

**"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"**

**Part 9**

**Exodus 7-12**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of the life of Moses we began to look at the 4<sup>th</sup> plague which God brought upon Egypt. It was the plague of swarms. The Bible tells us they were swarms of flies, but the word "flies" has been added by the translators in our text. We do not know what kind of bugs they were but whatever they were they came in swarms. They were inescapable. They penetrated every area of the lives of the Egyptians. These swarms filled the homes of the Egyptians. We began last week by looking at Moses' stand and at Pharaoh's refusal to see the warning in the plagues.

**The Fourth Plague**

**"Swarms"**

**Exodus 8:20-32**

**A. Pharaoh's Cold Heart**

**Notice Exodus 8:20**

Moses was called to stand against the most powerful leader in the world. He never backed down, but he stood firm as he delivered God's message to Pharaoh. We also looked at how Pharaoh's sin had deadened his heart. He had been an eyewitness to the Nile turning to blood, he experienced the invasion of the frogs and the lice, but yet he went about his life as he always did. His heart had become desensitized to what was happening, and he was on the path of eternal destruction.

There were several things which attributed to his cold response. God had hardened his heart, he hardened his own heart, and the idolatry he was involved in opened the door for demonic influence. There was only one means of escape for Pharaoh and that was to repent and to turn to the True Living God. But Pharaoh seems to have allowed his heart to be hardened to the point there was no remedy.

**Proverbs 29:1**

*He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.*

This now brings us to where we are tonight.

**B. The Separation**

**Notice Exodus 8:20-23**

This plague will be different than the previous plagues in that Israel, who is in the land of Goshen, will be excluded from the swarms. In the previous plagues Israel also suffered because of the plagues. This plague is also different in that the magicians are not involved. We will only see them one more time and that will be in Exodus 9:11.

Now, I want you to notice in verse 22 that the purpose of the separation was for the purpose of God being glorified and magnified. The separation was not to shelter Israel.

**Application:**

Let me show you a command that is given to us.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

*14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

*15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*

*16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

*17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

*18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

We are commanded to live separated lives. Using the separation of Israel and Egypt in Exodus 8 we can know two main reasons for separation:

1. To glorify the Lord.
2. To magnify the Lord.

We glorify Him as we separate from the sin of this world and as we do that, we also magnify Him to the lost people around us.

There is another reason why separation is so important in our lives as believers. It keeps us from becoming influenced by the sin of the ungodly.

Let me show you what how God instructed Israel before they came into the land of Canaan. They were given a two-part military manual.

1. Part 1 - Cities of Canaan that were far off.

**Deuteronomy 20:10-15**

*<sup>10</sup> When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim peace unto it.*

*<sup>11</sup> And it shall be, if it make thee answer of peace, and open unto thee, then it shall be, that all the people that is found therein shall be tributaries unto thee, and they shall serve thee.*

*<sup>12</sup> And if it will make no peace with thee, but will make war against thee, then thou shalt besiege it:*

*<sup>13</sup> And when the LORD thy God hath delivered it into thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword:*

*<sup>14</sup> But the women, and the little ones, and the cattle, and all that is in the city, even all the spoil thereof, shalt thou take unto thyself; and thou shalt eat the spoil of thine enemies, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.*

*<sup>15</sup> Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities which are very far off from thee, which are not of the cities of these nations.*

2. Part 2 - Cities that were near.

**Deuteronomy 20:16-18**

*<sup>16</sup> But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth:*

*<sup>17</sup> But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee:*

*<sup>18</sup> That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the LORD your God.*

These were extreme measures, but God knew if Israel mixed with the Canaanites that they would be swallowed up in the worship of their false gods. Now let me show you what happened.

**Judges 1:21, 27-30, 33**

*<sup>21</sup> And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jerusalem; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem unto this day.*

<sup>27</sup> Neither did Manasseh drive out the inhabitants...

<sup>28</sup> And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute, and did not utterly drive them out.

<sup>29</sup> Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.

<sup>30</sup> Neither did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants...

<sup>31</sup> Neither did Asher drive out the inhabitants...

