



Exodus

Freed to Worship

Exodus 8:1-32

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Message #14 of 50 – SN020



CALVARY CHAPEL
FRENCH VALLEY

Sunday Evening Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Exodus: Freed to Worship

Exodus 8:1-32

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Exodus 8**
- We are continuing our study: **Freed to Worship**
- Last time, we reviewed the first of ten plagues that God would inflict upon Pharaoh and the nation and people of Egypt
- God, through Moses and Aaron turned the Nile River and all the waters of Egypt to blood
- The skeptics don't believe that it was real blood
- Unfortunately for them, the language does not give room for any other interpretation
- The chapter ends by saying seven days passed after God struck the river
- This could very well mean that the plague lasted for seven days
- It is truly hard to imagine what it would be like to have that much blood corrupting everything in the land of Egypt
- After the week passes the Lord send Moses back in to Pharaoh
- Let's get into tonight's text

Teaching

- **Exodus: Freed to Worship**
- **Exodus 8:1**
- God repeats Himself again – Let My people go!
- But this time the Lord will tell Pharaoh what is the consequence for failing to comply
- **Exodus 8:2**
- This time the Lord intends to use frogs to plague the land of Egypt
- As I said last time, many of these plagues seem to correspond to different Egyptian deities
- The Egyptian goddess Heka or Heket was a frog-headed female goddess
- She was believed to help women with childbirth
- She was the patron goddess of midwives

- Frogs themselves were not worshipped, but there was symbolism that would not have been missed by this plague
 - **Exodus 8:3-4**
 - They are going come and overwhelm the land
 - Pharaoh, a man who felt he was in total control, who lived in luxury, where no need was left unmet couldn't keep frogs out of his own bed
 - **Exodus 8:5-6**
 - Frogs are only mentioned 14 times in the Bible
 - 11 times here during this plague, 2 times in the Psalms referring to this plague and then once in the book of **Revelation 16:12-16**
- Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.¹³ And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.¹⁴ For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, *which* go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.¹⁵ “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed *is* he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”¹⁶ And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.
- Again some try to explain away this miracle in a natural way
 - Like saying, because the water was polluted by blood, the only place for the frogs to go was on the land
 - One significant problem with that theory, ‘Why would they wait seven days to leave the river?’
 - No this was a miracle – God created a swarm of frogs to act as His tool of judgment upon the hardness of Pharaoh's hard heart
 - And then the magicians show up again
 - **Exodus 8:7**
 - Again the magicians are able to duplicate the miracle
 - But they are helpless to do anything about the plague
 - And so Pharaoh calls for Moses and Aaron
 - **Exodus 8:8**
 - Wow, it seems like Pharaoh is getting it
 - He realizes the Lord has done this and that it is going to have to be the Lord to take it away
 - I wonder if that was a bright spot of hope for Moses and Aaron

- Or did they believe God when He told them that it was going to take a lot more than a couple of plagues to break Pharaoh's hard heart?
- Pharaoh promises to do what the Lord wants of him
- It is amazing what people will promise God when they are in desperate situations
- It is impossible from the text that we have here if there was any sincerity in Pharaoh's request
- People without real faith will make promises like this so that they can be relieved of the pain and suffering that they are enduring
- All the while their hearts are hard toward God
- God knows the condition of the human heart **Isaiah 29:13**
Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me...
- Pharaoh was willing to promise anything to have the frogs removed
- Even though, even while he was saying it, he probably knew he wasn't going to keep his promise
- It is like people think they can fool God, that they can deceive God
- Even though I understand why He does it, it still amazes me that God answers Pharaoh's request
- And just to prove how much God is in control, Moses lets Pharaoh choose when the frogs will be destroyed by God
- **Exodus 8:9-11**
- Moses tells Pharaoh, the Lord is going to do what you asked so that you know there is no one like Yahweh
- Saying, this will prove that Yahweh is greater than all your gods
- **Exodus 8:12-14**
- First the land stunk of blood, now it stinks of frogs
- The beautiful land of Egypt is being turned into a foul, disgusting place
- This is exactly what a hard heart does to people
- It turns everything in their lives into something foul-smelling and disgusting
- Now, I try to imagine myself in Pharaoh's place
- Moses had told him that God was going to send frogs – they came and covered the land

- He then asked Moses to intercede with God to have the frogs removed
- Moses told Pharaoh to choose when that would happen
- It happened exactly when Pharaoh asked for it to happen
- I would like to believe that would have affected me – not Pharaoh
- **Exodus 8:15**
- Pharaoh's heart hadn't changed
- As soon as there was relief he went back to his old ways
- Two plagues down – eight to go
- **Exodus 8:16**
- One of the interesting features of this plague is that the Lord doesn't send Moses to talk to Pharaoh before sending the plague
- No explanation is given, the Lord just tells Moses to do it
- Also, the verse says that the Lord called for lice to be the plague
- It actually isn't clear what insect this Hebrew word refers to
- It is also translated in other places as gnats, mosquitoes, fleas, sand flies, maggots, and gadflies
- As I look at that list I don't think it really matters which one it is – any of them would be disgusting and annoying
- **Exodus 8:17**
- A question was asked or a statement was made about the Hebrews during these plagues
- the verse reads that the plague of lice was 'throughout all the land of Egypt'
- that would have included the land of Goshen where the bulk of the Hebrews lived
- God allowed several of the plagues to touch His people
- Again, an explanation is not given, but a possible reason goes back to what the Lord is doing with Pharaoh, He is also doing with His own people
- The Lord is revealing His power to the Hebrews as well as to Pharaoh
- We will see that clearly in a few verses
- So lice cover the whole land, and as has been the pattern so far, the magicians are called in to duplicate the miracle
- **Exodus 8:18**
- This time is different – they are not able to duplicate the miracle

