

TruthInScripture

Pastor Rick Kabrick

Exodus 8.

So, in CH 7 we saw the first of the plagues. The plagues come in the form of 3 at a time, until the last, the taking of Pharoah's first born.



All the waters that were in the river were turned to blood in this first plague.

The timing and character of the plagues come from GOD's hand alone. It is important to understand that these plagues were all literal.

Each plague pointed to a greater meaning than the event itself, but they really happened. As we have noted each plague attacks a prized Egyptian deity and proves that they are indeed false gods.

/The plagues also answered Pharaoh's original question: Who is the LORD, this YHVH that I should obey HIS voice to let Israel go? The plagues show the LORD GOD to be greater than any of the deities of Egypt.

So there was blood throughout the land of Egypt: Specifically, this first plague was directed against several Egyptian river deities. The Nile itself was virtually worshipped as a god by the

Egyptians, and the LORD GOD shows that HE has complete power over the Nile, not some river god.

/There is a significant mention of something like this in a papyrus from this general period known as the Ipuwer ipure Papyrus. It actually says (Ipuwer 2.10) that the Nile was blood and undrinkable.

20 So Moses and Aaron (notice the order) did as the LORD had commanded. And the staff was lifted up and struck the water that was in the Nile, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, and all the water that was in the Nile was turned to blood.

21 The fish that were in the Nile died, and the Nile became foul (bah ash = foul), so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. And the blood was through all the land of Egypt.

22 But the magicians of Egypt did the same with their secret arts; and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

23 Then Pharaoh turned and went into his house with no concern even for this.

24 So all the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink, for they could not drink of the water of the Nile.

Notice that they dug all around the Nile to get down to clean water, but it does not indicate that they found any. Because they did not find any.

25 Seven days passed after the LORD had struck the Nile.

So, there was a complete period of time for Pharaoh to realize that this was the LORD of ALL. He did not.

Terrible break, but remember this 6-7 CH's are all one big continuous story. CH 8 begins.

8:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD,

“Let MY people go, that they may serve ME.

2 “But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will strike your whole territory with frogs.

3 The Nile will swarm with frogs, which will come up and go into your house and into your bedroom and on your bed, and into the houses of your servants and on your people, and into your ovens and into your kneading bowls.

4 “So the frogs will come up on you and your people and all your servants.”””

5 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your

hand with your staff over the rivers, over the streams and over the pools, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.’’

Most historians, Rabbinical writings agree that the plagues followed in rapid succession. So, that one had not completely ended before another began. There would have been some break, in order that Pharoah repent. But the idea is that it was pretty much nonstop.

The event of the plagues was probably over and done in less than a year.

GOD threatened a plague, and brought about a plague of frogs for a specific reason.



The Egyptian goddess Heqet was always pictured with the head of a frog. I would be pissed if I was a false goddess and they hook me up with a frog head.

Among the ancient Egyptians, frogs were considered sacred and could not be killed.

Egyptians worshipped the frog as a female goddess because frogs were common around the Nile, because they reproduced rapidly, and because being amphibians they are

part of two worlds, creatures of both land and water.

The frog was a goddess, hence the plague was exacerbated because it was against the law and culture to destroy one.

This is from the book of Yasher.
CH 80.

6 And the LORD sent again and caused all their waters to bring forth frogs, and all the frogs came into the houses of the Egyptians.

7 And when the Egyptians drank, their bellies were filled with frogs and they danced in their bellies as they dance when in the river.

8 And all their drinking water and cooking water turned to frogs, also when they lay in their beds their sweat bred frogs.

Well, I think we get the picture right?



Back to EXO 8

6 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.

7 The magicians did the same with their secret arts, making

frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

The magicians would seem to have been able to increase the plague, but not to remove it. They could seemingly add more frogs although the frogs were already coming forth, but the magicians could not remove the frogs.

8 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Entreat (עָתָר ‘ātar = pray to and ask your GOD) the LORD that HE remove the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD.”

Now Pharoah is either lying here or he does understand that it is the GOD that he said he does not know or claims so, that this GOD YHVH that he said he did not know is indeed the GOD Who is in control here. Do you see that?

Pray to the LORD that HE may take away the frogs: Here, GOD's previous promise in EXO 7:1 is fulfilled.

7:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I make you as God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet.

