

Frogs, Lice, And Flies

Exodus 8

Faith Portal Church

ADULT

Unit 10 Lesson 7

Supplemental Texts

Exo 7

Focus Verse

“Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had said.” – Exodus 8:19

Introduction

Moses and Aaron appeared before Pharaoh and requested that the Israelites be allowed to go. As God had said, Pharaoh would not consent to their request. God advised Moses and Aaron to perform a miracle should Pharaoh ask for one (Exo 7:9). Pharaoh thought his magicians were a match with God until Aaron's staff devoured his magicians' staffs. What a shame! As if that was not enough, Pharaoh caused all the waters in his land to turn into blood despite God's warning.

Deeper Look

There Is No One Like The Lord – Exo 8:1-19

God sent Moses to Pharaoh to warn him of the pending plagues if he denied the Israelites to go. In the end, God would be glorified, but Pharaoh and his people would suffer much. Pharaoh was warned that Nile would be full of frogs that would infest the land and spread all over their homes. In ancient Egypt, the frog was worshipped as a female goddess. The frogs came up and spread everywhere. Pharaoh's magicians imitated the miracle with their occult power, but they were unable to remove the plague. Pharaoh implored Moses and Aaron to plead with the Lord to rid the land of frogs and that he would let the people go. Once Pharaoh was relieved after Moses interceded, he hardened his heart. The plague of lice came unannounced and likely stopped the Egyptians' worship since they became unclean to worship their gods, and their animal sacrifices likely became repulsive to their gods. Pharaoh's magicians could not imitate this miracle.

Behold, I Will Send Swarms Of Flies – Exo 8:20-32

God again warned Pharaoh of the plague of flies (Psa 78:45) if he disallowed the Israelites to go. In this plague, the land of Goshen would be protected (Gen 47:1,6). Hence, God would show Pharaoh that the Israelites were His people. This would possibly affect the worship of their gods. The swarms of flies caused Pharaoh to suggest a compromise, but Moses refused to avoid public chaos (vv. 25,26). Pharaoh promised again to let the people go if Moses could intercede for him. As soon as Pharaoh was relieved, he hardened his heart again. What a pitiable state to be in!

Questions

1. Was God's request to let the Israelites go beyond the power of Pharaoh? Explain. Why did God warn Pharaoh against refusing to let the Israelites go? Explain.
2. God threatened to plague Egypt with frogs from the Nile River. What was the significance of the frogs and the Nile River to the Egyptians? How should the details of the plague have influenced Pharaoh's attitude?
3. What effect could the plague of frogs have on the Egyptians? By how much was Moses confident that the plague would be removed when Pharaoh called him to intercede? How did Moses develop that confidence, and how can you?
4. What effect could the plague of lice have on the Egyptians? Why did God bring this plague with no warning? Pharaoh's magicians were unable to imitate the miracle of the plague of lice. What does this tell you about the Almighty God?
5. Can you say that the Israelites faced the first three plagues with the Egyptians? Why? What characters of God were displayed when He sent the plague of flies? How do these characters encourage you spiritually?
6. What lesson would Pharaoh's magicians have learned since Moses and Aaron had started performing miracles in Egypt?
7. What did the Israelites owe Pharaoh that he refused to let them go? Why did he keep changing his mind after each relief? What spiritual lessons are here to learn?

Personal Meditation

What was the matter with Pharaoh, you might ask? He absolutely was a wicked king with no heart for his people, you might say. To be frank, in view of the warnings God gave him through Moses, one can affirm that Pharaoh was out of his mind. He had allowed his stubbornness to get in the way of obeying God. His refusal to recognize and honor the Almighty God created severe outcomes for the Egyptians. As God had said in Exo 4-8, He would harden Pharaoh's heart (Exo 4:21). What does that mean exactly? It means that God would pull back from Pharaoh and permit him to do whatever he pleased, yet not stopping him from repenting.

To be clear, we are no different from Pharaoh. He disregarded the men of God just as many do today. He dishonored God like many do today, and God allowed him to remain in his state of obduracy that God might be glorified. At times, even a child of God may want to do his own will instead of God's. Remember Jonah (Jon 1:3). But you know what? The result can be serious if you reject God's will. Being a child of God means being in God's will. God's will is always perfect!

DAILY STUDY

Monday	Exo 8:1-7
Tuesday	Exo 8:8-15
Wednesday	Exo 8:16-19
Thursday	Exo 8:20-23
Friday	Exo 8:24-27
Saturday	Exo 8:28-32



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