

Torah Studies

Exodus: *Shemot* or Names

More Plagues

Exodus 8



Two Men Studying – Boris Dubrov

More Plagues
Exodus 8

Introduction

More Plagues

Exodus 8

Previously in Exodus:

Introduction

More Plagues

Exodus 8

Introduction

Previously in **Exodus**:

- In **Exodus 7**, God repeated the assignment He gave to Moses and Aaron.
- They confronted Pharaoh, first with a sign involving Aaron's serpent eating those of the Egyptians.
- Then with the first of ten plagues – the Nile turned to blood.

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Exodus 8

Introduction

What to expect in Exodus 8:

More Plagues

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Introduction

What to expect in Exodus 8:

- This chapter will give us three more plagues: frogs, gnats and flies.
- As expected, Pharoah refuses to budge, so the plagues continue.
- (The plagues will take us through Exodus 12.)

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Commitment to God's Word

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Commitment to God's Word

- Psalm 119:109-112 (NKJV)

109 My life is continually in my hand,
Yet I do not forget Your law.

110 The wicked have laid a snare for me,
Yet I have not strayed from Your precepts ...

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Commitment to God's Word

- Psalm 119:109-112 (NKJV)

... 111 Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage
forever,

For they are the rejoicing of my heart.

112 I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes
Forever, to the very end.

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Exodus 8

Outline

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Exodus 8

Outline

- I. The Second Plague: Frogs 8:1-15
- II. The Third Plague: Gnats 8:16-19
- III. The Fourth Plague: Flies 8:20-32

I. The Second Plague: Frogs

8:1-15

I. The Second Plague: Frogs

8:1-15

- 8:1-6 As with the Nile, the plague of frogs (and plagues to come) shows God's authority over nature.
- 8:3 Frogs swarmed Egypt – covering homes, beds, and even ovens – because God commanded it.
- This was a direct act to prove God's power to Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

I. The Second Plague: Frogs

8:1-15

- 8:1-6 God expects us to enjoy nature and be good stewards of His creation, but we cannot worship it.
- The Egyptians had several gods tied to the Nile. One of the more important ones was Heqet.

I. The Second Plague: Frogs

8:1-15



A 3000 year-old frog statue from Egypt



Heqet, the frog-headed goddess

I. The Second Plague: Frogs

8:1-15

- 8:7 The magicians made more frogs, but they did not bring relief from the plague.
- 8:8 Pharoah seems like he wants to repent here.

I. The Second Plague: Frogs

8:1-15

- 8:9-13 God shows mercy within judgment.
- He is giving Pharoah a chance to turn from his stubbornness.
- We should be thankful that God does not bring judgment immediately.

I. The Second Plague: Frogs

8:1-15

- 2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

I. The Second Plague: Frogs

8:1-15

- 8:13-14 God removed the plague of frogs, but what was left was a terrible stinking mess.
- Even when God forgives our sin, we are sometimes left with a stinking mess afterward.
- It is helpful to think of the consequences of our sin before we engage in it.

I. The Second Plague: Frogs

8:1-15

- 8:15 Now Pharoah hardens his heart.
- See last week's teaching about this hardening.
- Earlier (v.8) it seemed like Pharoah was willing to bend with respect to the Israelites.
- The crisis passed, and Pharaoh no longer cared.

I. The Second Plague: Frogs

8:1-15

- 8:15 Now Pharoah hardens his heart.
- People can make promises to God in tough times but go back on them when things get better.
- Pharoah's real concern was the elimination of the plague, not freeing the Israelites.

II. The Third Plague: Gnats

8:16-19

II. The Third Plague: Gnats

8:16-19

- 8:16-17 The “gnats” might be mosquitos but at least it refers to any little winged bug.
- The KJV “lice” seems less likely.

II. The Third Plague: Gnats

8:16-19

- 8:16-17 God's power comes without warning.
- The introduction of the plagues differs from one to the other.
- It's not like God is giving Moses a magic formula.

II. The Third Plague: Gnats

8:16-19

- 8:18 Again, the Egyptians don't even try to solve the problem – only to add to it.
- But this time they can't.
- They are forced to acknowledge God's power.

II. The Third Plague: Gnats

8:16-19

- 8:18 This is a big moment.
- From here on out, the Egyptians must admit that they have no control.
- Egypt's wise men, sorcerers, and Pharaoh himself – who was a god – are powerless.
- They must all see that they are at the mercy of the God of Israel.

