

]Good Evening, Arising Church,

Tonight marks our 10th week in the book of Exodus. And today marks 637 days since we started foundations with Romans. We have loved every week of our time together, and what is clear to us is that our own increase in study of the word is also happening in all of you!

Tonight, we will cover all of chapter 8, which means that we will be covering the second plague through the fourth. We will begin our text with the 2nd plague, in which you will see a warning from God. Then, in the 3rd, where there will be no warning. Then we will cover the 4th plague, in which there will be a morning warning from God as we spoke about last week. We will also see in the fourth plague that it is the first one mentioned with Israel being spared from the effects of the plague.

As we begin, you should be familiar with this slide:

**(DO NOT READ)**

PLAGUES: OVERVIEW				
	PLAGUE	VERSES	WARNING	DISTINCTION
1.	WATER TO BLOOD	Ex 7:14-25	warning	not stated
2.	FROGS	Ex 8:1-5	warning	not stated
3.	GNATS	Ex 8:16-19	no warning	not stated
4.	FLIES	Ex 8:20-32	warning	Israel
5.	LIVESTOCK	Ex 9:1-7	warning	Israel
6.	BOILS	Ex 9:9-12	no warning	not stated
7.	HAIL	Ex 9:13-35	warning	Those who heed warning
8.	LOCUSTS	Ex 10:1-20	warning	not stated
9.	DARKNESS	Ex 10:21-39	no warning	Israel
10.	DEATH OF THE FIRST BORN	Ex 12:29-32	warning	those who put blood on the door

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Last week, we took the time to provide an overview of the 10 plagues, and then we covered the first plague in our closing. On this slide, you can see that the 1st nine plagues can be grouped in threes according to the pattern of warnings given by God to Pharaoh. The pattern follows as warning in the morning, followed by another warning, and then, no warning.

On the next slide, you will see the plagues in another light.

**(DO NOT READ)**



In our groupings of threes, you can see that each grouping affected a different level of the well-being of the Egyptian nation. The first three primarily affected the comfort of the nation, while the middle three escalated into affecting their possessions. The last grouping of three escalates again and the Egyptians begin to lose their lives.

The 10th plague is not on this slide, as it stands out on its own and falls into a category all by itself.

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Next, notice that there is an escalation in the severity of the plagues as they progress. Tonight, we will cover the 2nd through the 4th plagues, as highlighted on this slide. You will see an escalation in the way God takes the initiative, as well as the way Pharaoh responds to the plagues.

On this next slide, the overview of the plagues continues.

**(DO NOT READ)**

PATTERN OF THE PLAGUES: EXODUS TO REVELATION		
	Exodus Plagues	Revelation Plagues
1.	Nile to blood	Rev 8:8-9-Sea to blood Rev 16:3 - Sea to blood Rev 16:4 - Rivers & Springs to blood
2.	Frogs	Rev 16:12-14- Unclean spirits like frogs
3.	Gnats	Joel 1:4/Rev 11:3-6 - Swarming insects & all kinds of plagues
4.	Flies	Joel 1:4/Rev 11:3-6 - Swarming insects & all kinds of plagues
5.	Livestock	Rev 18:8-13 - Plague on cattle
6.	Boils	Rev 16:2 - Malignant sores
7.	Hail & Fire	Rev 16:18- Lightning, thunder, earthquake, hailstones
8.	Locusts	Rev 9:3-4 - Locusts like horses
9.	Darkness	Rev 16:10 - Beast's kingdom plunged into darkness
10.	Firstborn	Rev 1-21

As you can see on this slide, the plagues that are in the book of Exodus are expanded and magnified in the book of Revelation.

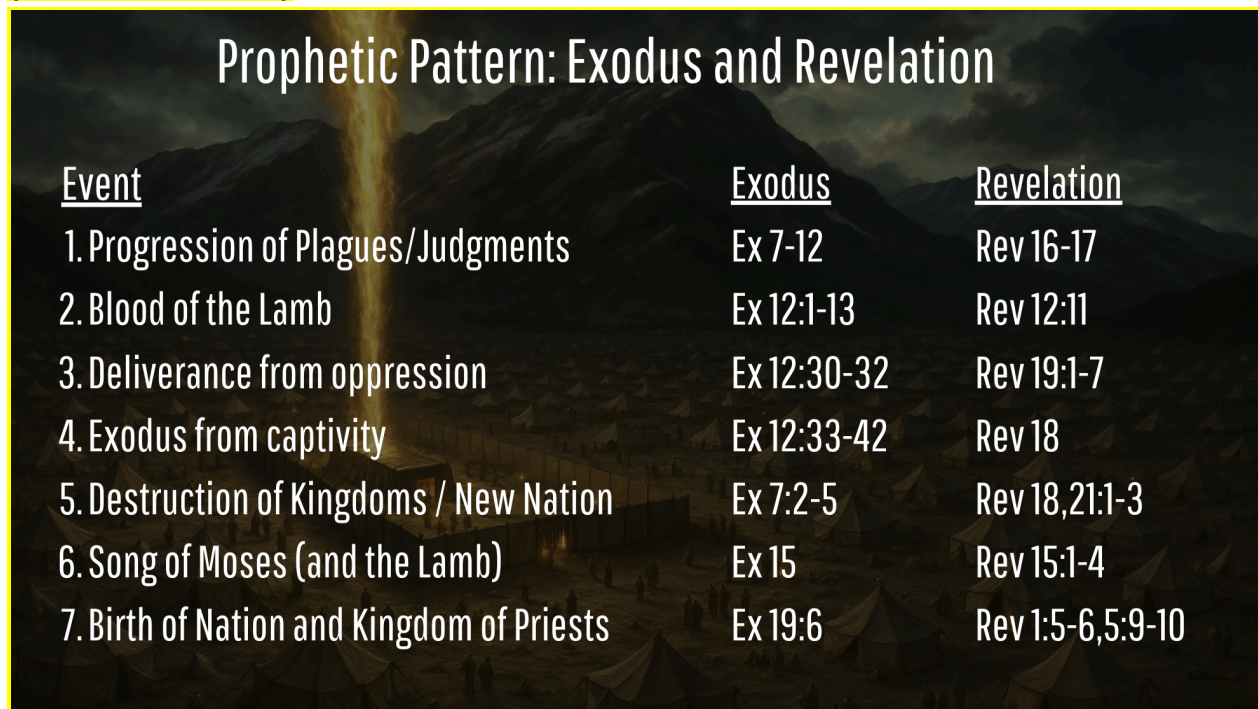
The Book of Exodus is the key to understanding the Book of Revelation! Revelation is not a book filled with new concepts and ideas. Rather, it consistently draws on imagery and patterns that were planted in the Tanakh, and as we are seeing in our study of Exodus, many of those seeds are planted in these early chapters. It's almost like for every verse in Revelation, there are a multitude of passages and connections from the Older Testament!

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This should increase your understanding of the foundational importance of the Older Testament and your longing to understand the Torah as the preeminent revelation from which all other revelations are built.

On the next slide, you will see the patterns established in Exodus that are repeated in Revelation.

**(DO NOT READ)**



<u>Event</u>	<u>Exodus</u>	<u>Revelation</u>
1. Progression of Plagues/Judgments	Ex 7-12	Rev 16-17
2. Blood of the Lamb	Ex 12:1-13	Rev 12:11
3. Deliverance from oppression	Ex 12:30-32	Rev 19:1-7
4. Exodus from captivity	Ex 12:33-42	Rev 18
5. Destruction of Kingdoms / New Nation	Ex 7:2-5	Rev 18,21:1-3
6. Song of Moses (and the Lamb)	Ex 15	Rev 15:1-4
7. Birth of Nation and Kingdom of Priests	Ex 19:6	Rev 1:5-6,5:9-10

You can see on this slide that the overall pattern of the book of Exodus helps you understand the events as they are being played out in the Book of Revelation.

When you read about a **beast** in the Book of Revelation that is given power to blaspheme God and perform counterfeit miracles, it is not hard to understand that this beast will be like Egypt.

When you read about an **Antichrist** figure in the Book of Revelation, it is not hard to see that this figure will be like Pharaoh in many ways!



When you read about a **Dragon** that is opposed to the people of God but finds its ultimate downfall in the Book of Revelation, it is not hard to see that this was already projected in the 2nd book of the Bible, Exodus.

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This next slide is one you'll want to remember because it depicts the ongoing struggle between God and an ancient serpent that has been ongoing for millennia.

### (DO NOT READ)

DRAGON WAR	
<b>Genesis 3:15</b>	In the beginning of the Bible a conflict between a serpent and God's creation.
<b>Isaiah 51:9-10</b>	God was in conflict with a dragon in days of old.
<b>Psalms 74:14</b>	God crushed the heads of Leviathan in an age-old conflict.
<b>Psalms 89:9-10</b>	God is presented as ruling over the raging seas and crushing Rahab or being in conflict with Rahab in the past.
<b>Isaiah 27:1</b>	God will defeat Leviathan and the dragon in the future.
<b>Rev 12:16-17</b>	There is a dragon that is making war against the people of God and ultimately God himself.
<b>Rev 13:4-5</b>	The dragon gives authority to gentile nations to blaspheme God.
<b>Rev 13:11-14</b>	The same dragon gives authority to gentile nations to work miracles and to deceive people.
<b>Rev 20:2-3</b>	The dragon is seized. The serpent, dragon, devil, and Satan are all revealed as the same entity throughout the biblical narrative.
<b>Rev 21:1</b>	The dragon is done away with in the chaotic seas and the chaotic seas cease.

