

The First Three Plagues

Ex 7¹⁴ So the LORD said to Moses: “Pharaoh’s heart is hard; he refuses to let the people go.”¹⁵ Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river’s bank to meet him; and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand.¹⁶ And you shall say to him, ‘The LORD God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, “Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness”; but indeed, until now you would not hear!’¹⁷ Thus says the LORD: “By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood.”¹⁸ And the fish that are in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river.”¹⁹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in buckets of wood and pitchers of stone.’”²⁰ And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.²¹ The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.²² Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.²³ And Pharaoh turned and went into his house. Neither was his heart moved by this.²⁴ So all the Egyptians dug all around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the river.²⁵ And seven days passed after the LORD had struck the river.

⁸¹ 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.”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.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.”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.”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.

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 [or gnats] 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 [or gnats] on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice [or gnats] throughout all the land of Egypt.¹⁸ Now

the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice [or gnats], but they could not. So there were lice [or gnats] 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.

► The ten plagues fall into ____ groups of ____, leaving the tenth which stands alone. The plagues get progressively _____. The first three are all wrought by _____ stretching out his rod, the same rod that became a serpent and swallowed up all the serpent/rods of Pharaoh’s magicians. Plagues 4 – 9 will be wrought by the hand or staff of _____ or by the hand of the _____, and they will be worse.

► The first three plagues are really _____ plagues – they do not bring sickness, death, or destruction to the people, their crops or livestock. **1)** The open water turned to blood, but God left the subterranean water _____, so the people could _____ and get drinking water (7.24). The fish all died, but the people still had livestock to eat.

2) Frogs came up on the land and went everywhere, but they did not _____ or destroy. **3)** Lice went on man and beast (more likely biting _____ or something similar). They were a major pain, but they did not _____ or destroy.

► God is showing that he is lord and _____ over the earth – the _____, _____, and _____; Over all history, _____, and would-be-gods; And he is showing that he is the only _____.

1) God judges Pharaoh for polluting the Nile with the _____ of the baby boys of Israel. God also judges *Hapi*, the god of the overflowing of the _____, which was life itself to Egypt. What Egypt trusted in as the water of life, Pharaoh turned into the water of _____, and God judged him publicly, making the waters of death visible; And *Hapi* and the magicians couldn’t do a thing about it. **2)** God judges Pharaoh and the people, as well as *Hekhet*, the goddess of fertility, who had a woman’s body and a _____ head, and who controlled the frog population. But *Hekhet* and the magicians are powerless before the Lord. **3)** We can’t connect an Egyptian god to the 3rd plague, but none of the gods or the magicians, were able to _____ the insects or to even produce more, and they told Pharaoh, “This is the _____ of God” (8.19).

► These plagues also expose Pharaoh's _____, and thru him the nature of _____ fallen hearts left to themselves. No matter how much _____ God gives to Pharaoh, he suppresses it and hardens himself. "Hard(en)" translates two different Hebrew words, one of which means exactly that (7.22; 8.19), but the other one literally means "_____ " (7.14; 8.15). A heavy heart could be good or bad, depending on what is making it heavy. The same word is used of God's _____ – he is _____ with glory. As we serve God, we become _____ him, we take on his glory and heaviness, and we become people of _____. We become _____ instead of _____, which appears when _____ are sifted or tossed into the wind. True glory may lack a _____ profile, but it has true substance; False glory has a _____ profile, but lacks substance.

2Sam 22 ²⁶ "With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; ²⁷ With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd."

Ps 1 ⁴ The ungodly ... are like the chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

Amos 9 ⁹ "I ... will sift the house of Israel among all nations, as grain is sifted in a sieve; yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground."

Ex 8 ²² "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."

Dn 2 ³⁴ [Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar:] "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth" ... 6 ²⁷ [God to Belshazzar:] "You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting"

► God _____ the nations today, just as he did with ancient Egypt, and for the same reasons: To judge rulers and peoples and his own people; To expose the false _____ of nations and of his covenant people within them; And to reveal who has true substance from the likeness and glory of _____ resting upon them. But on the ground, it may _____ totally different from Egypt and the plagues of old.

Rv 11 ⁸ [T]he great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, [is] where also our Lord was crucified ... 16 ² So the first

angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people ... ³ The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea. ⁴ The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. ⁵ And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, "Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. ⁶ For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!" ... ¹⁰ The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness ... ¹² The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up ... ¹³ And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. ¹⁴ For they are demonic spirits

► When Christ shakes our land today, it is for the same reasons and purposes. We are to _____, _____, and _____ in hopes of God granting faith and repentance to all his covenant household and to all our nation.

Ez 16 ¹³ "You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty. ¹⁴ Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you," says the Lord God. ¹⁵ "But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it ... ²⁰ Moreover you took your sons and your daughters, whom you bore to Me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your acts of harlotry a small matter, ²¹ that you have slain My children and offered them up to them by causing them to pass through the fire? ²² And in all your abominations and acts of harlotry you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, struggling in your blood."

- Three tests: 1) What is America _____ in?
- 2) What _____ is America preaching?
- 3) How is America treating the _____?

- Three prayers: 1) That Jehu would dismantle Jezebel.
- 2) That God would transform Jehu into _____.
- 3) That God would _____ America, bestow his splendor upon her, and use her beauty to draw all _____ to him, so he can do the same for _____.