

“The Plague of Frogs”  
Exodus 8:1-15  
(Preached at Trinity, January 14, 2007)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Last time we witnessed the first of the ten plagues God brought upon the idolatrous Egyptians, the turning of the Nile into blood.  
The Nile was the lifeblood of Egypt. It provided water for drinking, for irrigation, for transportation. The yearly floods deposited the fertile topsoil in Egypt. Without the Nile Egypt would not exist.
2. In these plagues God will be declaring His absolute sovereign power and dominion.  
**Exodus 7:17** – “In this thou shalt know that I *am* the LORD”  
The Egyptians worshipped more than eighty deities – gods of the Nile River, gods of the land and sky, gods of the crops and livestock.  
God was declaring before the Egyptians the 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment –  
“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”
3. There would be ten plagues:  
Blood, frogs, gnats, flies, disease, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, and death.  
The first two plagues were against the gods of the Nile.  
The next four plagues were against the land gods.  
The next three plagues were against the gods of the sky.  
Finally the plagues culminated with the death of the firstborn.
4. God’s purpose in all these plagues was to display His glory—that His power might be known throughout the earth. God could have killed Pharaoh with a heart attack at the beginning and marched Israel out of Egypt, but His power would not have been displayed.
5. Pharaoh had no intention of losing the Hebrew slaves.  
**Exodus 7:22-23** – “and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said. <sup>23</sup> And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also.”
6. God was about to prove Himself mighty before Pharaoh and all of Egypt. God will have no rivals – He *will* be glorified.
7. As **Chapter 8** opens we find the second of the ten plagues. Like the first plague, this plague was God’s judgment upon Egypt’s demonic idolatry. The Egyptians worshipped the frog. The Egyptian goddess Hekt was always pictured with the head or head and body of frog.
  - a. Since the frog was considered sacred they could not be killed. So as the frogs covered Egypt the Egyptians were brought to despise the symbol of their god.
  - b. To make matters worse even as the frogs died the nauseating smell of the dying frogs made them further loathe the frog.
8. God’s demands had not change, neither did He negotiate with Pharaoh.  
**Exodus 7:16** – “Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness:”  
**Exodus 8:1** – “And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.”

9. Pharaoh was beginning to learn of God. He serves as a warning to all who come to a knowledge of God without submitting to His rule. We can learn much about God and still not know Him unto salvation.

**Verse 8** speaks volumes to us. What are some of the things Pharaoh was learning?

I. Pharaoh now acknowledges the name of God

A. This was a great change in Pharaoh

1. Before he knew nothing of Jehovah  
**Exodus 5:2** – “And Pharaoh said, *Who is the LORD*, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.”
2. It isn't that God had not revealed Himself to Pharaoh.
  - a. God reveals Himself to all men  
**Romans 1:19-21** – “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. <sup>20</sup> For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: <sup>21</sup> Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”
  - b. Like every lost man Pharaoh suppressed the truth of God. It isn't that he did not know God. He dismissed Him
3. Now Pharaoh acknowledges God. He refers to Him by name  
**Exodus 8:8** Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, Intreat the LORD, that he may take away the frogs from me

B. This isn't sufficient for salvation

1. Pharaoh now acknowledges the name of God  
God's name points to His existence – He is the “I AM” the self-existing God – to know God's name is to know the essence of God  
Pharaoh is acknowledging the one true God but he does not submit to Him
2. One can know all the facts about God and yet not know God in a saving sense  
**James 2:19** – “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”  
Such a knowledge of God will only excite terror in the heart rather than the peace and comfort of a relationship with God
3. In the end all men will know God in all of His glory but only as the sovereign judge that pronounces their condemnation.

II. Pharaoh now acknowledges the power of God

A. At first Pharaoh sincerely believed he had all the power

**Exodus 5:2** – “And Pharaoh said, *Who is the LORD*, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.”

1. He had spent years having the Egyptian people worship him. He ruled with absolute authority

2. He sincerely believed that the Israelites were his property and that he possessed the power to keep them. Now this confidence was being severely shaken.
  3. Now he was feeling a limitation to his power. Even his magicians could only add to the plague
 