The Book of Exodus highlights the ongoing war between God and an ancient dragon that will find its fulfillment in the Book of Revelation. You will remember the importance of the event where Aaron's staff turns into a "Tanniyn" or a "Dragon" and swallows up the staffs of Pharaoh's cronies as a sign to Pharaoh of who is in control and who wields the true power over the Dragon.

This exchange between Moses, Aaron, and Pharaoh was both symbolic and deeply informative for Pharaoh, as it was presented in a way he could grasp—signaling that his reign and dominion were on the brink of collapse.

At the same time, it is highly instructive for us as readers, encapsulating the core message of the entire Bible within just a few chapters.

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Aaron's staff was shown to Israel as a snake but to Egypt as a dragon, just as Satan is revealed as a serpent in the Garden of Eden and then revealed to the world as a Dragon in Revelation. Furthermore, Israel was given a sign of redemption over the snake, just as Jesus gives the believing community redemption over the effects of Satan. Egypt was given a sign of destruction through a Dragon, just as the world will experience destruction from the works of the Dragon in Revelation.

On the next slide, recall that we covered the themes of creation and de-creation throughout the plagues.

### (DO NOT READ)

CREATION VS. DE-CREATION			
CREATION DAY	CREATION DESCRIPTION	PLAGUE ON EGYPT	PLAGUE DESCRIPTION
<b>Day 1</b> Gen 1:1-5	Light created out of darkness	<b>Plague 9</b> Ex 10:21-29	Darkness prevailing over light
<b>Day 2</b> Gen 1:6-8	Ordering and separation of the waters	<b>Plague 1</b> Ex 7:15-25	Chaos and destruction brought by the changing of water into blood
<b>Day 3</b> Gen 1:9-13	Appearance of dry land and creation of vegetation	<b>Plagues 7-8</b> Ex 9:18-10:20	Destruction of vegetation by hail and locusts
<b>Day 4</b> Gen 1:14-19	Creation of luminaries	<b>Plague 9</b> Ex 10:21-29	Darkening of luminaries
<b>Day 5</b> Gen 1:20-23	Creation of birds, fish, and swarming creatures in the sea	<b>Plagues 1-2</b> Ex 7:15-8:15	Death of fish; multiplication and death of frogs
<b>Day 6</b> Gen 1:24-31	Creation of land animals and humans	<b>Plagues 3-4:</b> Ex 8:16-24 <b>Plague 5:</b> Ex 9:1-7 <b>Plague 6:</b> Ex 9:8-17 <b>Plague 10:</b> Ex 11-12	Pestilence of insects; anthrax; boils on beasts and humans; destruction of firstborn

*Currid, J. D. (1997). Ancient Egypt and the Old Testament (p. 115). Baker Books.*

We taught from the order of the creation in the Book of Genesis that God intentionally designed the plagues to reverse and disrupt every area of creation as an act of "de-creating" that brought about chaos into the Egyptian society.

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Given that Pharaoh was supposed to have the "status" of a divine being, the task of maintaining order and preventing the creation from degenerating into chaos was expected of him.

The de-creation of the natural order of creation to miraculously judge Egypt was intended by God to humble and strip Pharaoh of any assumed divinity and majesty before the entire nation and teach the entire world to "know" who God was.

You will see in our chapter tonight that God is working perfectly behind the scenes, like a grandmaster chess player, to maneuver every piece of time, spoken word, and circumstance to give Pharaoh a clear revelation of his own heart and to allow maximum opportunity to repent, even though the Lord knows he won't.

By this time, you should be aware of the fact that God desired to make a distinction between Israel and Egypt in order to demonstrate his power and might to the world. On the next slide, you will be reminded of how God does this throughout the book of Exodus through his actions toward Israel, which are the antithesis of what he does to Egypt.

**(DO NOT READ)**

## ANTITHESIS: EGYPT VS. ISRAEL

	Plagues on Egypt	Antithesis (Israel)
1	Blood makes water undrinkable (Ex 7:21)	Rock provides drinkable water (Ex 17:6)
2	Wild creatures destroy (Ex 8)	Serpent saves (Num 21:9)
3	Livestock killed (Ex 9:6)	God brings forth quail for food (Ex 16:13)
4	Hail & fire rains down to destroy crops (Ex 9:23-25)	Manna rains down from heaven to provide food (Ex 16:14-15)
5	Captives of darkness (Ex 10:21-23)	Delivered from captivity by pillar of fire (Ex 13:21-22)
6	Firstborn killed (Ex 12:29-30)	Firstborn redeemed (Ex 13:1-2)
7	Drowned in Red Sea (Ex 14:27-28)	Delivered through the Red Sea (Ex 14:29-31)

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Tonight in our text, you will see the distinction that God creates between Israel and Egypt firsthand.

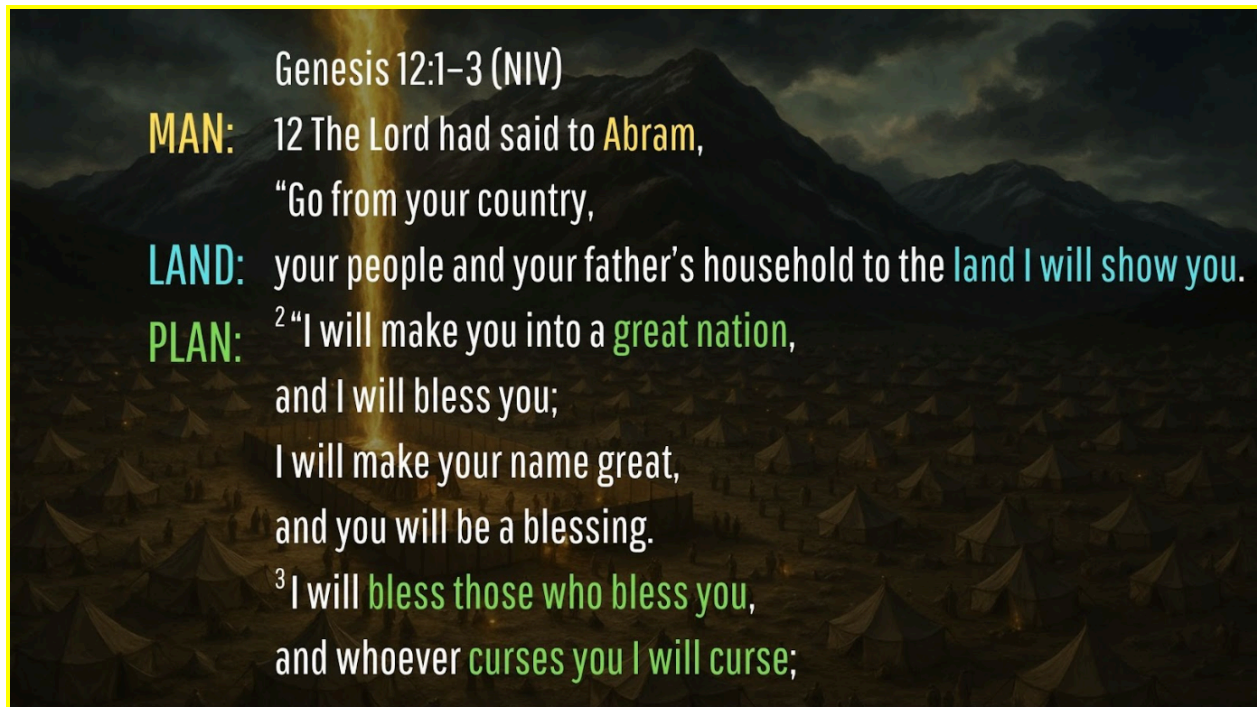
In our studies, we have explored in depth how the conflict between Egypt and Israel is actually the outworking of a greater spiritual battle—one between malignant heavenly powers and Adonai. The peoples in the Book of Exodus serve as earthly proxies in this much larger cosmic conflict.

The nation of Israel is bearing the brunt of the attack in the Satanic attempt to discredit Adonai, but Adonai is going to overcome by redeeming his people while judging the Egyptians.

The offense against Adonai's character is a direct attack on what He holds most dear: His covenant with Abraham—the very foundation of His relationship with Israel. Take a look at this next slide...

**(READ SLIDE)**





The attack on Adonai and his people from the lesser gods and the nations that they represent is aimed at one thing: to disrupt, destroy, and defame God's name by removing his ability to keep his promise to Abraham.

You must remember that this promise was a perpetual one, not based on the conditions or merit of Abraham and his descendants, but instead on the merit of God's covenant-keeping power.

