

## Exodus 8 - Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008

- Last week in chapter seven, we left off with Pharaoh continuing to harden his heart after the first plague of the water turning to blood.
- We ran out of time before taking a closer look at the prophetic importance and significance of these plagues as it relates to the future.
- There are profound parallels in the deliverance of Israel in the Exodus and the salvation of Israel during the tribulation in Revelation.

EXODUS	REVELATION
Israel enslaved	Israel afflicted
Israel oppressed and deceived by Pharaoh	Israel attacked and deceived by the Anti-Christ
Two representatives, Moses and Aaron	Two Witnesses, believed to be Moses & Elijah
Israel cries out to God, and He hears	Israel cries out to God, and He hears
Israel flees to the wilderness	Israel flees to Petra
Israel is delivered	Israel is saved
Plagues come down as God's judgment	Wrath poured out as God's judgment

PLAGUE	EGYPT	TRIBULATION
#1 Water becomes blood	Exodus 7:20, Psalm 105:29	Revelation 8:8-9, 11:6, 16:3-6
#2 Frogs	Exodus 8:6, Psalm 105:30	Revelation 16:13*
#3 Lice	Exodus 8:24, Psalm 105:31	Revelation 11:6**
#4 Flies	Exodus 9:6	Revelation 11:6***
#5 Food source (livestock) destroyed	Exodus 9:6	Revelation 8:9****
#6 Boils	Exodus 9:10	Revelation 16:2
#7 Hail	Exodus 9:23, Psalm 105:32	Revelation 8:7, 16:21
#8 Locusts	Exodus 10:13, Psalm 105:34	Revelation 9:3
#9 Darkness	Exodus 10:22, Psalm 105:32	Revelation 8:12, 9:2, 16:10

\*Though not an infestation of frogs, this is undoubtedly a plague like the frogs in Egypt.

\*\*Though lice are not mentioned specifically, they could be among the plagues brought by the two witnesses.

\*\*\*As with the lice, flies are not specifically mentioned, but it's believed that they may be among the plagues as well.

\*\*\*\*Though not a direct correlation, there is a similarity in that the food source of God's enemies is destroyed.

**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.

- It's believed that God in His unspeakable grace and mercy is giving Pharaoh yet another chance to repent and let the Israelites go.
- Because God knows the end from the beginning, He knows Pharaoh won't soften his heart, but nonetheless He gives another chance.

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. ""

- As with the Nile being worshipped as a god, so too did Egypt worship frogs as god's, and as such could not be killed. Big problem!
- This particular Egyptian frog-god was actually known as the fertility goddess Heqet, because of how fertile frogs were around the Nile.
- Not only was the frog a god for its fertility, it was also for its productivity by keeping the insect population from eating their crops.

The Goddess Heqet, in the form of a frog, was depicted with the body of a woman and the head of a frog. She was 'Lady of the (as yet unidentified town) Herwer', where Khnum was also worshipped. Both gods, who often appear together in texts, were considered to be creator gods. Khnum was the potter who shaped man on his wheel, and Heqet the giver of life, who shaped the child in its mother's womb and assisted at the birth. The notion that the Egyptians regarded the frog as a symbol of regeneration played a role here, because it was seen to emerge spontaneously from the Nile at certain times of the year.

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.

- It's interesting that God would once again show Himself as the only true and living God by doing this with the Egyptian false god's.
- One has suggested that God has a sense of humor, in a way, and by this would say; "you like to worship frogs? Have some frogs!"
- Notice again that Satan, through Pharaoh's demon possessed magicians, were able to counterfeit this as they did with the others.

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."

- Isn't it interesting that Pharaoh would now acknowledge Moses' God even asking Moses to actually pray for him that the frogs go away.
- He tells Moses that if the frogs are taken away, he will acquiesce and let the Israelites go so they can sacrifice to and worship the Lord.
- Obviously once the frogs die, Pharaoh doesn't keep his word, and in so doing, will bring unspeakable horror on himself and his people.

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."

- This is perhaps one of the most astonishing and puzzling passages in the book. Why would Pharaoh want to wait until tomorrow?
- It has been suggested that he wanted one more night with these little frog goddesses before he had to sort of repent tomorrow.
- Be that as it may, Moses agrees and tries to hold Pharaoh to his word and his acknowledging that there is no one like the Lord our God.

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 Moses cries out to the Lord concerning the frogs, He answers Moses' prayer all the frogs die and then they're gathered into piles.
- Moses, writing this account in Exodus by the Holy Spirit, tells of how bad the stench was. He would have known, he was there for this.
- Notice that once Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he once again hardened his heart and did not heed them just as God said he would.

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.

- Notice this, like every third plague, comes without warning. Moses doesn't go to Pharaoh and warn him about this one. God just does it!
- Why lice, did the Egyptians worship the lice gods too? The priests couldn't worship there many gods when unclean with lice.
- The priests would go through ritual cleansings, and lice would have disqualified them, and the animals with lice couldn't be sacrificed.

- It has been suggested that this may be one of the reasons you see ancient portrayal's of Egyptians, bald and without any bodily hair.
- It's thought that they would go to great extents to never have hair so they would never have lice, which is why they shaved it all off.
- Suffice it to say, lice were unspeakably repulsive and abominable to the Egyptians, which is probably why God struck them with this.

