

## ***Frogs and Bugs***

Exodus 8:1-32

September 5, 2021

HDBC

**Man it is good** to be back preaching to here. As you may remember we are working our way through ***the Exodus*** which is the story of how God brought the Hebrew people out of Egyptian slavery and into the promised land. Last time, we looked at the first plague, which was water to blood. Now we are staring into the face of nine more plagues and it seems a bit daunting. I could preach one sermon on each plague, but I think it might be best to combine some of them. .

**So today**, let's talk about ***frogs and bugs***, plagues 2-4. In chapter 8. Before we get to them, this might be a good time to share some **general observations about the plagues**.

**1) These plagues are called *signs and wonders*.**

The point of the plagues was to show the people that God was the only God.

**2) They increased in severity.**

From those things that were a nuisance but manageable, to things that were painful and harmful to things that actually caused death.

**3) There is an interesting pattern revealed**

1<sup>st</sup> – Moses was to meet Pharaoh in the morning

2<sup>nd</sup> – Moses was to go to Pharaoh, assume that means to his palace

3<sup>rd</sup> – There is no announcement or warning.

This repeats for 4-7 and then again for 8-9. Kept Pharaoh guessing.

**1. Frogs (1-15)**

This seems like a rather innocent plague. Frogs are not dangerous. No threat. But note a few details that are shared.

**1) They were everyone. (3-6)**

Inside and outside. Found in every room of the house. In beds, pantries, bread bowls. When you sat down you sat on frogs. When you walked you stepped on frogs. When you tried to sleep you felt frogs in your bed. The sound of a few frogs croaking in the evening is ok, but imagine thousands in your own yard & home

## 2) **The magicians could also make frogs appear (7)**

Once again the magicians were able to mimic. Reminded of the power of Satan. But note once more that they could only add to God's judgment, they could not take it away. That would have been something!

## 3) **Pharaoh is beginning to know who God is (8)**

Notice verse 8. Previously Pharaoh had asked the question, *who is this God?* Now, he calls him by his name, **the Lord**. He's learning.

## 4) **Death of the frogs would point to the exclusive nature of God (10)**

This was important, because Pharaoh would have been tempted to believe that God was just another god that he had not heard of and add him to his list of gods. That would be a mistake.

## 5) **Dead frogs will stink up the land (13-14)**

They did not simply disappear or all hop into the Nile. They suddenly died, leaving millions of dead carcasses everywhere. The judgment of God leaves a lingering legacy. It doesn't just come and go, then is forgotten. Its impact lingers.

## 6) **This was an attack on their idolatry**

The Egyptians worshipped the god, Heka, who was depicted as a frog-headed goddess. This meant the frog was sacred in Egypt and could not be killed. So, there was nothing they could do. It's as if God is saying, ***you want to worship a frog, here you go!*** When they died, that was a signal that the frog god was also a dead god.

## 2. **Gnats (16-19)**

The word describes a ***biting, stinging insect that penetrates***. The word can also refer to mosquitos. How horrible would this be. Some even suggest that the best translation of this Hebrew word is ***lice***. That would certainly fit with the description we have. Imagine this. It would be horrible.

### 1) **There was no announcement to Pharaoh**

Pharaoh is given no warning. But he will quickly figure out the source.

### 2) **The source was the dust of the ground**

Dust was plentiful and available. It was unwanted but not dangerous. That suddenly changed. **Imagine all dust in your house becoming lice.**

### 3) They attacked man and beasts (17)

Cattle and farm animals were also driven crazy.

### 4) The magicians were unable to do so (18-19)

They acknowledged that this was the finger of God. Not Pharaoh.

**The Egyptians worshipped Geb**, who was considered the earth God. Once again, God was strategic in His actions. The fact that these bugs were formed from the dust of the earth was an attack on their false god.

## 3. Insects (20-32)

Some translations use the word **flies**. The Hebrew word for **swarm** means *mixture*. Speaks not only of a great number but in this case possibly of a variety of flying insects. Flying beetles, spiders, fleas, flies, ticks, etc. Some scholars believe these could have referred to the **sacred beetle or scarab**, as they are known in Egypt. They were sacred to the sun-god Ra.

### 1) Conditional demand (20-21)

Let the people go or I will bring insects upon the land. Pharaoh had a chance to bring an end to the plagues. God was clearly putting the blame squarely on Pharaoh's shoulders.

### 2) The Hebrews are divinely protected (22-23)

For the first time God makes a distinction between the Hebrews and Egyptians. He protects his own people with an invisible shield. This distinction would be obvious to both groups of people. That would lay to rest any ideas of these being naturally caused.

### 3) Pharaoh tried to negotiate with God (25-29)

He is done. It's time to bring an end to these calamities.

He offered to let them go & worship, but not leave the land. Moses countered and he said he would allow them to leave the land, but not go far. He was still trying to be in control. Don't try to negotiate with God.