**Exodus 8:7** – “And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt.”

    - a. As with the water turned to blood, they could only add to Egypt’s misery. They were powerless to remove the frogs.
    - b. Satan can do nothing against God’s sovereign purpose
  3. Pharaoh retreated to the safety of his royal castle
    - a. Even here the frogs infested his living quarters.
    - b. The text tells us that the frogs even came upon Pharaoh – **Verse 4**
- B. Now Pharaoh acknowledges the superior power of God
- Exodus 8:8** – “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.”
1. There was no doubt in Pharaoh’s mind the source of this plague  
He knew he was at the mercy of God. He had no ability to stand against the mighty power of God
  2. Pharaoh was admitting that God has power over creation. God brought the frogs upon the land. Only God could remove them.
  3. Recognizing the power of God isn’t the same thing as embracing it
    - a. Multitudes understand the almighty power of our Creator
    - b. They despise God’s rule. They hate God, they fear God – but they cannot deny His power.
    - c. Affirming the almighty power of God isn’t the same thing as submitting to it.
- III. Pharaoh acknowledges what God demands of man
- Exodus 8:8** – “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.”
- A. Not only does Pharaoh say he will let them go, he knows the purpose of the Exodus is for God’s people to worship Him
    1. Pharaoh knows that God is a God who must be worshipped by His people
    2. This is far different that knowing that *he* must worship God
    3. Most men are fine with others worshipping God  
If you dedicate your entire life to serving Christ most people won’t even bat an eye – as long as you don’t impose God’s dominion upon them
  - B. Few understand that God is the Ruler over all things, including them
    1. God created all. He controls all, sustains all
    2. God demands allegiance from all

**Exodus 20:3** – “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

3. God's judgment is upon all who refuses to submit to Him  
**Romans 1:18** – “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;”  
**Psalm 2:9** – “Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”

IV. Pharaoh offers up prayer to God

**Exodus 8:8** – “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.”

- A. Pharaoh understood that the way to gain access before God was through prayer
  1. Pharaoh asks Moses to pray on his behalf
    - a. Pharaoh is unable to pray for himself
    - b. Many people call for the clergy when they have a need  
Everybody wants a church wedding  
They call for a pastor to preach the funeral
  2. Pharaoh had no relationship with God and didn't want one
  3. Pharaoh understood his need for a mediator beyond himself so he called for Moses and Aaron
- B. We also have need of a Mediator
  1. The only Mediator between God and man is Jesus Christ  
**Hebrews 1:1-3** – “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; <sup>3</sup> Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”  
**Acts 4:12** – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
  2. There is no prayer offered up today except through Jesus Christ

V. All of this shows how much a man can learn about God without coming to Him for salvation.

- A. In a brief time Pharaoh had learned much about God
  1. He acknowledge the name of God, the person of God, the power of God.
  2. Pharaoh knew that it was necessary to worship and serve this God – he understood why Israel needed to leave
  3. He knew that God had the power to answer prayer and that it was necessary to entreat God for His blessings.
  4. Pharaoh, however, denied God as his God

- B. Pharaoh's problem was that his heart was still hard.  
**Exodus 8:13-15** – “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. <sup>14</sup> And they gathered them together upon heaps: and the land stank. <sup>15</sup> But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.”
1. He hated the thought of bowing before God
  2. He hated the thought of giving up himself before God – he was Pharaoh, in his eyes he was a god.
  3. In **Chapter 5** Pharaoh denied knowing God  
**Exodus 5:2** – “And Pharaoh said, Who *is* the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.”  
 Now he acknowledges knowing God, yet he still will not obey or let Israel go.
- C. There was another area where Pharaoh was severely wanting
1. Pharaoh did not acknowledge his guilt before God. He did not acknowledge his idolatry.
  2. Pharaoh did not confess his sins before God. He did not ask for God's forgiveness. He asked God to take away the frogs but not his sin.
  3. Like many people Pharaoh was more concerned about the consequences of sin than the sin itself

#### Conclusion:

1. Where does all of this leave you?  
 Have you confessed that by not submitting to God's sovereign dominion you are guilty of high treason? Have you admitted to Him that you are a sinner who has denied God His right to rule over you?
2. It isn't enough just to know a lot of facts about God.  
 Satan knows all of the facts. The demons know the facts. Pharaoh knew the facts. There are many who grow up in church learn volumes about God but do not submit to Him.
3. How about you? Have *you* submitted to Him?  
 The reason Pharaoh or any other man refuses to submit to God is hardness of heart. Ask God to soften your heart.