

February 26th, 2023
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Delivered; Rescued from Bondage
Sermon #7 Title: *The Night of the Frogs*
Sermon #7 Text: (Exodus 8:1-15)

We now come to the 2nd plague of misery and destruction that the Lord wrought on Egypt.

- The Bloody River has been returned to water.
- The Egyptian Ruler has dug his heels in.
- And if there was any thought in Pharaoh's mind that this conflict was now over he is finding out that he has another thing coming.

I. God's Merciful Warning – vs 1-4

*Note – Long before God judges, God pleads. Let it be known right here and now that God would much, much rather forgive and redeem, than to judge and ruin.

- Of course we all remember that 2nd Peter 3:9 tells us that (God) is *“not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

*Note – Now that being said, no man will outwait God! No man will “delay” God's action. And no man will “opt out of the confrontation with God.”

*Note – Make no mistake about it, this was an “involuntary confrontation” on Pharaoh's part.

- Nonetheless, notice these things about God's Merciful Warning...

A. Persistently Pleaded – “Let my people go, that they may serve me.”

1.) Know this. Thirteen times before all is said and done, God will have Moses use the phrase, “Let my people go!”

a.) This is the third from those times

*Note – There would be no confusion upon Pharaoh's part the thing that God was requiring of him. – It was very simple.

2.) But God did not merely repeat the command to “let them go” He wanted Pharaoh, as well as the Egyptians, as well as the Israelites to know ALL of His plan and work.

a.) THAT they may serve me!

*Note – **This is not an under emphasized message.** The message was not ONLY that they get out of Egypt, but that they get out from under Egypt, in order to “SERVE the LORD”

- #1 – 3:10 & 12 – *“bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt...When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.”*

- #2 – 5:1 – *“Moses told unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord, ‘Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.’”*

- #3 – 7:16 – *“The LORD God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee saying, ‘Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness.’”*

- #4 – 8:1 – *“Let my people go that they may serve me.”*

The sheer repetition, and persistence of the Lord's Word to Pharaoh was a message not only of what to do, but exactly why it was to be done. (Sometimes God tells us why, sometimes He does not, - but this is one time that He does.)

- God's persistent plea was PERSONAL!
- Like a thief, Pharaoh had something that didn't belong to him.

- a.) Power that didn't belong to him
- b.) People that didn't belong to him
- c.) Worship that didn't belong to him.

*Note – Isaiah 48:11 – “I will not give my Glory to another.”

God would not “beg” for something that belonged to Him that He was going to get anyway. God plead for a man to do the right thing, that punishment might be avoided.

B. Clearly Depicted – “I will smite all thy borders with frogs.”

- 1.) The Lord names the “scope” of the plague – “all thy borders”

- a.) “gebul” – all inclosed within a nation's rule. – Territory. – All your territory. – It may also be pictured as all “regions of land” underneath a kingdom's realm.

*Note – Don't think you are going to evacuate the city – I am striking your empire. – Like blood in the river, and all succeeding plagues, this will be a national crisis, with no where to go.

- (A ruler is responsible for his people, and the people are responsible for who rules them, and so the decision of Pharaoh, will affect the nation of the people.)

- 2.) The magnitude of the judgment is the first verse of the judgment. The ultimate problem they are going to have is not the “presence of frogs” but the ABUNDANCE of them.

*Note – Threatening Egyptians with frogs, was no real threat to them; they worshipped them. They saw them as the image of the goddess Hequet. It was illegal to kill them. They were important to the religious and psychological life of all Egyptians. Multitudes of frogs would come from the Nile River every year. – Their presence was highly valued by Egyptians.

- But there are three things in this promise the Egyptians had never seen:

- the sheer abundance of them
- the sheer dominance of them
- the unrelenting nuisance of them

*Note – Now that's the promised judgment God gives to Pharaoh, if he so chooses to not let Israel go! –

C. Silently Rejected –

*Note- Now note this. Verse 4 ends the Promise if Pharaoh does not yield; verse 5 begins the judgment!

- 1.) there is no recorded answer between verse 4 and verse 5)

*Note – If Pharaoh gave a verbal response, it is not worth us knowing! –

*Note – Now don't get the idea that there was no response, because no response, IS a response. No answer IS an answer.