As a prophet of the One true living GOD GOD, Moses stood in the place of God before Pharaoh, and

Pharaoh made his request to GOD through Moses.

That word for entreat in Vs 8 ātar an unusual word, meaning intercede, the first time where we see pharaoh has been really moved, and on which he makes a promise to let Israel go, a promise which he does not keep.

9 Moses said to Pharaoh, “The honor is yours to tell me: when shall I entreat or atare for you and your servants and your people, that the frogs be destroyed from you and your houses, that they may be left only in the Nile?”

Here see what is a phrase of courtesy, and I think a bit of sarcasm. Moses says hey Pharoah, I submit to you, when do you want me to go to MY GOD with this request to remove the frogs so that HIS people can go?

So, the frogs have I'm sure that the frogs had invaded more than one palace of the Pharaoh.

9 Moses said to Pharaoh, “The honor is yours to tell me: When shall I entreat for you and your servants and your people, that the frogs be destroyed from you and your houses, that they may be left only in the Nile?”

**10 Then Pharaoh said,
“Tomorrow.” So Moses said,
“May it be according to your
word, that you may know that
there is no one like the LORD
our GOD.**

I don't know why Pharaoh didn't say, right now! Maybe he thought that was impossible, maybe he thought that he Pharaoh still had some control in the process, I don't know.

Well, Moses responds to the Pharaoh's timetable.

11 “The frogs will depart from you and your houses and your servants and your people; they will be left only in the Nile.”

12 Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the LORD concerning the frogs which HE had inflicted upon Pharaoh.

13 The LORD did according to the word of Moses, and the frogs died out of the houses, the courts, and the fields.

14 So they piled them in heaps, and the land became foul.

Bah ash = stink we have seen that word before, to smell. Must have been quite a mess. The Egyptians cast them into their rivers and dug pits to bury the frogs.

GOD would not instantly take them away. This was to convince

them of the truth of the miracle,
and to make them more aware of
this judgment, and more fearful of
bringing another.

**15 But when Pharaoh saw that
there was relief, he hardened his
heart and did not listen to them,
as the LORD had said.**

This is Pharaoh who hardened his
own heart. He hardened his heart:
Even when Pharaoh's plea was
granted, his heart did not change –
he hardened his heart – yet
Pharaoh did just as God said he
would.

This becomes a familiar pattern:
when Pharaoh did not keep his
word to let the people go the first

time, no doubt it became easier and easier to do the same again. Pharaoh ignored his promise; but GOD did not.



Hebrew commentators point out that nine plagues are divided into three groups. Warnings are given of the first two plagues in each group, while the 3rd is inflicted without notice.

16 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, that it may become

gnats through all the land of Egypt.””

17 They did so; and Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff, and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats through all the land of Egypt.

18 The magicians tried with their secret arts to bring forth gnats, but they could not; so there were gnats on man and beast.



Not sure why they wanted to bring more gnats. But it shows that the KOD cannot create anything at best it can duplicate and pervert GOD's. Notice that the two preceding plagues fell upon the Nile. This one with the gnats, fell on the earth. A special sacredness was attached to the black fertile soil of the basin of the Nile.

Lice כִּנִּי kēn - The Hebrew Word occurs only in connection with this plague. These insects are sometimes identified with mosquitos, whatever they were exactly, they were terrible because they were everywhere.

They were said to cause pain, and they are said to penetrate the body through the nose, mouth, ears, yuk.

This plague also struck at the heart of Egyptian worship, especially at their priests. The Egyptian priesthood was extremely careful about hygiene and ritual cleansing; and this plague of lice made them unable to worship their gods.

The plague of lice was also upon every beast. The gods of Egypt would not receive the sacrifice of lice-infested animals, so this stopped their sacrificial system of worship.

18 The magicians tried with their secret arts to bring forth

gnats, but they could not; so there were gnats on man and beast.

This translation is really the word yatsaw = to bring out, cast out, so they were actually trying to get rid of the gnats, bugs, but they could not. So now they are convinced this is from GOD (Elohim).

19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.



So, there are the first 3 plagues:
Blood, frogs and gnats, lice, bugs.

When the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God” they did not acknowledge Yehovah (YHVH).

It is even possible to translate this phrase, “This is the finger of a god.” But they had been forced to admit that some divine power was at work.

This was the beginning of the escalation of power in the plagues, yet they said “finger” rather than referring to the more powerful hand or arm.

