

# 2,3,4 Frogs, Gnats, Flies

## Exodus Chapter 8

- Exd 8:1 **1) 2<sup>nd</sup> of 10 Plagues - Frogs** vs 1 - 15  
Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me.
- Exd 8:2 "But **if you refuse** to let {them} go, behold, **I will smite** your whole territory with frogs.
- Exd 8:3 "The Nile will swarm with frogs, which will come up and go into your house and into your bedroom and on your bed, and into the houses of your servants and on your people, and into your ovens and into your kneading bowls.
- Exd 8:4 "So the frogs will come up on you and your people and all your servants.""
- *Moses announces the conditions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 10 plagues. If you refuse ...FROGS. Lots of them.*
  - *Kahnum & Heqt Heqt is a female goddess with a woman's body and a frogs head. She is a goddess of fertility. Kahnum was a creator god and the guardian of the Nile.*
- Exd 8:5 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your staff over the rivers, over the streams and over the pools, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.' "
- Exd 8:6 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.
- *Aaron receives Moses' instruction and obeys.*
  - *The picture of "covering" the land of Egypt. It is more than a lot, it was a massive number. God's humor here is so evident. A Frog fertility god. "You want frogs, I'll give you frogs." They were very fertile.*
  - *Frogs were sacred. They were a symbol of good luck. Like cows in India, it was against the law to kill a frog.*
  - *The natural explanation given is that if the volcanic pollution or red tide kills fish it would naturally cause the frogs to leave the water also. They would come up out of the water and eventually die.*
- Exd 8:7 The magicians did the same with their secret arts, making frogs come up on the land of Egypt.
- *Again, the magicians cannot get rid of them, just make more. This must frustrate Pharaoh because Pharaoh entertains letting Israel go to worship. (see next verse)*
- Exd 8:8 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Entreat the LORD that He remove the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD."
- Exd 8:9 Moses said to Pharaoh, "The honor is yours to tell me: when shall I entreat for you and your servants and your people, that the frogs be destroyed from you and your houses, {that} they may be left only in the Nile?"
- *Pharaoh says he would let the people go and Moses asks him when would you like the frogs gone.*
- Exd 8:10 Then he said, "Tomorrow." So he said, "{May it be} according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.
- Exd 8:11 "The frogs will depart from you and your houses and your servants and your people; they will be left only in the Nile."
- *Pharaoh says "TOMORROW" He wants one more day of frogs in bed with him, frogs in his bath water, frogs in his kneading bowl.*
  - *Isn't this a picture of us. We want one more day with that disgusting habit, or drug, or lifestyle that we know is not good for us. Just one more day.*
  - *Moses tells Pharaoh that the frogs will die so that Pharaoh will know the He alone is God.*
- Exd 8:12 Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the LORD concerning the frogs which He had inflicted upon Pharaoh.
- Exd 8:13 The LORD did according to the word of Moses, and the frogs died out of the houses, the courts, and the fields.

Exd 8:14 So they piled them in heaps, and the land became foul.

- Here we see the frogs, the symbol of good luck, symbol of the goddess Heqt (goddess of fertility) new life, and they are dying. And there are so many they are being piled in heaps and smelling bad.

Exd 8:15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

- Again, this is so much like us. When we are delivered we often forget the deliverer.
- When the pressure is on, we cry desperate prayers and promise desperate devotion. But when the pressure is gone, we simply forget and go back to what we once did.

Exd 8:16 **2) 3rd of 10 Plagues - Gnats** vs 16 - 19 (Gnats or Lice or Fleas)

WITHOUT WARNING

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, that it may become gnats through all the land of Egypt.' "

Exd 8:17 They did so; and Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff, and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats through all the land of Egypt.

- Because Pharaoh's heart was hard he did not do as he had promised. This time the 3<sup>rd</sup> plague did not have a warning from Moses.
- This plague was directed towards the god Geb. He was the god of the earth. These fleas, gnats, or lice came from the earth. The Egyptians regularly gave offerings to Geb for success in their agricultural efforts. But all he cannot stop Jehovah from allowing fleas, gnats or lice from the soil of the earth.
- How much of the dust became lice, gnats, fleas ALL THE DUST.

Exd 8:18 The magicians tried with their secret arts to bring forth gnats, but they could not; so there were gnats on man and beast.

- The natural explanation is given that with the frogs dying, this allowed insect eggs a great bed to mature and hatch. And with the frog population down the insect population would thrive and become a plague.
- The Magicians could not duplicate this plague.

Exd 8:19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

- Showing again that Pharaoh's heart would harden even more, when his counselors declared this to be the finger of God, Pharaoh did not listen.
- Finger of God tells you just how powerful the magicians thought God was. All this accomplished by just a finger.

Exd 8:20 **3) 4th of 10 Plagues - Flies** vs 20 - 15

Now the LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh, as he comes out to the water, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

- Pharaoh's routine was known to God. God had something to say to Pharaoh EARLY IN THE MORNING to him.

