

Jason Huffman
Exodus 8
6/26/24

Sermon Recap:

In this sermon, Pastor Jason Huffman continues his series on the plagues in Exodus, focusing on the second, third, and fourth plagues. The plagues were designed to confront the Egyptian gods and display the Lord's power and judgment. The frogs, lice, and flies each symbolize the gradual escalation of consequences for Pharaoh's refusal to obey the Lord. Despite witnessing these miracles, Pharaoh's heart remains hardened. This reminds us of the importance of genuine repentance.

Discussion Questions

How do the plagues in Exodus 8 demonstrate God's power and judgment against the gods of Egypt?

- Pastor Jason explained that the plagues were designed to target the Egyptian gods and each set of plagues increased in intensity and impact.
- Can you think of a situation in your life where you saw God's power and judgment at work, either in your life or the lives of others?

What can we learn from the way idols in our lives can expand their territory, similar to how the frogs in the second plague invaded the homes of the Egyptians?

- Pastor Jason mentioned that idols may initially seem harmless, but they can eventually dominate our priorities and hinder our spiritual growth.
- What kinds of idols are in our lives that we need to reevaluate or remove to ensure they do not hinder our relationship or intimacy with God?

How is Satan's imitation of God's works, as demonstrated by the magicians' inability to replicate the third plague, a message to us about false power and deception?

- Pastor Jason explained that Satan often imitates the works of God, but lacks true power and life.
- How can we discern between God's true power and the imitation power of the enemy in our own lives?

In Exodus 8, how does God's differentiation between His people and the Egyptians during the fourth plague illustrate the protection and distinction experienced by believers?

- Pastor Jason pointed out that the Hebrews were shielded from the plague of flies, demonstrating that a relationship with God can protect us from the troubles that come from straying outside His will.
- Are there ways that you have experienced God's protection or distinction in your life as a believer?

Why is genuine repentance and a wholehearted commitment to God important, as shown through Pharaoh's resistant nature in Exodus 8?

- Pastor Jason emphasized the need for true repentance rather than temporary concessions made under duress, as Pharaoh repeatedly tried to negotiate with Moses.
- Reflect on your relationship with God - are there any areas of your life where you need to make a genuine commitment or repentance instead of temporary concessions?

Prayer

- Ask God to help us see and remove idols in our lives.
- Seek guidance in placing our passions and pleasures in their proper place under God's will.
- Pray for genuine repentance and heart change, not just temporary relief.

Teaching Notes:

The first three plagues were distressful (water to blood, frogs, gnats); the second three were inconvenient and painful (flies, death of the livestock, boils); and the last four were dangerous and destructive (hail, locusts, darkness, and the death of the firstborn)

...And every third plague is unannounced.

8:1 And the Lord spoke to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 2 But if you refuse to let *them* go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. 3 So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your

kneading bowls. 4 And the frogs shall come up on you, on your people, and on all your servants.” ’ ”

The Egyptian goddess *Heqet* (or, *Heket*) had the head of a frog. Frogs were sacred and could not be killed.

Idols are always trying to expand their territory. They influence decisions and hinder other healthy parts of our life.

5 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.’ ” 6 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. 7 And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.

The power of this world can make more idols but not get rid of them. You can go from one idol to another, but you won’t be truly free.

8 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, “Entreat the Lord that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the Lord.”

After two plagues, Pharaoh seems to weaken.

9 And Moses said to Pharaoh, “Accept the honor of saying when I shall intercede for you, for your servants, and for your people, to destroy the frogs from you and your houses, *that* they may remain in the river only.” 10 So he said, “Tomorrow.” And he said, “*Let it be* according to your word, that you may know that *there is* no one like the Lord our God. 11 And the frogs shall depart from you, from your houses, from your servants, and from your people. They shall remain in the river only.”

The frogs are going back where they belong. And that is where our pleasures or passions belong.

But, tomorrow? We should not procrastinate our repentance.

II Corinthians 6:1-2 As God’s partners, [a](#) we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God’s kindness and then ignore it. [2](#) For God says, “At just

the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.” Indeed, the “right time” is now. Today is the day of salvation.”

Paul is quoting here from Isaiah 49.

12 Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh. And Moses cried out to the Lord concerning the frogs which He had brought against Pharaoh. 13 So the Lord did according to the word of Moses. And the frogs died out of the houses, out of the courtyards, and out of the fields. 14 They gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. 15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the Lord had said.

When the pressure is on, he yields.

When the circumstance changes his response changes.

Was this a surprise to God? Nope. It was “just as the Lord said.”

Now we don't know the exact time frame, but here is #3. Lice.

And as we said, the third comes with no warning.

16 So the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.’ ” 17 And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

The Egyptians were very clean and lice may have made them unable to worship or offer sacrifices.

18 Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast. 19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This *is* the finger of God.” But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the Lord had said.

And Pharaoh's heart grew hard...even though he was told this was the finger of God, he would not yield.

Satan loves to counterfeit.

Warren Wiersbe points out, “Satan will attack God's truth and God's people by imitating the works of God. Jesus taught in the parable of the tares

(Matt. 13:24–30, 36–43), Satan is a counterfeiter who “plants” imitation Christians in this world. Paul called them “false brethren” (2 Cor. 11:26). Satan has an imitation gospel (Gal. 1:6–9), a counterfeit righteousness (Rom. 10:1–3), and even counterfeit ministers who spread his lies (2 Cor. 11:13–15). Satan will one day produce a false Christ who will.”

Fourth plague set up like the first.

20 And the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

21 Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of *flies* on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of *flies*, and also the ground on which they *stand*. 22 And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of *flies* shall be there, in order that you may know that I *am* the Lord in the midst of the land. 23 I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be.” ’ ’

This is a powerful statement to both Egyptian and Hebrew.
A relationship with God makes a difference.

24 And the Lord did so. Thick swarms of *flies* came into the house of Pharaoh, *into* his servants’ houses, and into all the land of Egypt. The land was corrupted because of the swarms of *flies*.

There was nowhere safe except with the Lord.

25 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.”

Do not be too naive with those who repent under duress.
Time will tell the condition of a heart.

This is the classic negotiation tactic of the enemy.
You can follow the Lord, but don’t leave here.

26 And Moses said, “It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God. If we sacrifice the

abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, then will they not stone us? 27 We will go three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God as He will command us."

Egyptians would consider the sacrifice of a sacred animal as blasphemous

28 So Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for me."

Another negotiation tactic...go, but not too far.

29 Then Moses said, "Indeed I am going out from you, and I will entreat the Lord, that the swarms of *flies* may depart tomorrow from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. But let Pharaoh not deal deceitfully anymore in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the Lord."

30 So Moses went out from Pharaoh and entreated the Lord. 31 And the Lord did according to the word of Moses; He removed the swarms of *flies* from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. Not one remained. 32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.

Pharaoh is warned.

But once again, when the pressure is removed, & his heart is hard...
...because his heart has not really changed.