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The enemies of God cannot harm Adonai himself, so they attempt to disparage His character by destroying the people of God and restraining them from doing what God has called them to do.

In our text tonight, you are going to see God's response to these attempts escalate because of what God said in Exodus 6:4 "I also established my covenant with **them** (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. 5 Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant."

God's actions in the Book of Exodus are a result of His commitment to keep His word to Abraham, even from beyond the grave. When the resurrection comes, Abraham will return to a world where the covenant originally promised to him is fully realized.

Before we jump into our text tonight, it is worth reading one more passage as it relates to the attempts of malignant forces to attack Adonai and his people...

- **Psalm 83:2–4 (ESV)**

2 For behold, **your** enemies make an uproar; those who hate **you** have raised their heads.

3 They lay crafty plans against your people; they consult together against your **treasured ones.**

4 They say, “Come, let us wipe **them out as a nation**; let the **name of Israel be remembered no more!**”

&

16 Fill their faces with shame, that **they may seek your name, O LORD.**

17 Let them be put to shame and dismayed forever; let them perish in disgrace,

18 that they may **know that you alone**, whose name is the LORD, are the **Most High** over all the earth.

Tonight, we are going to see the intimate details of how God reveals Himself to an obstinate Egyptian nation.

Let's pray and get into our text.

Read & Pray

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Since there are no chapter breaks in the original text, we will read the last verse of Chapter 7 and then proceed to Chapter 8.

**Exodus 7:25 (NIVUK84)**

## 25 Seven days passed after the LORD struck the Nile.

After the plague of turning the Nile into blood, notice that 7 days pass before the next event occurs. For most of you in this room, you should be familiar with the number 7, as it is used repeatedly in the Bible. To refresh your memory, God often uses the number 7 to convey the idea of completion or perfection.

To show you this briefly, take a look at this next slide.

**(READ SLIDE)**

A PERFECT 7 DAYS	
Gen 2:1-3	The heavens and the earth finished on the 7 <sup>th</sup> day, God blesses the 7 <sup>th</sup> day and makes it holy.
Gen 7:7-10	God shuts the doors of the ark, and the floodwaters come on the earth after the 7 <sup>th</sup> day.
Ex 12:18-19	At the inauguration of the feast of unleavened bread, it is prescribed that no yeast is to be found in an Israelites house for 7 days.
Ex 29:36-37	When the altar at the tabernacle was set up, it was to be consecrated for a perfect 7 days, making it most holy.
Lev 8:33-35	Aaron and his son's ordination was to be completed by remaining at the tent of meeting for 7 days.
Lev 23:41-43	The Israelites celebrated the feast of Sukkot by dwelling in booths for 7 days.
Num 19:11-16	Someone who had become unclean as a result of a dead body was able to be considered clean after ritual washing and completing 7 days of isolation.

This may seem like a minor detail in our text tonight. Still, when you consider the connotations associated with 7 days, you come away with the idea that God waited a perfect amount of time for the plague of blood to have its effect on the Egyptians.

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God, in His wisdom, knew the right amount of time to allow Pharaoh and His people to consider the consequences of their rebellion and the right amount of time that would elicit a response.

Rather than immediately sending the next plague, God was merciful to the Egyptians by **giving them time to repent!** What you will notice in the next verse is that there is no response from Pharaoh at all! After seeing every source of water in Egypt turn to blood, Pharaoh had seven days to consider the outcome of his rebellion and chose to ignore God, Moses, and Aaron.

As we pick up in the next verse, look at how God chooses to initiate in the absence of Pharaoh's response.

### **Exodus 8:1–32 (NIVUK84)**

**1 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.**

In the absence of any response from Pharaoh, God is being merciful to him by sending Moses and Aaron to deliver a warning of the next plague.

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Again, this is the mercy of Adonai to warn him by giving him a chance to relent before the plague actually occurs. How many of you would like to know the consequences of your sin *before* you sin?

We have already covered in great detail how God knew in advance that Pharaoh was going to harden his heart and that God was going to help him do it, but now you should be able to see the process by which this is happening.

Up to this point, God has been very merciful to Pharaoh by sending Moses and Aaron to him to warn him, petition him, and make requests instead of demands. Now, after giving Pharaoh the perfect amount of time to consider the outcome of his actions, God sends Moses and Aaron to him with a warning.

This warning should not be necessary since Pharaoh already knows what God wants, but God is choosing to be patient to make a point. God wanted



to show that although He could judge Pharaoh immediately, He bearing with Pharaoh, giving him enough room to judge himself...

Take a look at this passage before we move on—

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- **Romans 9:16–22 (NIVUK84)**

17 For the Scripture says to **Pharaoh**: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”

18 Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

19 One of you will say to me: “**Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?**”

20 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’”

21 Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

22 What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, **bore with great patience** the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction?

Paul reflects on the interactions between God and Pharaoh, noting that although God raised him up as the head of a nation for a very specific purpose, God also dealt with him patiently and gave Pharaoh room to make his own choices.

The patience that God displayed toward Pharaoh was intended to bring God the maximum amount of glory through him. Remember, God could have judged him immediately, but instead wanted to give him the ability to consider his actions, so that if or when he chooses to disobey, it is abundantly clear that God is right in His judgment and this is Pharaoh's choice.

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The point is that if you are experiencing the patience of God instead of deserved consequences, then you should repent and repent immediately. God's patience will either be a glorious opportunity to partake in the blessing of repentance, or it will increase in more judgment if you do not respond.

Another plague is coming upon Egypt because Pharaoh failed to respond, which will bring another opportunity to repent, **if** Pharaoh chooses wisely.

**2 If you refuse to let them go, I will plague your whole country with frogs.**

**3 The Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs.**

**4 The frogs will go up on you and your people and all your officials.' ”**

Notice that in God's warning to Pharaoh, he says, **"if"** you refuse.... Not **"when"**.... He also provides him with great detail about where the frogs will appear, which is another way God is merciful by laying out the consequences in advance.

Again, this cannot be seen as anything other than God giving him another chance to consider what the outcome of his rebellion would cause. If that is the case, then Pharaoh would have actually had the option to humble himself.... If he wanted to.

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Another note worth considering is that there is no mention of the Nile turning back into water. Now, there is no way to prove that it remained full of blood, but as we continue, you will notice that in some of the upcoming plagues, the cessation of those plagues is specifically mentioned, usually because Pharaoh is showing remorse.

We cannot say for sure that the Nile remained blood, but we also cannot say for sure that it didn't. Therefore, it is worth considering that since there is no response from Pharaoh to the plague, there may be no relief.

Lastly, before we move forward, you should be aware that verse 2 states that God "Will plague the whole country with frogs." This phrase in Hebrew is actually "I will injure the whole country with frogs".

**5 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your staff over the streams and canals and ponds, and make frogs 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.**

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The concept of injuring the country with frogs is difficult to imagine given the extent of most people's experience with these little amphibians. But we want to help paint a picture for you of what might be developing in the land of Egypt as this plague unfolds:



This slide is meant to remind you of some of the pertinent details about the plague. As we progress through all the plagues we hope that the reality of what God did to Egypt would become more real to you than in times past.

- These frogs could be coming from the Nile River, which was still full of Blood, and they trailed blood with them wherever they went.
- There is a species of frog in Egypt that exists today that grows up to be 4 1/2 inches long, so these could be a lot larger than your typical tree frog.
- Upon researching the mating practices of frogs, we found that they are among the most disgusting animals on the planet during reproduction. Although frogs are typically slimy creatures, it is 10x worse during "copulation" :) .
- Another possibility we considered is that the frogs would have been breeding and dying at an alarming rate, which could have caused pestilence due to the carcasses being left everywhere.

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Whether it is the blood the frogs are trailing in from the Nile, the size of the frog, secretions from amphibious mating practices, or dead frogs polluting bodies of water, one can only imagine the oppressive nature of this ordeal, considering that frogs were found in palaces, bedrooms, beds, ovens, and kneading troughs.

There would have been no area of everyday life that was not affected by these nasty, slimy creatures.

For additional reference, take a look at what Josephus had to say about this event.

**(READ SLIDE)**



## PATTERN OF THE PLAGUES: DESTROYING FROGS



An innumerable multitude of frogs consumed the fruit of the ground; the river was also full of them, insomuch that those who drew water had it spoiled by the blood of these animals, as they died in, and were destroyed by, the water; and the country was full of filthy slime, as they were born, and as they died: they also spoiled their vessels in their houses which they used, and were found among what they eat and what they drank, and came in great numbers upon their beds. There was also an ungrateful smell, and a stink arose from them, as they were born, and as they died therein. Now, when the Egyptians were under the oppression of these miseries, the king ordered Moses to take the Hebrews with him and be gone.

*§61 [2.61] Josephus: Antiquities of the Jews*

Now, if that is not enough, we've found a video for you that shows what this might have been like, but on a much smaller scale.



You can imagine how devastating this plague could have been if the entire land had been covered in frogs like you just saw. Imagine that scene taking over your bedroom!