*Note – Know this, and know it well. There is no such thing as NOT answering God! – There is no such thing as getting out of answering the Lord.

- God gave Pharaoh, a merciful warning, and if he said anything, whatever it was, it was not worth writing! It was not worth knowing. It was not worth repeating.

II. God's Masterful Work – vs 5-7

*Note – Now let the frogs arise! – The very essence of God’s judgment here is worthy of our attention.

A. The Features of the Judgment –

*Note – Going back to that day in Ancient Egypt, what did this judgment day look like?

1.) As previously stated, a sudden overrunning of the land with frogs.

*Note – I have no idea what kind of frogs these were; but the Common “Nile Toad” (the prevalent kind of species in the Nile River) is generally a small critter. The females are only about an inch and a half, and the males average a little smaller. These are just the right size to get into everything everywhere.

2.) Most likely occurred mid-day to late afternoon.

-the plague of blood occurred in the morning, this one, though not expressed, hints that this one occurred later in the day.

- the first place they are going to be noticed or nuisancing is in the home – a specifically the bedchamber.

- “and upon thy bed”

- “the house of thy servants”

When are people going to be in their house, and near the bed and bedchambers? – In the evening

- in the ovens, and kneading troughs
- Dough being prepared for the next day’s meal.

- Frogs are Nocturnal – Night Creatures.

*Note- The first plague would rob them of their refreshment; this one, among other things, would rob them of their rest.

*Note – Now notice all the places Moses said they would saturate.

- “beds” – “ovens” – “kneading troughs” – “houses”

- The frogs would come out of the rivers and into the homes.

- there is nothing in a ordinary home that would naturally attract the frogs. – there would be no source of food, no source of moisture.

*Note -Egyptians had seen the land with large amounts of frogs before, and they had never come into the homes, into the houses. – They were Out of Hand, and Out of Place.

- They had no place of refuge! -It came into their very bedrooms, and living rooms, and kitchens – there was no escape.

B. The Nature of the Judgment –

*Note – The next question, and natural question might be, “Why frogs?” Why not mice? Why not rats? Why not snakes? Why frogs?

1.) – First there is a Spiritual Message in the Frogs.

a.) Hequet – the goddess of fertility – a woman with the head of a frog.

- When the Nile flooded in the rainy season, the frogs would come out of the water and scatter around the banks of Egypt.

- They worshipped her, as the “Midwife” of Egypt. Being the goddess of fertility, she was seen as the protector of Egyptian women during childbirth.

- In their ancient belief, “she gave life” to Egypt, out of the Nile.
(Her husband was Khnum – a god who formed bodies from mud and clay, and she was the one who put life in their body.)

*Note – Now here is a question that is more than fair to ask? – Were these gods, “imaginary” or “demonic”? Are they merely the work of fiction? Or is there actually a demonic being involved?

- The answer is Yes!
 - All idolatrous gods are created by men.
 - All idolatrous creations are objects of the devil.

1st Corinthians 10:20 - *“But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.”*

*Note – There is only one other time in the Bible that “frogs” are mentioned – not related to the Exodus, is found yet in the future of this world.

- Revelation 16:13 – *“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.”*
- There is something intrinsically demonic about associating an unclean frog, with some deity worthy of worship.

- the message should have been clear, that the “Hequet” had no control over the fertile frogs of the land – the God of Moses did!

- The God of Moses is NOT some Superstitious belief in some mystic realm. – HE is the God that is over Nature Itself.

2.) *Second – there was Personal Suffering.*

*Note -Punishment without pain is not punishment at all.

The nature of this judgment is to create an unavoidable loathing and misery to the emotions, tastes, and comforts, of the Egyptians.

- There was nothing directly “life-threatening” or “imminently dangerous” to the existence of the Egyptians; - but it was a plague to remove any semblance of comfort, rest, or ease to their life.

- Furthermore, it was against the law for Egyptians to kill a frog, seeing they were “sacred in Egyptian” religion.

- The Egyptians were absolutely helpless under the judgments. **There was only one thing they could do during these judgments – be judged. – to just endure what God was pouring out.**

- They would just sit there and have to take it. They were forced to live, eat, and sleep, with the disgust of their own demonic and grotesque gods.