### 4) Pharaoh asked Moses to pray for him (28)

I find this so fascinating. Note the wording. He does not ask Moses to pray for the Egyptians, but for him. That was an incredibly humbling thing to ask, but also a selfish thing to ask. After the frogs, the gnats and now these insects, he was ready to concede.

**Even the most** selfish and evil people will sometimes ask for prayer when they are in enough trouble. I've had all kinds of sinful, selfish people ask me to pray for them. I've had people living in obvious sin, ask me to pray for God to bless them. Incredible. I have agreed to do so, but what I prayed for them might not have been what they wanted me to pray.

### **5) Pharaoh hardened his heart after relief came (32)**

Indication of an unconverted heart. He wanted relief but did not want to serve God. I've experienced this often in my ministry as well. I've seen God bring relief and even blessing to people only to see them walk away from God & continue in their sin. How that must grieve the heart of God.

## **Takeaways**

### **1) God judges sin**

Pharaoh was an evil man who was shaking his finger in the face of God. He was rejecting the overtures of the Creator, essentially challenging God. He was evil, sinful and selfish. This brought upon himself the judgment of God.

**It may not** be popular to say it but it is true. God judges sin . . . all sin. Pharaoh struggled with the fact that God was judging him. God would not turn a blind eye to his sin. That's one of the reasons many people don't like God today. They don't like the fact that God will judge them for their sin. **By the way most people are not really opposed to a god who judges evil and sin, they just don't want Him judging them. They all are for Him judging people they deem to be evil. Mass murderers, rapists, child-killers, terrorists, etc.**

**He will not** turn a blind eye to their sin, and so they reject Him, despise Him, rebel against Him. That should grieve us, not because we are concerned for God's feelings, but because of our love those people. They will come under the judgment of God. Their only hope is the gospel. Only faith in Jesus will enable them to escape judgment.

### **2) God destroys false gods**

The Egyptians had all kinds of gods that they worshipped. They cried out to them. They depended on them. They yielded to them. But none were real. The very attitudes and actions they had toward those false gods were the very things they were unwilling to do for the true God. Therefore, God was

willing to destroy those false gods in an attempt to open the eyes of the people and show them that He alone is God. This is an act of grace!

**By the way** the Egyptians believed Pharaoh was a god. They believed he had the power to maintain order in the cosmos, to keep things going along as they always have. These plagues were a growing demonstration to the people that Pharaoh had no such power and therefore could not be god.

### 3) **We were made for God's pleasure**

Don't miss an important statement made in verse 20. ***Let my people go that they may serve me.*** This was not only a demand of Pharaoh but also revealed the destiny of the Hebrew people. They were made to serve God. This service was not anything like their service to Pharaoh as slaves. This service would be one that **would bring joy, fulfillment and contentment**. It would include being members of God's own family, enjoying His provisions, experiencing His love, living in His grace.

**They were** made to serve God and so are we. It is our purpose. To unbelievers, this is hard to grasp. That one could find joy and fulfillment in serving God is unthinkable. But when we realize that serving Him is the fulfillment of our purpose then it begins to make more sense.

### 4) **God makes distinctions**

Beginning with the fourth plague, God repeatedly demonstrates that He makes a distinction between those who are His people and those who are not. The Hebrews would not be judged with the Egyptians. Why? They were His people. Repeatedly He affirmed that they were His people. ***Let my people go.*** God said He would put a ***division between my people and your people.*** (23)

**What made them His people?** They were not really all that different from the Egyptians. They were sinners. They struggled to trust God. But they were His people. Why? Grace. He graciously chose them.

**What was true** on a national scale during the exodus is true on an individual scale today. In a spiritual sense, right now, everyone is either part of God's family or not. Each person is in one camp or the other. That distinction is seen throughout the Bible. **Sheep & goats. Weeping and feasting. Light and darkness. Joy and misery. Blessing and condemnation. Heaven and Hell.**

**It may** be difficult to see where a person is. May even seem like it doesn't matter. But when a person dies, that distinction will be crystal clear and the eternal destiny will be fixed.

**At death**, there is a clear distinction in what happens to a person. Some enter into the judgment of God because they are not His people. Others enter into the joy of Heaven because they are God's people. How can you become God's person? Place faith in Jesus. Trust Him. Follow Him. Yield to Him. Believe in Him.

I had a closing thought when preparing this message. As I wrapped it up my mind went back to the title, ***frogs and bugs***. Ugly, or at least not attractive. Bugs, whether they be flies, lice, fleas, mosquitos or beetles. Definitely not appealing. But all of these were originally created with beauty, dignity and worth.

And they were all created for God's glory and our pleasure. It was sin that turned them into what they are today. One day, God will redeem all of His creation. Frogs and bugs will be wonderful, beautiful creatures found in the new Heaven and on the new earth for us to enjoy, as they point to the greatness of God.

Wouldn't you like to see what that world is like? Wouldn't you like to enjoy that? In Christ, you can. But you must decide in this life. You can decide now.