While it is fun to speculate on all of the possibilities of what this would have looked like, we think that it is important to catch what our inspired Israeli commentator had to say about this plague.

- **Psalm 78:45 (LSB)**

45 He sent among them swarms of flies which devoured them,  
And frogs which **destroyed** them.

Whatever was happening to these frogs, the writer of Psalm 78 mentions that these frogs destroyed them.

With that said, it is not hard to imagine the impact that these bloody, slimy, and dying creatures had on the nation... Remember, they climbed into their kneading bowls, which would have contaminated their food; they were coming from the canals, streams, and ponds, so that the water supplies would have been affected as well.

**7 But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.**

**8 Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Pray to the LORD to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD.”**

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First of all, we think it is hilarious that the magicians decided to bring more frogs onto the land when frogs were already the issue. We have to imagine that Pharaoh was not too thrilled with their attempts this time.

With that said, notice how the magicians were able to make frogs "come up", but they were not able to make them go away. Pharaoh had to beg Moses and Aaron to pray for him and his people.

This is the case with any counterfeit miracle that the enemy employs to deceive people. They do have power, but their power is limited. If we were to put it another way, they do have the power to make the situation worse, but they do not have the power to actually solve the issue...

While this is certainly true of these magicians, the same could be said about:

- Psychologists or "Christian Psychologists"
- Therapists
- Marriage coaches
- Self-help books.
- Prosperity Televangelists.

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All of these things have a semblance of something good, or they have loose hints of truth at their disposal, but they do not have the power to actually challenge sin in your life and lead you to restoration.

Pharaoh's magicians had limited power, but only to exacerbate the situation or intensify the judgment. They looked like they could do the same things, but it was only Adonai who had the power to free the nation from the plagues.

The most interesting thing happening here is that while the plague of blood did not cause Pharaoh to respond, the plague of frogs did.

Whatever these frogs were doing and wherever they did it, it was bad enough to get Pharaoh to respond in a way that seems at least a little bit remorseful....

This is the first time in our text that Pharaoh appears to be humbling himself... What is essential to know is that he is saying all the right things, but his actions will reveal that this is a lie, which should be very informative about the deceitfulness of his heart at this point.

- **2 Corinthians 7:10–11 (NIVUK84)**

10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

11 See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

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Notice that both Godly sorrow and worldly sorrow look the same in the beginning, regret, initial signs of repentance, but have vastly different outcomes in the end.

Both are actually demonstrating sorrow, but Godly sorrow produces a desire in you that results in actions being performed. Worldly sorrow does nothing, and in the end, its only results are regret and death.

Pharaoh is exhibiting a kind of sorrow, but his actions will quickly reveal which kind it is.

**9 Moses said to Pharaoh, “I leave to you the honor of setting the time for me to pray for you and your officials and your people that you and your houses may be rid of the frogs, except for those that remain in the Nile.”**

This is a very peculiar response that Moses gives to Pharaoh, and we spent some time wondering about the tone that Moses used when he gave this reply...

In Hebrew, Moses is literally allowing Pharaoh to "glorify himself over" Moses by setting the time for Moses to pray.

This is shocking to say the least! While Moses stands in front of Pharaoh, who is covered in frogs and slime, he tells him to glorify himself by setting the time for Moses to pray!

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If we didn't know any better, this seems to us to be quite a taunt, much like Elijah gave to the prophets of Baal...

- **1 Kings 18:25–28 (LSB)**

25 So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but place no fire under it.”

26 Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, “O Baal, answer us.” But there was no voice and no one answered. And they limped about the altar which they had made.

27 Now it happened at noon, that **Elijah mocked them** and said, **“Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or relieving himself, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.”**

28 So they cried with a loud voice and gashed themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them.

This scene appears to align with the thematic developments between Moses and Pharaoh. Moses is standing in front of a man who thought himself to be the one who could keep the forces of creation in check. Now he is covered in frogs and whatever frogs produce, and his own magicians can't do anything about it. In Moses' own words, he tells Pharaoh to glorify himself while acknowledging that Pharaoh needs Moses to end the situation.

What is even more amusing is that Pharaoh was warned that this would happen, and he chose not to repent. Now, Moses is giving Pharaoh the ability to decide when the consequence of his sin will end! This, of course, is another indicator of the mercy and sovereignty of Adonai; he is giving Pharaoh the choice so that when the plague stops, he will know that it was Yahweh that did it and no one else!

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**10 “Tomorrow,” Pharaoh said. Moses replied, “It will be as you say, so that you may know **there is no-one like the LORD our God.****

Again, the point of giving Pharaoh the option was so that he would know that Yahweh is the most high God and that there is no one else like him!

None of Pharaoh's gods or his magicians could end the plague, let alone do it when Pharaoh asked him to!

This reminded us of the situation that occurred between another Gentile King and a Jewish representative of Yahweh.

- **Daniel 2:46–47 (NIVUK84)**

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him.

47 The king said to Daniel, **“Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries,** for you were able to reveal this mystery.”

The King of Babylon had a dream that perplexed him, and he summoned all his magicians to interpret it. However, he refused to tell them the dream and tested them by demanding that they tell him what the dream was AND interpret it.

Nebuchadnezzar's magicians could not perform this, but Daniel could with the help of Yahweh. Much like what is happening with Pharaoh, God was doing something through Daniel that no man could perform. Pharaoh was able to tell Moses the exact time to pray to God, and God would answer Moses. Nebuchadnezzar's response to this was to humble himself and recognize the Lordship that is due Yahweh, Pharaoh remained unyielding....

~

As we progress through the following verses, you will continue to see the ongoing mercy of Yahweh and the continual hardening of Pharaoh's heart.

**11 The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile.”**

**12 After Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, Moses cried out to the LORD about the frogs he had brought on Pharaoh.**

**13 And the LORD did what Moses asked. The frogs died in the houses, in the courtyards and in the fields.**

**14 They were piled into heaps, and the land reeked of them.**

Pharaoh asked that the frogs leave at a particular time, and that is precisely what happened. The text mentions that after the frogs died, the land reeked of them... This is the same Hebrew word used in Exodus 5:21 to describe how the Israelites had become a stench to the Egyptians.

While it is not a major detail of the chapter, it appears that Moses, the author, included this detail to indicate the widespread nature of the plague of frogs and also to highlight the distinction that God is making between Israel and the Egyptians. The Israelites were at some point a stench to the Egyptians; now God is making their land reek from Blood and Frogs!

Our brothers from LCM have reported back that not only did Egypt stink during Pharaoh's day, it remains stinky to this day and Isaiah 19 says that it will stink again.

~

- **Isaiah 19:5–7 (ESV)**

5 And the waters of the sea will be dried up, and the river will be dry and parched,

6 and its canals will become **foul**, and the branches of Egypt's Nile will diminish and dry up, reeds and rushes will rot away.

7 There will be bare places by the Nile, on the brink of the Nile, and all that is sown by the Nile will be parched, will be driven away, and will be no more.

In the upcoming Exodus that takes place in the book of Revelation, the Nile and the land of Egypt are said to be stinking in the future. In Isaiah 19,

Egypt is depicted as being struck by plagues as the Lord revisits them in the future. According to Isaiah 19, God is going to unleash plagues on Egypt again and there will be an exodus from the Land on a highway that will be made to Israel.

The last thing we want to comment on before continuing is that the text states the plague of frogs stops, which makes sense because Pharaoh asked for relief from the frogs. There is no recorded reversal of the Nile, nor is there a request to do so.

It can be difficult to keep track of what plagues continue and when their cessation is not explicitly mentioned. However, it seems logical to deduce that the river does go back to water as that is where the frogs return. Whether or not the Nile was restored, the plagues that Pharaoh cries out for relief from, indicate the abundance of mercy that God used in dealing with him.

**15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.**

~

We taught you last week that there are three Hebrew words woven into the book of Exodus that describe the hardening of Pharaoh's heart. All of them are usually translated as "harden" in English, but their meanings are slightly different in Hebrew.

The Hebrew term used here is the word "Kavad," which means that his heart became heavy. Take a look at the next slide, where we have a definition for the word 'Kavad'.

**(READ SLIDE)**



## PHARAOH'S HEART: "HARDENED" - KAVAD



Hiph. 1. make heavy, a yoke; ellipt. with על; a chain; pledges, with על. 2. על make heavy, dull, unresponsive, the ears.

*Richard Whitaker et al., The Abridged Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament: From A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament by Francis Brown, S.R. Driver and Charles Briggs, Based on the Lexicon of Wilhelm Gesenius (Boston; New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1906).*

With this definition in mind, we can gain greater clarity on what was actually happening in Pharaoh's heart.

His heart was, in fact, hardening, but more specifically, it became heavy, as if it were being chained to something, and therefore became unmovable.

~

While it is impossible to know the exact motive or thoughts that Pharaoh would have had, we can begin to put together a more complete picture of what the state of his heart would have looked like.

