

"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"

Part 7

Exodus 7-12

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of the life of Moses we have come back to the second of the ten plagues. This second plague was a massive invasion of frogs in the land of Egypt.

II. The Second Plague

Part 2

Exodus 8:1-15

Notice Exodus 8:1-6

There was not one person that was not impacted by this plague. The frogs filled the land and the homes of all who lived in Egypt. This plague was another direct attack upon the false gods of Egypt. One of the false gods of Egypt was called Heqt and was considered to be the fertility goddess. This god was often pictured as a squatting frog. This goddess was considered to have the power to increase the fertility of the Egyptians. So, the infiltration of the frogs was a direct attack upon this false god. The frog goddess was supposed to bring forth life but now, because of these frogs, there was destruction and death.

There is another thought here also. The frog in Egypt was considered to be sacred and it was against the law to kill a frog. The consequences of killing a frog could cost a person their life. Let me explain one of the messages which God was sending with these frogs which were sacred to the Egyptians.

Exodus 1:7

⁷ And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.

God filled the land of Egypt with the Israelites and the Egyptians did everything they could to stop their growth, even to the point of killing the baby boys. Here in Exodus 8 then we read of God filling the land with frogs.

Exodus 1:6

⁶ And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt.

The Egyptians killed the Israelites who were sacred to God, and now God fills their land with frogs which are sacred to them and because of the own laws they cannot even kill the frogs. The Egyptians are in a very difficult situation. Even if they were permitted to kill the frogs there were far too many and they just kept coming. They infiltrated the homes, they were in the beds, and the kitchens. They got in the food, they crawled upon the people all night, they smashed the frogs as they walked, and the dead frogs gave off a terrible stench as they rotted. The magicians did not make the situation any better for they also produced frogs.

Notice Exodus 8:7

All of this now brings us to where we are in our study tonight. Pharaoh walked back into his house in the middle of the first plague as he hardened his heart. But we are about to see that this plague was more severe, and it caused him to seek relief.

I. Pharaoh's Request

Notice Exodus 8:8

For the first time in Moses' dealings with Pharaoh this is the first sign of him backing down. This request by Pharaoh looks great on the surface but a closer look shows several major problems.

1. Pharaoh's priority.

As we look at the verse, I want you to notice the order which Pharaoh ask for the frogs to be removed. He desired that they first of all be removed from him and then from his people. This reveals the heart of Pharaoh. His number 1 priority was himself. His people welfare was not a top concern for him. This man was all about himself. In his mind the people had their place, but it was subordinate to him. His life was about his comfort first.

Application:

Let me just say that this is certainly not to be the attitude of God's people today.

Philippians 2:1-8

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

² Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

³ Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Jesus put our needs in the place of top priority. He then made the greatest sacrifice of all to meet our greatest need. This is the very way in which we are to live. We are to be willing to sacrifice in order to meet the needs of others. Timothy was a man who had the mind of Jesus Christ in him.

Philippians 2:19-22

¹⁹ But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

²⁰ For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

²¹ For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

²² But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

This attitude should be exercised not only in sacrificing to meet the needs of others but also in our exercise of our liberty in Jesus Christ. Remember Paul's instructions to the Corinthians concerning eating meat offered to idols?

1 Corinthians 8:8-13

⁸ But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.

⁹ But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

¹⁰ For if any man see thee which hath knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols;

¹¹ *And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?*

¹² *But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.*

¹³ *Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.*

1 Corinthians 10:23-24

²³ *All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.*

²⁴ *Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.*

This was not the heart attitude of Pharaoh for he sought his own welfare before his people.

2. Pharaoh's procrastination.

Notice Exodus 8:8-10

Moses asked Pharaoh to be specific as to when he wanted the frogs removed and he said, "TOMMORROW". This answer is insane! Why would the man not request that the frogs be taken away immediately?

Application:

Is not this the way many people deal with sin in their lives today? It is rare that the sinner is quick to forsake their sin. Even when they feel the pressure of the consequences they will procrastinate. Many have said, "Tomorrow I will listen to the Gospel. Tomorrow I will forsake this sin. Tomorrow I will consider Jesus Christ." This list of procrastinations goes on and on but it always the same. Jesus spoke of the danger of living for the world and not being prepared for eternity.

Luke 12:16-20

¹⁶ *And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:*

¹⁷ *And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?*

¹⁸ *And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.*

¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

²⁰ But God said unto him, **Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee:** then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

There is a warning here for the unsaved and the saved. Believers who get tangled in sin need to understand that God will bring chastening. Many know that in their mind but refuse to believe that the consequences will be today or that they will be severe. Let me just say that if you hold onto sin and you get to the point where God's must bring discipline there is the possibility that the consequences will be irreversible.

Remember when Nathan confronted David concerning his sin? David had gone so far that the consequences were not reversible.

2 Samuel 12:7-11

⁷ And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

⁸ And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and **if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.**

⁹ Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

¹⁰ Now therefore **the sword shall never depart from thine house;** because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

¹¹ Thus saith the LORD, Behold, **I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house,** and **I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour,** and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

David would live with the consequences the rest of his life. So, the lesson here is, "Repentance needs to happen today, not tomorrow!"

3. Pharaoh's prerequisite.

Notice Exodus 8:8

Pharaoh wanted God to take away the frogs **then** he would let the people go. Pharaoh placed a condition on the release of the people.

Application:

Many people have been involved in the practice of bargaining with God. They find themselves with their backs against the wall and they begin to bargain. They promise to never do this or that again if God will rescue them from the current pressure they are under.

Notice Exodus 8:9-15

When the frogs were removed Pharaoh refused to keep his promise.

This is the response of many people who have bargained with God. He has graciously relieved the pressure and they went right back to their old ways again.

Let me give you two thoughts from all of this:

1. We should not bargain with God. If God's Word instructs us to do something, we should walk in obedience just because God instructs us to do so. There should never be any conditions placed upon our obedience. It should be our joy to walk in obedience.
2. If we are going to make a vow/promise with God, we had better be willing to see it through for God takes our promises very seriously.

Numbers 30:1-2

And Moses spake unto the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded.

² If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.

Deuteronomy 23:21-23

²¹ When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.

²² But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee.

²³ That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the LORD thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth.

Ecclesiastes 5:4-6

⁴ When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

⁵ *Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.*

⁶ *Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?*

Conclusion:

What can we learn from all of this with Pharaoh?

What stands out to me is the sinfulness and the deceitfulness of man's heart.

Jeremiah 17:9

⁹ *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*