<sup>33</sup> Neither did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants...

### **Judges 2:1-3**

*And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you.*

<sup>2</sup> *And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?*

<sup>3</sup> *Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.*

Let me show you the fulfillment of the statement in verses 3.

### **Judges 2:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> *And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:*

<sup>12</sup> *And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger.*

<sup>13</sup> *And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.*

Now let me explain the good of Baal. He was a fertility god. This false god was worshipped by a person joining physically with a priest or a priestess. The worshipper would have sexual relations with the priest or priestess and as this happened, they would pray that the god of fertility, Baal, would also make their land and their livestock fertile. Let me show you what Israel did with this.

In 1 Samuel there is a man named Eli who is the high priest. He has two sons.

**1 Samuel 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> *And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.*

Now let me show you what they were doing.

**1 Samuel 2:22**

<sup>22</sup> *Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.*

They were having relations with the women that came to the Tabernacle. They have brought the worship of Baal right in and mixed it with the worship of Jehovah. This all happened because of no separation.

We went the long way around but from all of this we can see how important it is that we live separated lives. It glorifies God, it magnifies God in our lives, and it keeps us from falling into the sins practiced by the world. All of this is very important for many reasons, but one reason is because of our testimony. We have been chosen by the Lord as the body of Christ to represent Him to the world.

**Notice Exodus 8:24**

Here we see that the land was corrupted by the swarms. The word corrupt means to lay in ruins, to mar, to spoil, to make good for nothing. Now, as I said, we don't know what kind of insects these were but there are some ideas which people have based upon certain Scriptures.

**Exodus 12:12**

<sup>12</sup> *For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.*

The plagues were judgment against all the goods of Egypt so we can be sure that the insects had something to do with the false gods. Let me show you another verse.

**Psalms 78:43-45**

<sup>43</sup> *How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan.*

<sup>44</sup> *And had turned their rivers into blood; and their floods, that they could not drink.*

<sup>45</sup> He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them.

The "flies" devoured the people. The word "devoured" means "to eat or to consume". So, whatever these insects were they had a terrible bite. Let me show you the words of another teacher:

*"Some think these were scarab beetles which were actually dung beetles, insects that feed on manure. Scarab beetles could also be very destructive, because they had jaw bones that could saw through wood. If this is the case was this then a plague directed at a particular god of Egypt? Yes, it was. The Egyptian God Kheper was depicted as a man with a dung beetle in place of his head. Kheper was viewed as a God who pushed the sun across the sky. He was associated with the dung beetle because dung beetles would roll manure into small balls and push them around on the ground, similar to how the Egyptians thought Kheper pushed the sun across the Sky. The Egyptians also considered the scarab beetles as divine since they emerged from dead animals and manure and thus were viewed as being created from dead matter. Because of this they came to be associated with the rebirth and resurrection. The Egyptians apparently didn't realize that the beetles simply laid their eggs in dead animals or manure, and they hatched out later. It certainly had nothing to do with being divine. So, when these swarms of creatures invaded the land and got into everything like the earlier plagues of lice and frogs, this was a direct affront to the god Kheper. Kheper was shown to be incapable of controlling the highly destructive insects that were now chewing their way through the Egyptian houses and buildings and devouring the people."*

When I consider all of this I am reminded of the Tribulation.

### **Revelation 9:1-6**

*And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.*

<sup>2</sup> *And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*

<sup>3</sup> *And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*

<sup>4</sup> *And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.*

*<sup>5</sup> And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.*

*<sup>6</sup> And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.*

**Conclusion:**

How does all of this apply to our lives? When God decides to bring judgment on a nation or chastisement on one of His children there is no way to defend against it. You cannot outmaneuver God and there is no medication that can erase the sting. Therefore, we **MUST** walk in obedience to His Word and keep short accounts of sin. If a believer goes too far into sin the chastisement can be very painful and inescapable. We must always remember that we cannot chose a path of sin without severe consequences.

**Hebrews 12:6-8**

*<sup>6</sup> For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

*<sup>7</sup> If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

*<sup>8</sup> But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*