

Wednesday Night Worship & Study
Exodus Bible Study
October 21st, 2020

Last Week

Exodus 7: Plague on the Nile River of blood

- God:
 - You (Moses) will be as God to Pharaoh and Aaron will be your prophet (spokesman)
 - Aaron to tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of the land
 - But I will harden Pharaoh's heart...so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people out by great judgment

- Moses and Aaron:
 - Aaron given a miraculous rod that turned to a snake to authenticate their message and the Messenger
 - They go to Pharaoh

- 1st plague – water becomes blood
 - Nile river and all other water turns to blood
 - Turning the Nile to blood was a judgement against their gods:
 - *Apis* (the god of the Nile)
 - *Isis* (goddess of the Nile)
 - *Khnum* (guardian of the Nile)
 - The Nile was also believed to be the bloodstream of *Osiris*, who was reborn each year when the river flooded

Application:

- We know God's plan for us and we are to be obedient to what we know to do

- Seeking signs (divine guidance) and miracles (deliverance)

- Don't be hard hearted

- Intentionally and increasingly do everything to the Glory of God

Tonight Exodus 8 - three plagues

8:1 – 15 #2 - Plague of frogs

- God directs Moses to speak again to Pharaoh:
 - Let My people go to serve Me...
 - Else...I will smite (*to plague*) all your territory with frogs (literally everywhere and completely!)
- Frogs:
 - www.gotquestions.org/ten-plagues-Egypt.html The second plague, bringing frogs from the Nile, was a judgment against *Heqet*, the frog-headed goddess of birth. Frogs were thought to be sacred and not to be killed. God had the frogs invade every part of the homes of the Egyptians, and when the frogs died, their stinking bodies were heaped up in offensive piles all through the land ([Exodus 8:13–14](#)).
 - Frog god:
 - Body of a woman/head of a frog
 - Wife of god *Khnum* who is believed to have fashioned man from the dust of the earth on his potter's wheel (and then god *Heka* breathed life into man)
 - Goddess of fertility and resurrection
 - Capital offense to kill a frog!
- Pharaoh's magicians did something similar (didn't remove the plague, and added to it!). Counterfeit doesn't disprove the genuine. Rather it proves the genuine exists (authenticates).
- Pharaoh: Entreat (or pray to) the LORD that He may take the frogs away and I'll let the people go sacrifice to the LORD
- Moses (very politely):
 - I shall intercede for you and your people that the frogs will be in the river only
 - Asks Pharaoh "when" he would like the frogs gone – Pharaoh says tomorrow
 - Clear sign that 'there is no one like the LORD our God'
- Frogs died, covered the land, and stank
- When relief came, Pharaoh hardened his heart and wouldn't let the people go

8:16 – 19 #3 - Plague of lice (gnats)

- Without any warning or discussion with Pharaoh, on the LORD's direction Aaron struck the dust and it turned to lice (gnats)
- Lice (gnats):
 - Considered pollutants to the temple and an insult to the Egyptian gods
 - Very small, hardly visible with a painful sting that irritates the skin
 - Were normally seen after the harvest and from the rice fields
 - www.gotquestions.org/ten-plagues-Egypt.html (and others) - The third plague, gnats, was a judgment on *Set (Geb)*, the god of the earth and vegetation (harvest). Unlike the previous plagues, the magicians were unable to duplicate this one and declared to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God" (Exodus 8:19).
- v19 Interesting phrase: Finger of God (*Elohim* – strong/creator God)
 - Refers to the supernatural power of God as it directly impacts events in this world (*providential*)
 - Phrase occurs 4Xs in Scripture, here and 3 other places:
 - Exodus 31:18 – finger of God inscribes the covenant law on stone tablets given to Moses
 - Luke 11:20 (and similar in Matthew 12:28) – After freeing a blind and mute man from a demon, Jesus said to His critics, "If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you"
- Pharaoh heart grew hard, just as the LORD had said

8:20 – 32 #4 - Plague of flies

- God tells Moses to go to Pharaoh in the morning at the water and tell Pharaoh:
 - Let My people go to serve Me...
 - Else...I will send swarms of flies on Egypt but not in Goshen where My people are so that you may know:
 - I AM THE LORD in the midst of the land
 - I will make a difference your people and Mine
 - v23 God gave a time when it will occur, a plague on a time table...that's power, that's is His sovereignty in action

- Flies:
 - Blood sucking insect (ichneumon fly?) that deposits its eggs on on other living things so the larvae can eat upon it
 - www.gotquestions.org/ten-plagues-Egypt.html The fourth plague, flies, was a judgment on *Uatchit*, the fly god. In this plague, God clearly distinguished between the Israelites and the Egyptians, as no swarms of flies bothered the areas where the Israelites lived (Exodus 8:21–24).
- v24 says the swarm of flies corrupted the land
- The discussion:
 - Pharaoh (significant concessions!): “Go, sacrifice to your God in the land (*Egypt*)” vs 25, 28
 - Moses’ response to “in the land”:
 - We would be sacrificing the abomination fo the Egyptians to the LORD our God
 - If we sacrifice...before the eyes of the Egyptians they will stone us
 - Pharaoh concedes but tells Moses to “intercede for me” v28
 - Moses:
 - Sets time for flies to go away
 - Warns Pharaoh to not be deceitful (anymore)
- All the flies (all) removed...but Pharaoh hardened his heart

Exodus 8 Big Take Aways:

1. God is superior to the Egytian gods in His sovereignty, omnipotent (all powerful), and ability to work providentially to show up the Egytian gods.
2. Plagues are a judgment on Pharaoh and Egypt as well as sign to the Hebrews about their God.