"Here filthiness and venom were united; these little tormentors made the Egyptians feel the power of the great God. Often little plagues are the worst of plagues. From this visitation Pharaoh's bodyguards could not defend his royal person. Such enemies laughed at sword and spear."

Charles Spurgeon

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.

- Notice that the magicians couldn't counterfeit the lice after trying unsuccessfully. Why couldn't they? Often God will limit Satan's power.
- It seems that they had an inclination of God's limit on them as evidenced by what they say to Pharaoh; "This is the finger of God."
- You would think that at this point both Pharaoh and the Egyptians would realize that this God is greater than theirs and just repent.

- It's interesting to note that we never hear from these satanic magicians again. They are completely out of the account now.
- What's so striking about all of this is that of all the plagues, counterfeiting lice would have been the easiest of them all, bar none!
- Again, perhaps this is why they were forced to acknowledge that it has to be God or else we would have been able to do this.

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.'"

- Conspicuously absent from this plague is Pharaoh's reaction. We're only told that Moses warned him, then the plague of the flies came.
- One thought is that Pharaoh didn't respond at all, and simply ignored Moses' warning from God. To ignore God is a perilous mistake!
- Also, notice that no flies swarm on the Israelites in Goshen where they alone dwelt. I suppose you could say this was a no-fly zone 😊

"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.

- It's interesting to note that these flies did some serious damage to the land. There weren't just a lot of flies, there were swarms of flies.
- Like with the lice, this would have corrupted them and made them unclean and thus unable to worship any of their many gods.
- It's possible that either these were more than flies or another insect in addition to the flies as the Psalmist tells us they bit the Egyptians.

**Psalm 78:45** He sent swarms of flies that devoured them, and frogs that devastated them. NIV

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

- Pharaoh offers Moses a compromise by telling him to sacrifice to his God in Egypt. Moses, to his credit, refuses Pharaoh's offer.
- It's interesting to note that Moses refuses at this point. Perhaps prior to seeing God's hand in these plagues, he may have considered it.
- In all fairness to Moses, because he's witnessed God's amazing power over Pharaoh and all of Egypt, he knows he doesn't need to.

- Also, notice that Moses reminds Pharaoh that if they sacrifice to the Lord in Egypt, that it would be an abomination to the Egyptians.
- The reason for this is that shepherds were an abomination because sheep are an abomination which is why Israel stayed in Goshen.
- In order to worship the Lord, they would sacrifice a lamb to God and that would have simply been unacceptable to the Egyptians.

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."

- With flies still swarming and devouring, Pharaoh acknowledges God and tells Moses they can go sacrifice their God in the wilderness.
- Notice how Pharaoh tells Moses that; first, they are not to go too far, and that Moses is to "intercede" for him for the flies fly away.
- If Pharaoh is being sincere, it will be short lived once again. Moses knows that Pharaoh can't be trusted, as we'll see in the next verse.

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.

- This Pharaoh brings a new definition to a hard heart that "just doesn't get it!" For this, he will pay dearly for it. It will cost him everything.
- You have to wonder if Pharaoh purposely lied to Moses just to stop the plague, or changed his mind once God stopped the plague.

#### Lessons I can learn from Exodus chapter eight:

1. Like with Pharaoh, nobody will be able to honestly say that God didn't give them plenty of chances. His judgments are just and fair.
2. Like with the Egyptians and the frogs, sometimes God will give us over to that which we desire to worship as gods instead of Him.

"Though he is the Lord of hosts he has no need of powerful armies, the ministry of angels, or the thunderbolts of justice to punish a sinner or a sinful nation; the *frog* or the *fly* in his hands is a sufficient instrument of vengeance."

Adam Clarke

3. Like with Pharaoh asking Moses to "entreat the LORD," so too do those around us, come to us, for prayer, when tragedy strikes them.
4. Like with Pharaoh going back on his word; when we don't keep our word, we can bring unspeakable horror on our self and our family.
5. Like with Pharaoh wanting Moses to wait until tomorrow, we also may want to wait until tomorrow to have another night with our gods.
6. Like with Pharaoh seeing there was relief then changing his mind; we are prone to do the same once our circumstances get better.
7. Like with the stench of all the dead frogs, sometimes the consequences of our sin can linger on after the sin has been dealt with.
8. Like with every third plague coming without any warning; often times God may warn us, and other times he may not. Judgment comes.
9. Like with the Israelites being protected in Goshen, sometimes God will protect us as His people from what comes on the world.
10. Like with Moses' refusal of Pharaoh's compromise to meet him half way, we too should refuse to compromise, we don't have too!
11. Like with Pharaoh telling Moses to stay in Egypt and worship, so too does the enemy tell us to stay in and of the world to worship.
12. Like with Israel's sacrifice of a lamb to God being unacceptable to Egypt; Jesus the Lamb of God is not accepted by the world.
13. Like with Pharaoh telling Moses not to go too far in the wilderness, so too the world tells us not go too far in our worship of the Lord.
14. Like with Pharaoh continuing to harden his heart against God, costing him everything, so too are we likely to suffer the same fate.

**Proverbs 29:1** A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed--without remedy. NIV