

Exodus 8

Seven days after the LORD struck the Nile, what did the Lord say to Moses (vv. 1-4)? God told Moses to return to Pharaoh with an ultimatum to release the Israelites or face further judgment, this time it would take the form of frogs.

Frogs were normally abundant in the Nile after the waters receded in December, but the people would not have expected them in August. The frogs would normally stay near the Nile but now they left the Nile, invading the houses, courtyards, and fields. The Egyptians regarded frogs as having divine power and they were worshipped as a god of fertility. Therefore frogs were not to be killed.¹

What did the Lord tell Moses to do (vv. 5-6)? Following God's instructions, Moses commanded Aaron to bring about the judgment of frogs which he did as he stretched out his hand and the staff over the waters.

Aaron's staff was not a magic wand; it was a symbol of God's mighty power in the hand of His servant.

What did Pharaoh's magicians do (v. 7)? They duplicated the frog miracle.

What deal did Pharaoh offer to Moses and Aaron (v. 8) Pharaoh wanted his magicians to remove the plague of frogs... but they apparently lacked the ability to do so, since Pharaoh asked Moses to get rid of them. In exchange for removing the frogs, Pharaoh agreed to let the Israelites go to offer sacrifices to their God.

The stopping of these plagues was as much a sign of God's power as the plagues themselves.²

How did Moses answer Pharaoh (v. 9)? Moses allowed the king to set the timetable for relief from the plague.

When Pharaoh requested tomorrow how did Moses respond (vv. 10-11)? Moses agreed but he wanted Pharaoh to know the reason for the frog removal -- so that Pharaoh would know there is no one like the Lord God.

What did Moses do next (v. 12)? Moses prayed and asked God to get rid of all the frogs.

How did the Lord respond (vv. 13-14)? God caused the plague to subside the next day. The frogs all died. But the stench of dead frogs was terrible.

What did Pharaoh do when the plague of frogs was over (v. 15)? He changed his mind. He reneged on his promise. He hardened his heart again and would not let the Israelites go to worship their God.

What did the Lord tell Moses to do in response to Pharaoh hardening his heart (vv. 16-17)? He told Moses to have Aaron strike the dust of the ground with his staff, and when he did, flying, biting gnats covered people and animals. Unlike the previous two plagues, this one came without warning. The judgment was sudden. This was also true of the sixth and ninth plagues.

Did Pharaoh's magicians duplicate the plague like they had done in the past (v. 18)? No. The magicians failed to reproduce this miracle.

To what did Pharaoh's magicians attribute their inability to duplicate the plague (v. 19)? This time the magicians, unable to produce gnats, warned Pharaoh that a power greater than theirs was at work. They had to confess that it was God's doing ("This is the finger of God").

How did Pharaoh respond to their declaration? Pharaoh remained obstinate and unrepentant and he would not listen to his magicians.

What was the next plague the Lord threatened Pharaoh with (vv. 20-21)? The Lord instructed Moses to confront Pharaoh once again by the Nile (7:15) about releasing the Hebrews. If Pharaoh refused, swarms of flies would be sent on the Egyptians and in their houses.³

What would be different about this plague (v. 22)? In the plagues which followed, the Israelites would be exempt from the plagues, only the Egyptians would be affected

What was the Lord's purpose in changing His pattern (vv. 22-23)? God miraculously distinguished between the two groups of people primarily to emphasize to Pharaoh that Israel's God was the author of the plagues, and that He was sovereign over the whole land of Egypt.⁴

When the Lord fulfilled his promise (v. 24), what did Pharaoh do (v. 25)? For the first time, Pharaoh was willing to suggest a compromise. He gave permission for the Israelites to sacrifice to their God, but he would not allow them to leave Egypt.

How did Moses answer Pharaoh (vv. 26-27)? This compromise was unacceptable to Moses. He explained that their animal sacrifices would be detestable in Egypt because they would be sacrificing the very animals the Egyptians regarded as holy (set apart as special), because they were manifestations of their gods. Consequently, the sacrifices would have been an abomination to them and would cause rioting. Moses held to his argument that the Israelites must make a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to their God.

How did Pharaoh counter (v. 28)? Pharaoh's second compromise was to let the Israelites leave Egypt, to sacrifice temporarily in the desert, yet they were to go only a short distance not very far from Goshen. And again, Pharaoh asked Moses to pray to his God to remove the plague (8:8).

How did Moses answer Pharaoh (v. 29)? As he accepted Pharaoh's compromise, Moses sternly warned Pharaoh not to act deceitfully as he did earlier (vv. 8, 15). This was a remarkable—even daring—statement since Pharaoh was supposed to be the model of justice and truth.⁵

How did Moses conclude his time with Pharaoh (v. 30)? Moses left Pharaoh, thinking that the monarch might keep his word. So, as Pharaoh had asked, Moses prayed for relief.⁶

Did the Lord answer Moses prayer (v. 31)? Yes, the flies completely left Pharaoh and his officials/people.

What was Pharaoh's next move (v. 32)? As soon as Egypt got relief from the plague, Pharaoh hardened his heart again. He changed his mind and would not let the people go.

¹ John D. Hannah, "Exodus," in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 121.

² Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on Exodus, 2023 Edition (published by <http://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/>), 83.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on Exodus, 2023 Edition (published by <http://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/>). 88.

⁵ John D. Hannah, "Exodus," in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 123.

⁶ Ibid.