

## THE GLORY OF GOD ON DISPLAY (JUDGMENTS 4-6)

Exodus 8:20-9:12 (page 46 in the black Bibles)

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### INTRODUCTION

“The first nine judgments can be organized into three triads.”

A.	B.	C.
1. Blood (7:14-28)	4. Swarming Insects (8:20-32)	7. Hail (9:13-35)
2. Frogs (8:1-15)	5. Disease on Livestock (9:1-7)	8. Locusts (10:1-20)
3. Gnats/Lice (8:16-19)	6. Boils (9:8-12)	9. Darkness (10:21-29)

“The first two plagues in each triad were announced to Pharaoh beforehand, presumably at the palace (the first taking place at early morning confrontations with Pharaoh [7:15; 8:20; 9:13] and the second all initiated by the command, “Go to Pharaoh” [8:1; 9:1; 10:1]), whereas the third in each triad happened without warning [8:16-17; 9:8-10; 10:21-22].

“In the first triad (A), the magicians contend with Moses, reproducing the divine act in the first two and acknowledging the “finger of God” in the third. The second triad of judgments (B) introduce a distinction between Israel and Egypt (8:23), and after that point, Egypt alone is smitten by the various disasters. Indeed, after 8:23 it is only the sixth and eighth judgments that no mention is called to the protection of Israel.

“Finally, in the first triad of judgments we read of Aaron’s use of the staff (7:19; 8:5; 8:16); in the second triad there is no reference to the staff; and in the third triad it is the staff of Moses (9:23; 10:13) or his hand (10:22) that is mentioned.”

**(The Message of Exodus, J.A. Motyer, IVP 2005, p. 111)**

**Proposition:** God demonstrates His glory in divine judgments so that all will know Him and His people will worship Him.

The added emphasis in this week’s text is that God’s makes a distinction between those who are His and those who are not. This is seen most clearly when it comes to God’s judgment.

**Context:** The first three judgments have not caused Pharaoh to let the people go and serve the LORD even though even Pharaoh's magicians acknowledge that "This is the finger of God." Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said. (v. 19)

## I. FLIES/SWARMS OF INSECTS (8:20-32)

### A. THE STRIKE (8:21)

Psalm 78:45a "He sent among them swarms of flies that devoured them."

Psalm 105:31 "He spoke and there came swarms of flies and gnats in all their territory."

### B. THE MESSAGE (8:20-23)

1. Let My people go that they may serve Me. (8:20)

2. But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people are living, so that no swarms of insects will be there, in order that you may know that I, the LORD, am in the midst of the land. I will put a division between My people and your people. (8:22-23)

### C. THE MITIGATION (8:25-32)

Pharaoh's Response (v. 25)

Moses' Response (vv. 26-27)

Pharaoh's Response (v. 28)

Moses' Response: Warning & Supplication (vv. 29-30)

The Effect: The swarms are removed & Pharaoh hardened his heart. (vv.31-32)

## **II. DISEASE ON LIVESTOCK (9:1-7)**

A. THE STRIKE (9:3, 6)

B. THE MESSAGE (9:1-4)

C. THE MITIGATION (v. 7)

## **III. BOILS (9:8-12)**

A. THE STRIKE (9:8-10)

B. THE MESSAGE

No verbal message is recorded.

C. THE MITIGATION (vv. 11-12)

## **APPLICATION**

Whereas God disciplines His children for their benefit, God will judge all those who will not humble themselves and trust in His saving grace.

### **Discipline**

Hebrews 12:4-13

1 Corinthians 11:27-34

John 17:6-17

### **Judgment**

Matthew 25:31-46

Hebrews 9:27-28

Revelation 20:11-15