II. The Third Plague: Gnats

8:16-19

- 8:19 Alas, Pharoah's heart remained hard.
- Pride or stubbornness can blind people, even when the evidence of God's power is clear.

II. The Third Plague: Gnats

8:16-19

- 8:19 Sometimes people just refuse to admit they are wrong – even when it is obvious.
- Three times in Revelation (9:20, 16:9, 16:11) we see the phrase “did not repent.”
- This is true even though people are living through the worst plagues the world will ever know.

II. The Third Plague: Gnats

8:16-19

- Revelation 9:20-21

20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, 21 nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

III. The Fourth Plague: Flies

8:20-32

III. The Fourth Plague: Flies

8:20-32

- 8:20 Moses confronts Pharaoh as he goes out to the water early in the morning.
- This is the same pattern we saw with the first plague back in 7:15.

III. The Fourth Plague: Flies

8:20-32

- 8:22 ... that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.
- Let's keep in mind God's purpose for these plagues.
- He desires His name to be known.

III. The Fourth Plague: Flies

8:20-32

- 8:22-23 For the first time, God is clearly separating the Israelites from the Egyptians.
- There will be more of this.
- God has the power to protect us, even in the midst of terrible times, even in periods of judgment.

III. The Fourth Plague: Flies

8:20-32

- 8:25-28 Pharaoh's Haggling
- Pharaoh tried to bargain with God, offering to let the Israelites sacrifice but only within Egypt (8:25).
- Then later he says they can go but not too far (8:28).
- Both offers fell short of God's command to fully let the people go.

III. The Fourth Plague: Flies

8:20-32



God demands complete separation from the world; the friendship of the world is enmity with God (James 4:4) ... The believer must “come out and be separate” (2 Cor. 6:17).

*– Warren Wiersbe (1929 – 2019),
pastor and Bible teacher*

III. The Fourth Plague: Flies

8:20-32

- 8:25-28 Pharaoh's Haggling
- We too can try to “half-obey” God, offering partial commitment instead of full surrender.

III. The Fourth Plague: Flies

8:20-32

- 8:25-28 Watch out for areas where we try to stop a step or two short of full obedience.
- We either try to hold onto sin or hesitate to fully engage in God's plan for us.

III. The Fourth Plague: Flies

8:20-32



Here we have the temptation to be “borderline believers,” trying to stay close to the world and close to the Lord at the same time.

*– Warren Wiersbe (1929 – 2019),
pastor and Bible teacher*

III. The Fourth Plague: Flies

8:20-32

- 8:29-32 Pharaoh's Broken Promises
- After Moses prayed and God removed the flies (vv.30-31), Pharaoh went back on his word again.
- He hardened his heart and refused to let the Israelites go (v.32).
- Again, this highlights the danger of making promises to God that we don't keep.

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Conclusions

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Conclusions

- Consider sin's cost before you act.

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Conclusions

- Consider sin's cost before you act.
- Exodus 8:13-14

13 And the Lord did according to the word of Moses. The frogs died out in the houses, the courtyards, and the fields. 14 And they gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank.

More Plagues

Exodus 8

Conclusions

- Consider sin's cost before you act.
- God really did stop the plague, but the Egyptians were left to clean up the mess.
- God can forgive us, and we can forgive one another, but sometimes the effects of sin are long lasting.

More Plagues

Exodus 8

Conclusions

- Don't make promises you won't keep.

More Plagues

Exodus 8

Conclusions

- Don't make promises you won't keep.
- Far too often, people make promises to God but then bail on them later.
- Jesus had an interesting remedy for this.

More Plagues

Exodus 8

Conclusions

- Don't make promises you won't keep.

- Matthew 5:33-37

33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King ...

More Plagues

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Conclusions

- Don't make promises you won't keep.

- Matthew 5:33-37

... 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

More Plagues

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Conclusions

- Don't make promises you won't keep.
- The point is not to be afraid of normal vows like wedding vows or an oath of office.
- The point is to be people of our word.

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Conclusions

- Stopping short of full obedience.

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Conclusions



The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.

– G. K. Chesterton (1874 – 1936),
English author, lay theologian,
social critic

More Plagues

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Conclusions

- Stopping short of full obedience.
- This is what Pharaoh found himself up against.
- He was put off by obedience, when he liked to be the one in charge.

More Plagues

Exodus 8

Conclusions

- Stopping short of full obedience.
- And we do the same.
- We waver, make excuses, but fail to realize that God will empower us to do all that He asks.

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And More Plagues Exodus 9 – 10

Exodus: *Shemot* or Names



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