Exd 8:21 "For if you do not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and on your servants and on your people and into your houses; and the houses of the Egyptians will be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they {dwell.}

- For the third time God gives a conditional warning. "If you do not" then "I will send" The responsibility is upon Pharaoh. If he does not let them go, God will send a Judgment.
- If he does let them go, God will not send judgment.

- *God will send SWARMS* Not sure swarms of what? You should see [of flies] in brackets or italicized.
- *Psalm 78:45* says, "He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; " Psalm tells us that these swarms were a number of kinds of swarming insects and that they were biting the Egyptians as well.
- *Swarm of What?*
- *Dog Flies* - Like a horse fly. Large fly that would land and bite people.
- *Scarab (dung beetle)* - dwelt on the ground (verse 21) This represented the God Amon-Ra. This was Egypt's greatest god. He was the creator god of Egypt. This beetle would roll in the manure and form a ball of manure and roll it to its home. Some ancient saw this and felt it was similar to how the gods rolled the sun across the sky.
- This plague was a show against Amon-Ra Egypt's greatest creator God.
- Again, a natural explanation is similar to the last reason; with the frogs dying, this allowed insect eggs a great bed to mature and hatch. And with the frog population down the insect population would thrive and become a plague.

Exd 8:22 "But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people are living, so that no swarms of flies will be there, in order that you may know that I, the LORD, am in the midst of the land.

Exd 8:23 "I will put a division between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign will occur.""

- This is the first time the account states that God made a distinction concerning the Egyptians and the Hebrews.
- An incredible contrast showing that the Egyptians would dwell with their dung beetle god and the Hebrews would dwell with their Most Holy God.
- This sign will occur "tomorrow" God being sharp witted with Pharaoh to remind him of his procrastination with the frogs.
- A Division -HOLY, Holy Ones, Saints (qadowsh - Hebrew, hagios - Greek)
  - *Leviticus 20:24-26* "I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I [am] the LORD your God, which have separated (badal) you from [other] people. Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make your souls abominable by beast, or by fowl, or by any manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean. And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD [am] holy, and have severed you from [other] people, that ye should be mine."
  - *Eph 2:19-21* "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints (holy ones), and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:"
  - *Matthew 25:32-33* "And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left." (Greek - aphorize to be separated)
- Through out the Old Testament and New Testament those that are believers / followers of God are referred to as saints. While the scripture clearly describes the behavior of the saints, it is evident that a saint is not one who has accomplished a great thing, but one who has been set aside by God and for God's standard of living.
- Interesting Synonyms are: Set Apart, Separate, to be Distinct, to be Different, to Sever, to Withdraw, to be Excluded
- Things that are holy, Temples, Utensils, God, Believers, His Spirit, Faith, Kiss, Places (Sanctuary), Jerusalem, Angels,

Exd 8:24 Then the LORD did so. And there came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and the houses of his servants and the land was laid waste because of the swarms of flies in all the land of Egypt.

- A great swarm (KJV says a grievous swarm) Ever had a single pesky fly in your house? You are relaxing reading a book or watching TV and this single fly comes zipping by your face. Again and again. Then you go get the fly swatter and you cannot find him? Imagine a great swarm, Grievous is an understatement.
- Land was laid waste (KJV says the land was corrupted) Ruined, Destroyed

- *Yet the land of Goshen was not touched by this plague*

Exd 8:25  
1<sup>st</sup> Compromise

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

- *Satan will offer partial obedience to the saints. This temptation is offered to all of God's people even today.*
- *"Sacrifice, but stay in Egypt" Have your belief but do not be different than the rest of the world.*

Exd 8:26

But Moses said, "It is not right to do so, for we will sacrifice to the LORD our God what is an abomination to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice what is an abomination to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not then stone us?"

- *Moses uses the argument that for them to sacrifice to the Lord would be offensive to the Egyptians. This will not be appropriate. We sacrifice those animals that are worshiped by Egyptians.*
- *If we are believers it is not appropriate for us to believe, worship Him and still be worldly. It is offensive to those in the world. They would call those believers "hypocrites"*

Exd 8:27

"We must go a three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our God as He commands us."

Exd 8:28  
2<sup>nd</sup> Compromise

Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Make supplication for me."

- *The Hebrews can worship but they are instructed not to go too far.*
- *We as believers are constantly tempted with an approval to have religion or spiritual beliefs, but to not get carried away. To not be too zealous, not too fanatical.*

Exd 8:29

Then Moses said, "Behold, I am going out from you, and I shall make supplication to the LORD that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people tomorrow; only do not let Pharaoh deal deceitfully again in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD."

- *Moses confronted Pharaoh about Promising something and not following through with it.*

Exd 8:30

So Moses went out from Pharaoh and made supplication to the LORD.

Exd 8:31

The LORD did as Moses asked, and removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants and from his people; not one remained.

- *Not One Remained - This is a great miracle also.*

Exd 8:32

But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and he did not let the people go.

- *Guess what! Pharaoh hardened again his heart and did not follow up on his promise. The problem is gone and why should he make good.*
- *It is interesting that I have seen people like this and it amazes me that they do not see what everyone else sees. No integrity.*

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