Pharaoh began this process by pleading with Moses and Aaron to remove the frogs, which suggests that, at least by that point, he was starting to experience some resentment or regret regarding the consequences of his actions. He then shows some outward signs of remorse, and God gives him the "honor" of being able to choose when the consequences of his sin would stop so that Pharaoh would know that Yahweh is truly God. (Imagine getting to determine the timing of when the consequences of your sin stop.)

Then, when the consequences ceased and the plague ended exactly as Pharaoh had asked, the relief from the plague allowed room for Pharaoh's heart to become more chained to something that would prevent him from obeying the Lord.

Whatever it was that he was hoping would happen, the Lord's plans were colliding with his own.

Because we were all sinners and have had to face the realities of walking through repentance at some point, we have an intimate knowledge of what it looks and feels like to have our hearts chained to something.

~

Whatever that "something" is, it is crucial to realize that this chaining occurs and is strengthened when there is relief from judgment. This should cause you, as a Christian, to be thankful for the consequences of your sin because it is in the discipline that we learn to share in the divine nature.

Yahweh intended the absence of the plague to allow Pharaoh to know who Yahweh was, but Pharaoh used it to excuse himself from the necessity of obedience, which was the whole point in the first place. It is clear to us now that Pharaoh's heart is chained, and the only way to fix that is through deep repentance followed by complete transformation. On that topic, it is important to read this passage with you.

- **Mark 8:14–17 (NIVUK84)**

14 The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat.

15 “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”

16 They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.”

17 Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts **hardened**?”

It is easy to miss what's going on here. When you hear the disciples worried about not bringing enough bread for the journey, it is an understandable and relatable concern. The problem is, they are in this boat right after the moment Jesus multiplied seven loaves of bread to feed 4000 people. They are now in the boat with roughly a dozen people and the one who fed 1000's.

Jesus then warns them to watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod; once again, the context makes this statement much clearer. Right after the feeding of the 4000, the Pharisees came to Jesus, asking him for a sign from heaven so that they could believe that He is who He says He is and can do what He says He can do. The disciples' worrying about not having enough bread despite what they have just seen, though they are with the one who multiplies bread, causes Jesus to ask these questions, "Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?"

~

This falls under the category of putting God to the test. This was the satanic temptation in the desert.

"If you are the Son of God, prove it..."

The Pharisees' hearts were chained to a specific expectation of the Messiah, and the disciples' hearts were chained to certain expectations as well. When Jesus came, He did not operate according to everyone else's expectations but carried out the will of God, and everyone else was required to form around His plan.

Pharaoh's heart is chained to expectations for the Hebrews, for his kingdom, and each time he experiences relief from the plagues, it is as if he says, "let's pick back up where we left off with my plans," but the Lord's resolve and power are greater than his own.

Letting go of our expectations of how life is supposed to go and how God is supposed to work may feel like losing everything, but it is in following and obeying His plan that we actually gain all that matters.

Pharaoh is trapped in his refusal to believe in spite of all the signs he has been shown, that the God of Israel is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do.

~

This should stand out to you in many ways, but primarily, it should stand out to you because what is happening in Pharaoh's heart informs us that when God wants us to do something, nothing else matters.

No other thought, fixation, preoccupation, distraction, or desire should be competing with God's will in our hearts. When that occurs, the deceitful heart that all men possess will use that competing desire to justify the excuse not to do what God is telling us to do! This is what is happening to Pharaoh, even when God is being so merciful, and it is going to merit a response that is found in Isaiah 26:

- **Isaiah 26:9–10 (ESV)**

9 My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you.

For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. **10 If favor is shown to the wicked, he does not learn righteousness**; in the land of uprightness he deals corruptly and does not see the majesty of the LORD.

If someone is disobedient, or does not learn righteousness from the consequences of their sin, then there must be more punishment so that their sin does not go unnoticed.

God will not show favor to the wicked forever, if that happens, then they will not "learn" the righteousness of God.

~

Also, keep in mind that the word 'learn' here does not always mean that their learning will result in their restoration. Learning the righteousness of God can mean that they learn by submitting, or they learn through their refusal; in the end, God judges them.



**16 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,’ and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats.”**

**17 They did this, and when Aaron stretched out his hand with the staff and struck the dust of the ground, gnats came upon men and animals. All the dust throughout the land of Egypt became gnats.**

Notice that this time there is no warning given to Pharaoh, this is precisely because of what Isaiah 26 says.

The last plague included a warning and then a restoration that God gave Pharaoh a choice as to when it would occur. After all of that, Pharaoh still chained his heart to something else other than obedience.

Pharaoh's actions are now directly inviting and drawing himself toward greater judgment, so this time there is no warning, the judgement comes upon the land swiftly and suddenly.



The plague itself is quite an interesting phenomenon because it again involves something that must have been horrific for the nation to endure, and it is another sign of God's ability to de-create by giving the land over to chaos and disrupting their illusion of control.

~

When we look at the Hebrew term for gnats, the term can mean a wide array of different kinds of insects that are small, numerous, and terribly annoying. A broad search through different English translations would yield that the two words that are used the most to describe these insects are lice and gnats. We are not sure which of the two this actually is, but we can tell you that whether these bugs are lice or gnats, neither is fun to deal with. Considering that the dust turned into these creatures, they must have been very numerous.

If it is gnats, we can tell you that this would be completely unbearable. Most of you have seen videos from other countries where gnats are very prominent, and they are the most miserable of creatures to be around, as they swarm in the thousands and are violent in their attempts to crawl into any orifice on your face. Lice, on the other hand, present another devastating annoyance, and many parents should understand why.

What we really want you to focus on in this plague is the fact that it was the dust that turned into gnats. The only other time in recorded scripture where the dust turns into something is found in Genesis 2:7. Let's take a look at that together.

- **Genesis 2:7 (NIVUK84)**

7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

In the account of the creation of the world, God is presented as "breathing" into the dust of the earth and creating man. The Hebrew word for "breathe" is "Ruach," which can mean either breath or spirit.

~

In the account of God's creative work on the earth, he takes the dust, interjects his own Spirit into it, and then from that combination a man is formed.

In our text tonight, God is bringing dust to life again, but not to create something new; he is doing this to de-create by using the dust to harass the disobedient Egyptians. As we continue, notice how Pharaoh's magicians respond to this, because they will not be able to replicate this plague.

**18 But when the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not. And the gnats were on men and animals.**

**19 The magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.**

We will take some time to develop this section because you need to understand the dynamics between God, Pharaoh, and the magicians.

To start with, this is the last time we will see the magicians try to replicate the plagues that God is doing; this should tell you something about their understanding of Yahweh that is being developed.

Furthermore, the fact that they cannot replicate this plague should tell you something about the uniqueness of what God is doing here.

~

Then, you have to recognize that their statement about the plague stands out as a unique expression, indicating that they are not entirely devoid of understanding of what is actually happening. To explore this, let's start by reading Luke 11, where we will see this happening again.

**(KEEP UP DURING THIS STRING OF SCRIPTURES)**

## FINGER OF GOD...Pt. 1

- Ex. 8:19 - Magicians unable to replicate the signs, "must be the Finger of God"
- Luke 11:17-20 - Jesus accused of using Beelzebul, Jesus rebukes them "it is by the finger of God"
- Matt. 12:25-28 - Parallel account of Luke 11, reveals the Spirit and Finger of God are the same.
- Ex. 31:18 - Law written on the stone tablets was done by the Finger/Spirit of God
- Deut. 9:10 - The two stone tablets cut and hewn, Finger of God inscribed the law on them twice
- Deut. 30:6 - Just as the law was cut into stone tablets, our hearts too must be cut by His word
- Jer. 31:33 - God Desires to write the Law on His peoples hearts, which must be cut & inscribed

- **Luke 11:17–20 (ESV)**

17 But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls.

18 And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? **For you say that I cast out demons by**

**Beelzebul.** 19 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, **by whom do your sons cast them out?** Therefore they will be your judges. 20

But if it is by the **finger of God** that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

The men who are watching Jesus are commenting as He performs miracles and mocking Him by saying that Jesus is casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub, the god of "flies" or "insects" according to pagan tradition.

~

Interestingly, Jesus uses the words of the magicians in Exodus 8, which takes place during a plague of insects, to tell them that it is by the "finger of God" that he is casting out demons.



Jesus is not just teaching the men here; he is both mocking and rebuking them in a way that would be understood as "Even the pagan magicians of Egypt recognized the truth that God was more powerful than insects, and you fail to recognize the power of God."

Furthermore, Jesus is saying that because he is doing these things by the finger of God, the Kingdom of God has come. This statement would have been made to convey the imagery of the book of Exodus and the complete overthrow of Egypt by the power of God.

Let's take a look at the parallel passage in the book of Matthew.

- **Matthew 12:25–28 (ESV)**

25 Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. 26 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. 28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Here, Matthew uses the term "Spirit of God" to refer to the same event as Luke, and this indicates that the Spirit of God and the Finger of God are the same thing! This would invoke the imagery of Jesus being used like the staff of God as God's instrument on earth.

~

Additionally, this means that the magicians' response to the plague of gnats displays more understanding on their part than we had previously realized.

