

Intro:

Main Point of Text: God sends the first plague with an ironic, providential turn of events for everyone.

Sermon Point: *God turns things around.*

Move 1: God will turn the world on its head.

Vs. 16: God again commands Pharaoh, “Let my people go”. For He is “LORD God of the Hebrews” and they must serve Him, not Pharaoh. Pharaoh turns away (vs. 23) “as the LORD had said” (Vs. 22b). God is making Pharaoh know Him (Vs. 17) by turning him inward: not god. Magicians worked in secret (vs. 22); Aaron and Moses turned Nile before their eyes (Vs. 20). Vss. 17-21. Pharaoh went to the river in the morning to worship Hapi, god of the Nile, where the Egyptian priests washed their idols. Irony: their gods of “life” are bathed in blood and death. Ps. 115:2-8.

Move 2: God will turn the ways of the wicked back upon them.

Hebrews have been in pain for a long time (Ex. 1; 3:7-10). Now, the Egyptians are beginning to know their pain: vss. 21, 24. They threw Hebrew babies into the Nile to die, now the Nile gives them back blood. Vs. 22a: magicians just added to their people's problems. Psalm 9:16. Isa 3:11; 48:22.

Move 3: God will turn your temporary suffering into eternal rest.

Vs. 15: Moses who was laid at the edge of the river to avoid death by a Pharaoh's hand (Ex. 2:3); now stands at the edge of the river to smite it in front of this Pharaoh. The Hebrew boy who had become the son of Pharaoh's daughter now prepares the process that will lead to taking away the firstborn son of Pharaoh. Those who made the Egyptians rich in slavery will now take their riches with them in freedom unto the Promised Land of rest. Ps. 37:11 and Mt. 5:5.

Conclusion:

God turns things around.