Interesting that we are not told how the removal of the pesky

insects came about. But, the land has now been severely impacted.

20 Now the LORD said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and present yourself (yat sab = station yourself, set up yourself, station) before Pharaoh, as he comes out to the water, and say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Let MY people go, that they may serve ME.

So, this means go and station yourself where Pharaoh is bathing in the morning at the Nile river.

So the next 3 plagues are coming, here is the warning for the first.

21 “For if you do not let MY people go, behold, I will send

swarms of flies on you and on your servants and on your people and into your houses; and the houses of the Egyptians will be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they dwell.

I hate flies.



The word here is awrobe = swarm, the tradition is that it is a swarm of flies. In fact, blood sucking flies. Biting flies.

22 “But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where MY people are living, so that no swarms will be there, in order that you may know that I, the LORD, AM in the midst of the land.

This 4th plague consisted of dense swarms of what is traditionally understood as flies.

These next 3 plagues (flies, dying livestock, and boils) begins just as the first and last three began, following a confrontation with Pharaoh early in the morning.

The new threat was swarms of flies on every Egyptian, inside and

outside the houses (NIV, awkwardly: “even the ground”).

These infestations affect Pharaoh in particular, since he was the earthly power that controlled death and life in Egypt.

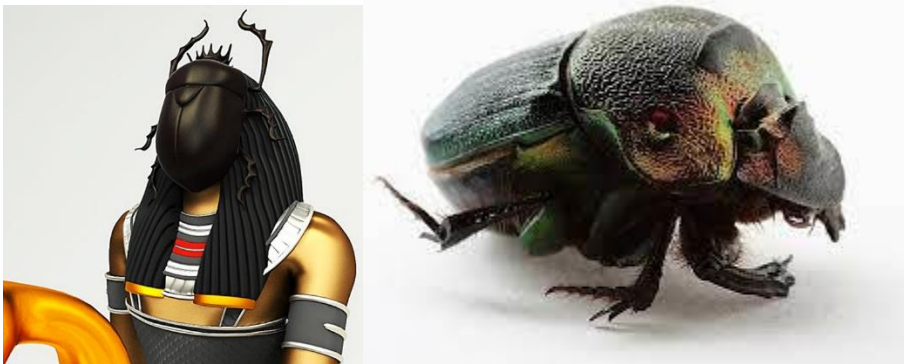
Yehovah gives a new sign with the swarm of the flies. For the first time the LORD made a distinction between Pharaoh’s people and GOD’s people...

The swarms of flies did not appear in the region of Goshen, where GOD’s people lived.

As we noted, if these were the dog-fly species like the horse fly, a biting fly. At certain seasons they

are still described as a plague worse than mosquitos.

There are some historians that say these swarms were of a particular beetle. This beetle was worshipped by the Egyptians as a symbol of life. One beetle god was dung, another was chepera...



Pharaoh could not explain the exemption of Goshen from the plague. So no god or goddess of Egypt could be blamed or counted on to stop it.

23 “I will put a division between MY people (GOD’s) and your people (Egyptians under Pharaoh). Tomorrow this sign will occur.”

Notice the warning here, so there was time for Pharaoh.

24 Then the LORD did so. And there came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and the houses of his servants and the land was laid waste because of the swarms of flies in all the land of Egypt.

I just imagine Pharaoh probably not sleeping, waiting for the morning sun. And when it rose it revealed the swarm of flies or beetles. And they were

everywhere, just like the blood,
just like the gnats. So Pharaoh,
what does he do?



25 Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your GOD within the land.”

Well, this may seem like a sign that Pharaoh is coming around, but I don't think so. The LORD is continuing to manifest HIMself to Pharaoh and the Egyptian people.

And they could have responded.
And some did, as we have noted.

Pharoah says look you can worship your GOD, but don't move. Stay here in the land. Well Moses is going to point out something he knew well from his days in the Pharaohs house. Which GOD prepared him for this moment.

26 But Moses said, “It is not right to do so, for we will sacrifice to the LORD our GOD what is an abomination to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice what is an abomination to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not then stone us?”

27 “We must go a three days’ journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our GOD as HE commands us.”

28 Pharaoh said, “I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the LORD (YHVH) your GOD in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Make supplication for me.”

Pharaoh is saying: Pray this to your GOD on my behalf.