Remember, God breathed His spirit into the dust to create man, and now He is turning the dust into gnats, and the Magicians are recognizing that this is the finger, or "Spirit," or "Ruach" of God.

This could be an indicator of why they stopped trying to replicate the plagues from this point forward, and possibly that the magicians' hearts are starting to turn towards him.....

Let's take a look at what else the finger of God does.

- **Exodus 31:18 (ESV)**

18 And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, **tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.**

That's right! The Law was written by the finger of God or the spirit of God. In all of the faithless, damnable, and pitiful talk in so-called Christian circles that happens outside these walls about contrasting the Law and the Spirit as if they were juxtaposed, they fail to understand that it was the Spirit of God that wrote the Law!

~

- **Deuteronomy 9:10 (ESV)**

10 And the LORD gave me the **two tablets of stone written with the finger of God**, and on them were all the words that the LORD had spoken with you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly.

Two tablets inscribed by the finger of God...twice. The two tablets had to be cut, or hewn, and then have the law engraved upon them by the Spirit of God.

- **Deuteronomy 30:6 (ESV)**

6 And the LORD your God will **circumcise your heart** and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

In the same way that the law tablets had to be cut out of stone, our hearts also have to be cut.

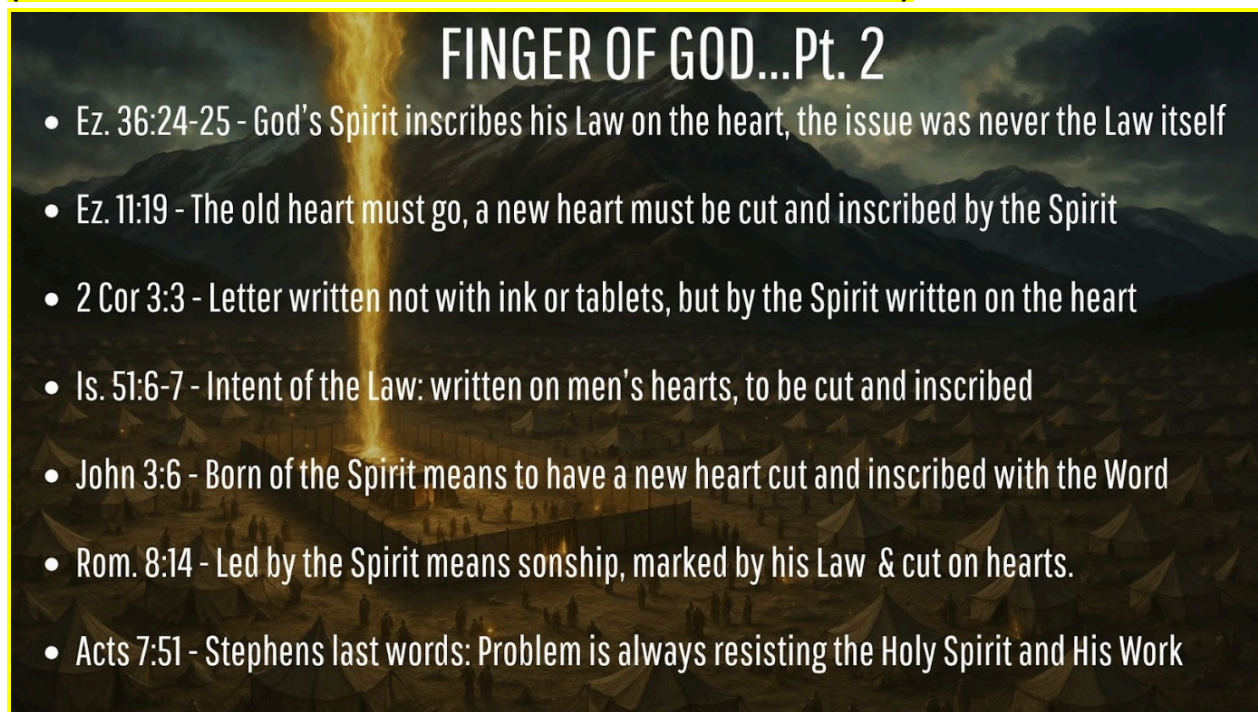
This is an indicator of what is happening with Pharaoh... His magicians recognize the Spirit of God, but Pharaoh refuses to have his heart cut.

- **Jeremiah 31:33 (ESV)**

33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and **I will write it on their hearts**. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

What God desires is to write the Law on the hearts of the people of God. For that to happen, our hearts have to be cut and then inscribed...

**(KEEP UP DURING THIS STRING OF SCRIPTURES)**



**FINGER OF GOD...Pt. 2**

- Ez. 36:24-25 - God's Spirit inscribes his Law on the heart, the issue was never the Law itself
- Ez. 11:19 - The old heart must go, a new heart must be cut and inscribed by the Spirit
- 2 Cor 3:3 - Letter written not with ink or tablets, but by the Spirit written on the heart
- Is. 51:6-7 - Intent of the Law: written on men's hearts, to be cut and inscribed
- John 3:6 - Born of the Spirit means to have a new heart cut and inscribed with the Word
- Rom. 8:14 - Led by the Spirit means sonship, marked by his Law & cut on hearts.
- Acts 7:51 - Stephens last words: Problem is always resisting the Holy Spirit and His Work

~

- **Ezekiel 36:25–27 (ESV)**

25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.  
26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new **spirit I will put within you**. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh

and give you a heart of flesh. 27 **And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes** and be careful to obey my rules.

The inscribing of the Law is a work of His Spirit in the heart.

There's nothing wrong with the Law; the heart is the problem.

God wanted to inscribe the Law, but Pharaoh refused to be cut and would rather stay chained.

- **Ezekiel 11:19 (ESV)**

19 And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

This is the work of His Spirit in the heart. For the work to be done, the old, hard heart must be done away with, and a new tablet must be cut and inscribed.

This can't be done through more study; it is a work of the Spirit.

- **2 Corinthians 3:3 (ESV)**

3 And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

~

Letter not written with ink or on tablets of stone but with Spirit. Law was never the problem; the need was for the Law to be written on the heart.

- **Isaiah 51:6–7 (ESV)**

6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,

and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.  
7 “Listen to me, you who know righteousness,  
the people in whose heart is my law;  
fear not the reproach of man,  
nor be dismayed at their revilings.

The intent of the Law was that it would be inscribed in the heart of Man. Not just understood or comprehended, but cut and inscribed.

- **John 3:6 (ESV)**

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

To be born of God's Spirit means to have a new heart that is cut and his word is inscribed by his Spirit upon it. Not a one-time event.

~

- **Romans 8:14 (ESV)**

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Led by the Spirit means to be led by the inscriptions that were made and are being made during times of cutting. Recognize that God used His finger, not His fist.. It did not take His fist.

If the Lord can do this by using a pinky... then we know that the problem is never with the Lord's ability, the fight is with us being faithful to the process!

- **Acts 7:51 (NIVUK84)**

51 “You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears!  
You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!

In Stephen's final address before being stoned, he notes that the problem has always been resistance to the Holy Spirit and the work of the Holy Spirit.



~

Notice that this is not at all about prophesying or speaking in tongues; their hard hearts were resistant to the cutting and inscribing of the Law on their hearts because they did not like its righteous requirements and would rather stay chained like Pharaoh.

Remember, the magicians recognized that this was the Holy Spirit performing this miracle, and it seems like they backed off from trying to manipulate from this point forward. Pharaoh is a different story.

After seeing all of this and hearing the admission of his magicians, there is no remorse from the plague mentioned as happening in Pharaoh's heart, nor is there any request made by him to stop the plague.

With that said, it is worth noting that there is no mention of a stoppage of the plague either. Instead, it is mentioned that Pharaoh still hardened his heart, and the Hebrew word used here is "Chazak," meaning he is now strengthening his heart.

