want to set the people free so they can just go and do whatever they want – there is purpose in their freedom – it is so that they can serve God.

V: 21 Swarms of flies / gnats.

V: 22-23 From this plague to the rest of the plagues, God will separate between Israel and Egypt. God will make a distinction, protecting His people, and allowing the plague to only fall upon the Egyptians.

**2 Peter 2:7-9** *“The Lord knows how to deliver the Godly out of temptations, and to preserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.”*

- Why? – So that Pharaoh may know who God is.
- In the Hebrew the word used just indicates “flies” or “swarms of flies”
- In the Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament there is a word used that describes the particular fly which is common to Egypt.
- It’s the “dog fly”, an aggressive biting fly that, that bites and sucks the blood of it’s victims, and deposits its larvae under the skin so that they can feed also.
- These flies represent the pagan deity “Uatcit” – again a direct attack on their pagan belief system.

**Psalm 78:45** *“He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them, and frogs which destroyed them.”*

- These flies as you might imagine exist primarily in areas where there is lots of moisture, grass, and so forth – not nearly as common in the dryer or desert climates.
- The land of Goshen is the Nile delta, well watered, swampy in places, lots of cow pies etc. and the ideal climate for these flies – and exactly where God said there would be no flies – yet there would be “swarms of flies” everywhere else in the desert.
- This will happen “tomorrow” – demonstrating that God is in absolute control, and they have warning, and possibly time to repent.

V: 24-25 “Grievous swarm” – intensity – the land is “corrupted”

- These swarms of flies go out everywhere – Pharaoh cries uncle.
- **1<sup>st</sup> compromise from Pharaoh** – “go and sacrifice, but stay in the land.”
- If the enemy can’t get us to completely turn away from God’s word, then maybe just compromise a little.
- Satan is always looking for a compromise; anything other than a total, complete commitment to god.
- You decide you’re going to give your life to Jesus Christ, you’re going to serve the Lord, and Satan says – “well, don’t change too much, a little church here and there, occasional prayer – but no deep commitments, a little bit won’t hurt.
- **Hence the proverbial question: how far can I go, and still be a Christian?**
- This is indicative of a wrong perspective, a real relationship begs the question, how close can I get, how can I possibly please my Lord?
- God’s word calls us to a complete, full commitment:

**2 Corinthians 6:17-18** “<sup>17</sup>Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, <sup>18</sup>and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

**1 John 2:15-16** “<sup>15</sup>Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

V: 26 In other words: that won’t do.

- The abomination: The Egyptians worshipped the bull, when they died they embalmed them also – the Hebrews sacrificed and ate the bulls.

V: 27 God has already said it, Moses is once again repeating it to Pharaoh – 3 days journey into the desert as God commanded us.

V: 28 Ok, ok you can go into the desert, but not very far away

- **2<sup>nd</sup> compromise** – “not very far.” (be reasonable, compromise with me...)



- The world says that if you're un-compromising, then you're intolerant, bigoted, and narrow minded!
- Don't go too far...
- The bible simply calls that obedience.

Testimony: When we learned what it was to have what I call a living faith walk with Jesus – as opposed to a “said faith” – a faith that was little more than lip service – our family and most of our friend thought and said that we'd become fanatics, that this must be a cult, and that we'd gone over the edge.

- It's a funny comparison, but when fully gown men, go to a foot ball game, take off their shirts and paint themselves in the colors of their teams and jump up and down and get wildly excited because their team got a first down or scored a touchdown they are happily called “fan” which is short for “fanatics” and it is perfectly acceptable.
- At the rock concert, when all the people stand and raise their hands towards whoever is performing, waving their cell phones and singing their hearts out to the beat of the music, and paying homage to their god, they are called fans, short for “fanatics” and it's perfectly acceptable.
- Contrast: Speak the name of Jesus reverently in public, go to church more than once a week or quote the Bible or reference it as the final authority in your life, and not only are you a religious fanatic in the most negative sense, you may even be called a freak!

V: 31 “... *there remained not one.*”

- Demonstrating the power of God.

V: 32 Pharaoh “hardened” – (H3513) kabad, kaw-bad'; obstinate, dull, heavy, stubbornness, act of rebellion.

**Luke 12:47** “And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.”