Applications

1. God made it clear to the Hebrews that He is superior to the gods of Egypt and to us today that He is superior to our idols:

- Egyptians' gods = our idols

- An idol can be anything we place ahead of God in our lives, anything that takes God's place in our hearts, such as possessions, wealth, careers, relationships, family, hobbies, education, sports, entertainment, goals (e.g. retirement), greed, addictions (alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography, etc.), religion, sex, tradition, science, environment, etc.

- What are your idols?
- Is God showing you that He is superior to your idols?
- Solution to idolatry:
 - Acknowledge you are an idolater
 - Resist and be vigilant knowing how susceptible you are
 - Respond to Holy Spirit convicting and promptings
 - Confess and repent your sin
 - Help each other (2 Cor 1:3-4)

2. Again...since God is sovereignty, omnipotent, and works providentially in every aspect of our lives, we can trust Him to act such that He gets the glory and it is for our good.

Before Next Wednesday Night

1. Read Exodus 9 (3 more plagues!)

2. Read and/or listen to:

- a. www.gotquestions.org/idol-worship.html
- b. www.gotquestions.org/idolatry-modern.html
- c. http://skipheitzig.com/teachings_view.asp?ServiceID=898&q=audio¬es=1&AcceptsCookies=yes

Questions from last week (*Let Scripture interpret Scripture!*)

Q1 How did the Egyptians survive 7 days without water (ref Ex 7:25)?

A1 *The 7 days in that verse only refers to the time after the plague until God spoke again to Moses in Ex 8:1. When I mentioned the water was blood for 7 days, I 'added' or inferred to what the verses actually said. Sorry about that.*

Q2 Is there scientific evidence that the Nile was turned to blood?

Additionally, is there any scientific evidence of the plagues (e.g. ancient artifacts)?

A2 *No scientific or any other evidence on the plagues whatsoever beyond what is captured in Scripture. Ultimately the question becomes "how do I trust what God has provided in His word. Suggest reading <https://www.gotquestions.org/trust-the-Bible.html> After the study last week, a story and picture that lends itself to supporting the parting of the Red Sea and the destruction of Pharaoh's armies was presented (internet site). There has been no evidence that is indisputable and that can be proven to be from the Exodus.*

Q3 Does God give you the amount of belief that you hold towards His Word? Is the amount of belief you hold towards God's Word directly correlated to the amount of wisdom you have?

A3 *The answer has at least two facets: for unbelievers and believers. First for unbelievers, the message of the cross (aka God's Word) is foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:18-31) but has been found by some to be an interesting and insightful document with much wisdom and morality. To believe it is God's message (aka God's Word) is absolutely supernatural and God given (John 1:12-13; 6:35-66)—you have it (believer) or you don't (unbeliever).*

For believers, believing God's Word is supernaturally given and trusting in it is seemingly a process. Some relevant but not exactly Scriptures that may help think about this:

- *Ephesians 4:7-16⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.*
- *Romans 12:3³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*

- 2 Peter 1 – this chapter discusses the aspect that God has given us all things pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him (v3) and then goes on in verses 5-8 talking about our role (obedience) in the process. If we are obedient we won't stumble (v10)! If we are disobedient we can forget we've even been saved (v9)
- Proverbs 2:1-15
 - vs 1-5 on God's Word and our role
 - v6 on Wisdom - For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

Recommend listening to and/or reading John Piper's *The Supernatural Acts of Reading the Bible*. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-supernatural-act-of-reading-the-bible>

Wisdom is a gift from God and we are to seek it. Many Proverbs and also James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

Q4 What power enables Pharaoh's sorcerers to perform miracles?

A4 *The sorcerers' power was of Satan since it was not of God. Ultimately all power is from God. We learn in Job 1 that Satan has to ask to do what he does and God may allow when it accomplishes His will and plan.*

Q5 How should we approach the cinematic portrayals of the Exodus, Moses, Pharaoh, plagues, etc. (examples "The 10 Commandments", "The Prince of Egypt")?

A5 *Carefully. These representations can be useful and insightful in the hands of a believer willing to submit to what Scripture alone says (and doesn't) on these subjects. Most all of these renditions are written, made, directed, and produced by non-believer. Therefore we must understand what is Scripture and what is entertainment.*