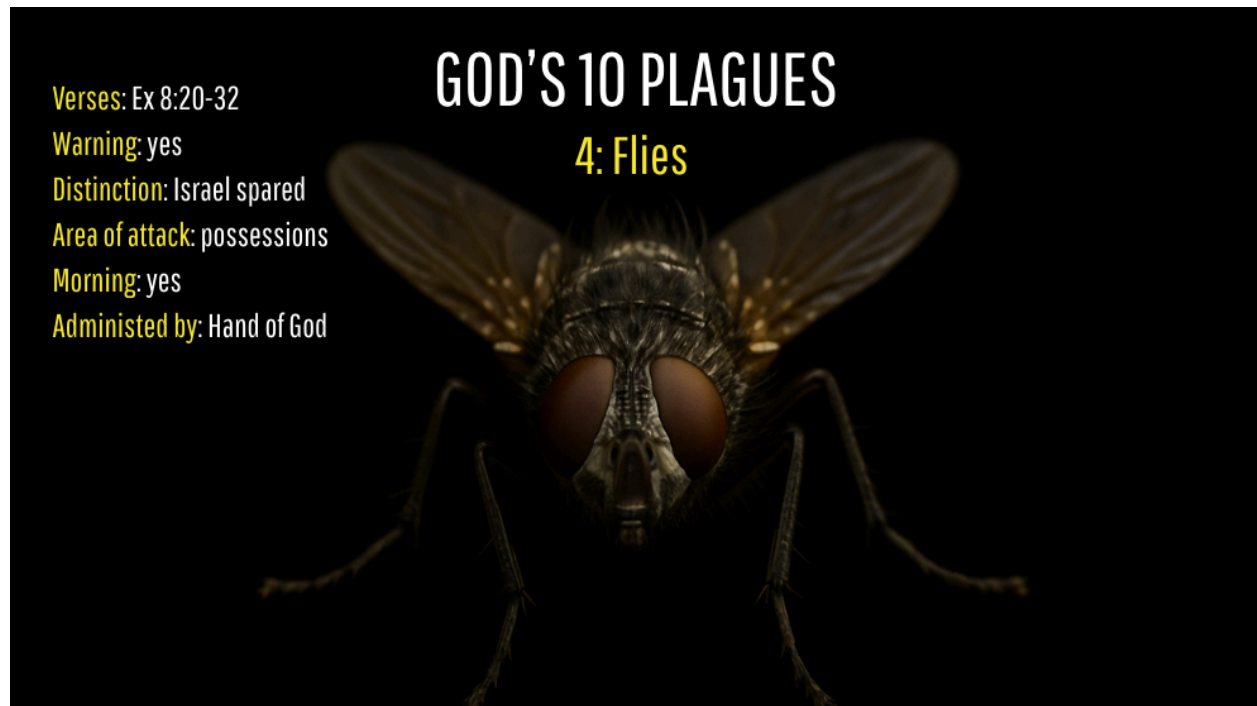
Remember that earlier his heart had become weighty and chained; now it seems that he is doing everything in his power to "strengthen" his resolve in doing what he had made up his mind to do, despite what better judgment would say. In the absence of remorse and the fact that he strengthened his resolve, we are left with a picture of a man who is facing the consequences of his sin but is going to bear it obstinately, while still refusing to repent.

~

Remember, this is the finger of God doing this, which means he has all the opportunity in the world to repent, be cut, and have the Holy Spirit inscribe his heart. But instead, all we see from him is silence.

**20 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes to the water and say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. 21 If you do not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you and your officials, on your people and into your houses. The houses**

of the Egyptians will be full of flies, and even the ground where they are.



No doubt many of you are starting to bear witness to the state of Pharaoh's heart and say something like "c'mon man, just repent already," but he is not going to!

God is being merciful AGAIN by bringing Moses to Pharaoh with another warning, even though Pharaoh is not showing any remorse or requests to stop the plague. You should take note from this point on that if you ever receive a warning of a future consequence while you are contemplating disobedience, it might be time to repent now and avoid any future judgment that comes from taking his mercy for granted. To make some comments about this next plague, take note that the gnats are not mentioned as stopping. So, again, Moses would have approached Pharaoh while he was sitting there in a humiliating situation, swatting away bugs while obstinately bearing the suffering. Then he is told that more are coming.

~

The word for "flies" in Hebrew is "Arov", which is borrowed from the root "Erev" which means mixed. We are not sure why "flies" is the preferred translation here but we can say that what is coming is going to be a mixture of insects and they are going to cover all of the people this time...

Like the frogs we saw earlier, here is a small glimpse into what it may have been like, but also to a much worse degree..



**22 “ ‘But on that day I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I, the LORD, am in this land.**

**23 I will make a distinction between my people and your people. This miraculous sign will occur tomorrow.’ ”**

Pay close attention to the details of this plague—it is the first time God explicitly declares that He will make a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites. He even gives both the exact location and the specific timing! Notice that in His warning to Pharaoh, God again provides a set

time, and then declares that during the plague, no flies will be found in Goshen, where the Israelites live. This is remarkable, especially when you consider that Goshen is entirely surrounded by Egypt!

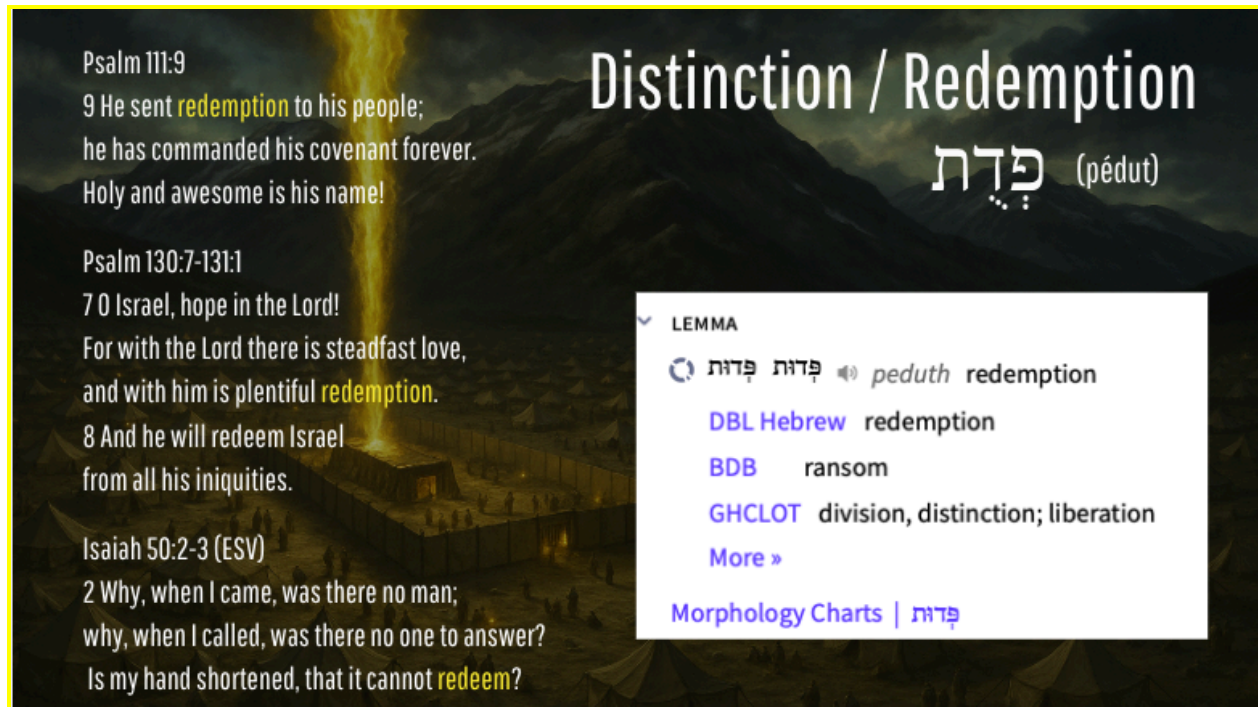
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**(SLIDE)**



That means the flies will cover the land completely, but there will be a place in the middle of the Land that no flies will touch. The other thing that makes this beautiful is that the word for "distinction" in Hebrew is the same word that means "redemption." The word in the text is פָּדוּת (pédut, "redemption").

**(DO NOT READ LEAVE UP FOR PASSAGES BELOW)**



Psalms 111:9  
9 He sent **redemption** to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name!

Psalms 130:7-131:1  
7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!  
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful **redemption**.  
8 And he will redeem Israel  
from all his iniquities.

Isaiah 50:2-3 (ESV)  
2 Why, when I came, was there no man;  
why, when I called, was there no one to answer?  
Is my hand shortened, that it cannot **redeem**?

# Distinction / Redemption

פְּדוּת (pédut)

LEMMA

פְּדוּת פְּדוּת peduth redemption

DBL Hebrew redemption

BDB ransom

GHCLOT division, distinction; liberation

[More »](#)

[Morphology Charts | פְּדוּת](#)

This would give the sense of making a distinction by redeeming! This is striking in many ways because it shows us that the distinction created between the people of God and the World is the redemption they receive. That redemption causes the Judgment of God to affect both parties differently!

Remember, the whole purpose of God bringing Israel into the land of Egypt and then bringing them out was to fulfill His promises to Abraham, which began in Genesis 12, 15, and 17. God reiterated this intention in Exodus 6.

In the promise that God gave to Abraham, He mentioned that He would bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel!

~

You can see very clearly that God is fulfilling His end of the bargain with Abraham by causing a distinction between Israel and Egypt. The fact that God uses redemption as the distinction makes this point even more beautiful. God always planned to make a distinction by redeeming His people and judging those who refuse to participate! The word for distinction



is H6304 - deliverance or redemption and we want to show you a few passages that use this same word.

- **Ps 111:9**

9 He sent **redemption** to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name!

Provided a distinction by causing redemption

- **Ps 130:7-131:1**

7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!  
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful **redemption**.  
8 And he will redeem Israel  
from all his iniquities.

There will be full redemption for the Nation of Israel and in that they will be distinct or set apart from every nation on earth.

The fun part is that nations have the option to join them or not!

