

The Fourth Plague: Flies Exodus 8:20-32

In the mid-1970s there were 21 dairies in Cerritos. The Orthodox Presbyterian Church had a congregation there, and I spoke at the church in the 1980s. There's one thing I always remember about that visit: FLIES! All those cows and their smelly surroundings made for a gazillion flies, and those bugs managed to get inside buildings as well as buzz around outside. The plague of flies in Egypt was infinitely worse and much more painful. These flies included what we call horseflies or botflies. If you've ever been bitten by a horsefly, you have some slight idea of the horror that hit Egypt.

I. **The Great Divide** (20-23)

- A. This account begins with Pharaoh at the river again. (Nile seems always in the background.)
- B. This time the king is given warning about what is coming: swarming, biting insects.
- C. These insects probably represent gods thought to protect Egypt: Kepri, Wedjet, et al.
- D. Now these insects will swarm over the Egyptians, but cannot touch the Israelites (so protect).
- E. Yahweh says the world is divided into 2 kinds of people: God's people and idolators

II. **Flies in the Buttermilk** (24)

- A. The "flies" are a mixture of flying insects: beetles (scarabs), horsefly types, stingers.
- B. The land (meaning all living things, plants & animals) was being "devoured" (laid waste).
- C. Their gods were spoiling the soup, getting in their bodily orifices. (Old lady swallowed a fly)
- D. We may assume that the Israelites were conscious of the change in their lives: great relief.
- E. We are not yet "untouchables," but salvation in Christ carries us through to great relief.

III. **A Lesson in True Worship** (25-27) True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth;

for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. John 4:26

- A. Pharaoh begs for relief by promising more religious freedom. (He lies, of course)
- B. Moses explains that with Yahweh it's all or nothing: you either obey or you don't.
- C. True worship requires leaving Egypt and breaking with the culture.
- D. Sacrifice (offering lives to God) will always arouse idolators who only know appeasement.
- E. God sacrificed His only-begotten son so that we might live to worship Him.

IV. **The Another Worthless Promise** (28-32)

- A. We live in a world where people have always said anything to get what they want.
- B. Just about anything Pharaoh said to Moses was insincere or an outright lie.
- C. Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. . .
- D. Only a fool, one who deceives himself, thinks he can successfully lie to God.
- E. God keeps His word; liars do not and learn that those who lie to God will be judged. (A & S)