- God allowed the magicians to duplicate his miracles through their demonic abilities
- But in a display of His power, the Lord blocked them from duplicating this one
- The sense of the first half of the verse is that the magicians believed they were going to be able to duplicate it
- I believe that one of the reasons that God allowed the magicians to duplicate two of the miracles was so that He could prevent them duplicating any others
- In the first two miracles the magicians seemingly proved that they were able to do what God did
- God in His sovereign ability proved to them that they were only able to do it because God had allowed them to do it
- The Bible teaches us that Satan has great power, power to inflict harm upon people, but only within the confines of what God allows
- The first two chapters of Job depict that clearly
- When the magicians figure out that they are outmatched by God, they try to reason with Pharaoh
- **Exodus 8:19**
- This is probably not a confession of true faith
- The magicians are acknowledging that Yahweh is stronger than their gods
- But just as the Lord said Pharaoh would do, Pharaoh wouldn't listen to them, or anyone else for that matter
- Three plagues down, seven to go
- One of the interesting things about this third plague, there is no description of it ending
- We might assume that it ended, but we might just as easily assume that it didn't end
- **Exodus 8:20**
- We are back to a familiar pattern – go tell Pharaoh to let My people go
- And just like with the first plague, we are back down at the river
- The Lord also tells Pharaoh what the consequence will be refusing
- **Exodus 8:21**
- If you are reading the NKJV you will notice that 'of flies' is in italics

- When you see that, you know that wasn't in the original text and was inserted by the translators for clarity
- The place we see this word used in Scripture is in connection with swarms of locusts
- We know it is not locusts because locusts will be in the eighth plague
- Most commentators would identify this as the dog-fly which is similar to a horsefly – a nasty blood-sucking insect
- Another of the Egyptians gods was Beelzebub – the fly God – which by the time Jesus came was another name for Satan **Matthew 12:24-27**

Now when the Pharisees heard *it* they said, “This *fellow* does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”²⁵ But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶ If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? Therefore they shall be your judges.

- The first three plagues covered the whole land of Egypt
- But starting with this plague God does something new
- **Exodus 8:22-23**
- Goshen is where Joseph put his father and brothers and their families when they escaped the famine in Canaan
- It is where God caused them to grow from less than 100 people to a multitudes that estimates put between 1.5 and 3 million people
- While Hebrews were scattered all over Egypt working as slaves, Goshen was where they lived and raised their families
- God is displaying His awesome sovereign power and control over the created universe by setting apart Goshen from the rest of Egypt
- Nasty, biting flies were going to inflict all of Egypt, except for in the area of Goshen
- And the Lord announces it will happen tomorrow – again showing His sovereign control over all of creation
- And guess what, it happened just like God said it would
- Just like it always has, and always will
- If God says He is going to do something, you had better believe that it is going to happen
- **Exodus 8:24-25**

- Pharaoh seems to soften a little
- Okay, go sacrifice to your God, just don't leave Egypt
- You can go, just don't go too far
- You have to love Moses' response
- **Exodus 8:26-27**
- Moses sticks to what God told him
- This is what God told us – this is what we must do
- Oh, if only we would all do this all the time
- Pharaoh responds again
- **Exodus 8:28**
- It is hard to imagine the battle that is going on inside of Pharaoh's heart
- He has been told from birth that he is descended from the gods
- They would even come to believe that they themselves were divine
- To give in to Moses and the Hebrews would cause him to lose respect with his people and would have crushed his self-identity
- It is unlikely that any of us think we are descended from the gods or that we are divine
- But every time we resist God or attempt to have our own way, we are exercising sovereign control over some portion of our life
- Only Jesus can sit on the throne of our life if we want to the abundant life that He promised us
- Pharaoh doesn't like the troubles that are being inflicted upon him and his nation, but the thought of yielding his life over to God is unthinkable
- Interestingly, he does ask Moses to intercede or pray for him
- Which Moses readily agrees to do
- **Exodus 8:29-31**
- Before he prays Moses warns Pharaoh not to be lying about his promise to let the people go
- Moses prays and asks the Lord to take the flies away, and the Lord responds by removing them
- But we already know that Pharaoh is not going to keep his word, thus bring more suffering upon himself and his nation
- **Exodus 8:32**

- It is going to take all ten plagues to keep through Pharaoh's hard heart
- And it will result in the devastation of the land of Egypt and the death of the first-born sons of Egypt, including his own
- Four plagues down, six to go
- That is for later – we will stop here for the night – God bless you
- **Amen?!**