~

- **Isa 50:2-3 (ESV)**

2 Why, when I came, was there no man;  
why, when I called, was there no one to answer?  
Is my hand shortened, that it cannot **redeem**?  
Or have I no power to deliver?  
**Behold, by my rebuke I dry up the sea,**  
**I make the rivers a desert;**  
**their fish stink for lack of water**  
**and die of thirst.**  
3 **I clothe the heavens with blackness**  
**and make sackcloth their covering."**

God has the power to redeem His people fully, and He does that by putting them in the midst of difficulty and then bringing them out!

We cannot understate the beauty of what is happening here. While Pharaoh is hardening his heart, God is redeeming Israel by protecting them at the same time, and he is judging the nation that they reside in!

If there is a better example of what the tribulation will look like, then we don't know it!

**24 And the LORD did this. Dense swarms of flies poured into Pharaoh's palace and into the houses of his officials, and throughout Egypt the land was ruined by the flies.**

~

Again, we are not exactly sure what kind of mixture these insects were, but the text says that they ruined the land. The Hebrew word indicates something like "Annihilating or destroying" the land.

Maybe they are some super bug or not, but in the future, God is going to send locusts, so we know that there is going to be an escalation.

**25 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land."**

Again, we see Pharaoh showing some remorse and relenting, but he is not in complete surrender to the will of God. He has already been told that the Israelites must leave to go sacrifice to the Lord in a place that the Lord directed. Now Pharaoh is suffering the consequences again of his own sin, and he seems to be reeling a bit, trying to negotiate a deal to make the consequences stop.

According to Isaiah 26, this will necessitate further judgment, but take note of the fickle nature of the human heart at this point. He appears humble, contrite, and remorseful, but there is one thing that he is holding onto that he will not let go of! Full surrender is the only solution.

~

**26 But Moses said, “That would not be right. The sacrifices we offer the LORD our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their eyes, will they not stone us?**

**27 We must take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, as he commands us.”**

**28 Pharaoh said, “I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the LORD your God in the desert, but you must not go very far. Now pray for me.”**

We have already taught you about the phrase "three-day" journey and how this is the specific phrase that is given to Moses by God to say to Pharaoh.

Remember that the actual journey will take longer than three days, but God was using a "Kal vey Chomer" so set Pharaoh up. If he would not agree to the lighter matter of a 3-day journey, then he definitely will not agree to the entire trip.

We spent some time debating what Moses meant by the sacrifices being an offense to Egypt, so we want to share our findings with you.... Before we do that, upon examining the choice of words that Moses uses, it seems to us that the Kal vey Chomer and the mention of the Egyptian disdain for their sacrifices are a way for God and Moses to be considerate of Pharaoh and give him room to make a choice.

~

Remember that Moses could have demanded immediate compliance, but according to the text and Paul's recollection in Romans, it seems clear that God wanted to deal with Pharaoh patiently...

Take a look at the next slide, which discusses the Egyptians' view of Israelite Sacrifices.

**(READ SLIDE)**

## SACRIFICE DETESTABLE TO EGYPTIANS?



25–32 Moses' claim that if Israel sacrificed animals in Egypt, it would be extremely offensive to the Egyptians has been challenged by some commentators as a clever ruse on Moses' part. Yet [Rylaarsdam, 901](#), documents a violent Egyptian reaction to Jewish sacrifices in the fifth-century BC colony at Elephantine (A. E. Cowley, *Aramaic Papyri of the Fifth Century BC* [Oxford: Clarendon, 1923], 108–22). [Thus](#) Moses rejects Pharaoh's counteroffer to allow Israel to sacrifice in Egypt (v. 25).

*Walter C. Kaiser Jr., "Exodus," in The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Genesis–Leviticus (Revised Edition), ed. Tremper Longman III and David E. Garland, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008), 408.*

### (READ HIGHLIGHTED SECTION)



## SACRIFICE DETESTABLE TO EGYPTIANS?

The meaning is, not that the animals offered in sacrifice by the Israelites, being held sacred by the Egyptians, would naturally give offence to the latter; but it was the disregard of certain preparatory and accompanying rites, such as the minute examination of a bull or ox—first in a standing posture, then lying on its back, to ascertain whether there be a black hair upon it, whether the hairs upon its tail grow naturally, whether its tongue be clean, and then, when declared to possess the requisite marks, some moistened sealing clay was put upon its horn by the examining priest, who stamped it with his signet ring. **The certainty of rousing the fierce fanaticism of the Egyptians by their inattention to these superstitious minutiae was assigned by Moses as a prudential reason for refusing to comply with the king's offer to let the Israelites hold their festival within his kingdom; and this reason was rendered irresistible by a renewed mention of the Divine command to go into the desert.**

*David Brown, A. R. Fausset, and Robert Jamieson, A Commentary, Critical, Experimental, and Practical, on the Old and New Testaments*

The issue wasn't that the animals the Israelites sacrificed (like bulls or sheep) were sacred to the Egyptians. The offense came from *how* the

Israelites sacrificed them, *without* following the Egyptians' very strict and detailed religious rituals.

~

Before we continue, notice that Pharaoh seems to be relenting, but he has done this before. He is just saying whatever is necessary to get the monkey off his back. This is extremely important, considering that the fruit of a righteous change in a man's life is not what he says, but what he does.

**29 Moses answered, “As soon as I leave you, I will pray to the LORD, and tomorrow the flies will leave Pharaoh and his officials and his people. Only be sure that Pharaoh does not act deceitfully again by not letting the people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD.”**

Moses is catching on to the pattern that is starting to form with Pharaoh. This is the second time he has cried out for relief from the plague and then lied, saying he would let them go, but he does not. In Moses' own words, he credits Pharaoh with acting deceitfully. On that topic, we need to review 2 Timothy 3:12-1.

- **2 Timothy 3:12–13 (NIVUK84)**

12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

13 while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, **deceiving** and **being deceived**.

To start, you should be able to see the distinction that exists between the righteous and unrighteous in this verse. One group is being persecuted; the other is deceived and deceiving.

~

The second thing to glean from this is that those who deceive others are often deceived themselves. We debated whether Pharaoh knew he was being deceitful from the beginning or whether he actually believed he would let them go, and then after the plague stopped, he hardened his heart and changed his mind.

Moses said he was being deceitful, and this verse indicates that he would have been both deceived himself and acting deceitfully. This should cause the highest level of caution to arise in your heart because if you are deceived, you don't know it... That is the definition of deceit. In that state, you become deceptive towards other people! To add to this, the more you practice deception, the more you become deceived!

The only way to combat this is to possess a love for truth that surpasses love for anything else!

**30 Then Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD,  
31 and the LORD did what Moses asked: The flies left Pharaoh and his officials and his people; not a fly remained.  
32 But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.**

As we close our text, notice that there is a stoppage to the plague of flies! This is a sign of the goodness and mercy of God to answer Pharaoh when he cried out for relief! With that said Pharaoh chose to harden his heart again when there was relief from the plague. The word used here for "harden" is the word "Kavod" again. Instead of doing what God wanted, we find that his heart is still chained to something else and is becoming heavier.

~

This is the nature of having your heart chained to sin. Sin will grow heavier and heavier the more you entertain it, and subsequently, it will weigh more heavily on your heart as it becomes chained to it. The only way to be free is to allow the Lord to sever the chains by cutting your heart and inscribing his law on your heart by his spirit.... Which is precisely what Pharaoh is trying to avoid....

As we close our chapter tonight, one of the concepts that stood out to us the most from this chapter was the distinction or redemption God made between the Egyptians and the Israelites.



- In Chapter 1:13-14, you will remember that the Egyptians burdened and embittered the Israelites with all sorts of cruel labor.
- In Chapter 7:18 last week, we see the Egyptians being wearied because they had to dig along the Nile for water.
- In Chapter 5:21, we saw the foreman complain to Moses that his acts of obedience had made them stink to the Egyptians.
- In Chapters 7 and 8, we saw Adonai bring a stench on the Egyptians as a result of both the fish dying because of the blood and the frogs.

The distinction between the righteous and the wicked is growing. There are always two sides of judgment, depending on which side you decide to stand on. Up to this point in our covering of the plagues, we've focused on how the plagues would've affected Pharaoh and the Egyptians, & rightfully so...

However, it is equally important that the Israelites would have had a front-row witness to the works of God...

~

We would like to conclude by highlighting what the works of God were intended to convey to the Israelites, using some biblical commentary.

- **Psalm 78:5–7 (ESV)**

5 He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,  
which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,  
6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,  
and arise and tell them to their children,  
7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments

- **Psalm 105:1–5 (ESV)**

105 Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!  
2 Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

3     Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

4     Seek the LORD and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!

5     Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

The purpose of the plagues for the Israelites was to cause them to put their faith/trust in God, not only for their sake but for the sake of future generations.

The point is that God remembered the covenant so that they would fear Him and obey.

Daniel 8 says this is going to happen again.

- **Dan 8:23-25 (NIV)**

23 "In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise. 24 He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people. 25 He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.

The only way to stand during this time:

- Remember what he's done in the past
- Join his people in their distinction and redemption
- Allow him to cut your heart and inscribe his word on your heart by his Spirit