*Note – When God does His Work, He does it Masterfully Well!

The Psalmists wrote two different Psalms on the Plagues of Egypt for Israel to sing in their Psalms for the rest of their days.

- Psalm 78:45 – *“He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them.”*

- Psalm 105:30 – *“Their land brought forth frogs in abundance, in the chambers of their kings.”*

This Wondering Work of God is worthy of song and remembrance!

God’s Merciful Warning – God’s Masterful Work -

III. God’s Meaningful Wisdom – vs 8-15

*Note – Here is the first crack in Pharaoh’s armor. No one will outsmart, outwait, or outmaneuver the Lord God of all Creation. It is one thing for men to admit that; it is another thing for them to quit trying it.

Knowing that Pharaoh would not relent, God in His Wisdom used these plagues to show the futility of man’s pride, and the frailty of man’s resistance.

Notice the works of God’s Wisdom here...

A. To Draw Out the Weakness of Pharaoh –

1.) vs 7 – “And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt.”

*Note – The Lord again, allowed the Magicians and Sorcerers to mimic the plague. But there is something here that leads us to the possibility that something is rotten in Denmark.

- I cannot say for sure; but I cannot help but wonder if they were not summonsed by Pharaoh in order to mimic the miracle, but rather to cancel it... -

- Why? – Because of the very next verse... “Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, Intreat the LORD, that he may take away the frogs from me, and from my people;

and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the LORD.” – vs 8

The picture is this, the Pharaoh turned to his magic men, and all they did was make things worse, and so now Pharaoh has no choice, but to turn back to Moses and Aaron.

*Note – Pharaoh’s strength is only as long as his patience! - And Pharaoh’s priests, could provide NO Remedy.

*Note – Much has been made, and rightly so, about Pharaoh’s apparent demonstration of stupidity.

Vs 9-10 – “And Moses said unto Pharaoh, Glory over me: when shall I intreat for thee, and for thy servants, and for thy people, to destroy the frogs from thee and thy houses, that they may remain in the river only? 10 And he said, To morrow...

“Tomorrow”

- Pharaoh’s duplicity (yes/not now/no)
- his suffering said yes
- his stubbornness said no
- (caught between his suffering and his pride.)
- there is some foolishness in saying “one more night with the frogs”
- there is some dishonesty in saying “one more night with the frogs” – (Lets see how I feel tomorrow.)

*Note – This is the art of knowing what is right, but feeling something different, and doing everything you can to wait till that feeling changes, so you don’t have to do something that is right.

- I believe the old expression is “cutting off your nose to spite your face.”

- Absolute War between the Pride of Pharaoh and the Pain of Pharaoh. – While I am in Pain I will submit, but ask me again when I am not in Pain.

B. To Let Stand the Wake of Pharaoh

*Note – Notice the immediate aftermath of the judgment. God in His Wisdom let the effects of this judgment, even when it was ended, to land squarely upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

1.) verse 13-14 – “And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; and the frogs died out of the houses, out of the villages, and out of the fields. 14 And they gathered them together upon heaps: and the land stank.

*Note - When the Lord ended the plague, He did not send them back to the water, He killed them where they were.

The Egyptians had to clean up the stink from their own judgment.

C. To Make Known the Wickedness of Pharaoh –

“When Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart.”

*Note – Pharaoh would relent in while he was in pain, but would not repent once in relief.

(Repentance from Sin, and Professions of Faith, that are DISHONEST, will never fool the Lord Jesus.)

- Their lips are with me, but their heart is far from me!

Conclusion: There is hardly anything more wicked, than one who is stubbornly dishonest with God, as though God were his equal.

- A man or woman will never be more like Pharaoh than when he says what he knows God wants to hear; but it is not with the honesty of the heart.

- A man or a woman will never be more like Moses, or more Like Jesus; than when they function by the Word of the Lord, in a world that is doing everything it can to stop them.

- Furthermore, a people are never more like the Egyptians, than when they blindly follow a Pharaoh.

-A people are never in a better place for deliverance than when they are looking to the Lord Jesus, like the Israelites followed Moses.