

Real World Skit

Two students discuss natural explanations for the plagues of Egypt.

Student 1: I watched this show on TV last night that explained all the science behind the plagues of Egypt.

Student 2: What do you mean by “the science” behind the plagues? The plagues were miraculous judgments from God on Pharaoh and his people.

Student 1: No, you see, they weren’t really miracles! Everything can be explained by natural disasters and stuff.

Student 2: Natural disasters?

Student 1: Yeah. It all started with warm, dry weather that caused the Nile River to run low and slow. Then red algae mixed with red dirt, and this made the Nile River turn red like blood, forming killer bacteria. That’s what killed the fish!

Student 2: How did they prove that’s what happened? Have they ever seen or found evidence of a “red algae” or this “killer bacteria” in the Nile? I heard that the algae in the Nile River is actually green and non-toxic and the silt is brown!

Student 1: Ah, well . . . they didn’t say exactly. But they’re scientists, right?

Student 2: It doesn’t sound very convincing to me.

Student 1: But the problems with the river made the frogs leave the water. When they came up on land and died, they caused the gnats and flies.

Student 2: All from some red algae?

Student 1: Yep! And we all know that insects carry disease and stuff, so the gnats and flies infected the livestock, making them get sick and die. And they caused boils on the people, too.

Student 2: Hmm. Would this “killer bacteria” have the same effect on frogs, insects, and big animals like cows and horses? Why would it kill cows but only give boils to humans?

Student 1: Uh . . .not sure about that. But wait until you hear the next part though! This is cool!

Student 2: What’s that?

Student 1: There was a huge volcano 400 miles away on some island in the Mediterranean, and it blew volcanic ash over Egypt. The ash mixed with thunderclouds, causing a terrible hailstorm. A biologist also said that the ash could cause humidity, which is the perfect condition for locusts to thrive. The ash cloud blocked the sun, causing the plague of darkness.

Student 2: A lot of those explanations are pretty shaky. The volcano they are talking about also happened at a time later than biblical scholars believe the plagues in Exodus actually occurred. They sound like people searching for reasons not to believe the Bible.

Student 1: But we can't argue with science!

Student 2: Yes, we can—when it goes against what the Bible says. The show you saw was just giving “theories” that *could* explain events like the plagues. They didn't prove anything.

Student 1: But they showed everything that happened. It was right there on TV. Isn't that proof?

Student 2: Wait a minute. How could they show something that happened thousands of years ago on TV? That was all computerized stuff that they made up for the show.

Student 1: Oh, yeah. I guess you're right. It seemed to make sense when I was watching it.

Student 2: Man's ideas can seem to make sense, until we compare them with the Bible. The Bible makes it clear that the ten plagues were supernatural acts of God, which he predicted BEFORE they happened. God sent the plagues to show the Egyptians that he—not their false gods—controlled all of creation.

Student 1: Come to think of it, if they were just natural disasters like algae or a volcano, that probably wouldn't make Pharaoh see that God was who he claimed to be and let the Israelites go.

Student 2: That's right. And the Bible clearly explains what caused all the plagues—the mighty hand of God! Who would you rather believe—God who does not lie or scientists who can make mistakes?

Student 1: God, of course! I can't believe I was fooled by a fancy TV show.

Student 2: It can happen to anyone, which is why it's so important to always be studying the Bible, so we know what it says.

Student 1: Yeah. I guess I need to do some more reading!