

## **Exodus 8:20-9:12**

### ***LORD of the Flies – and the Livestock***

November 15, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

***Philip Ryken:*** *In the end Pharaoh was defeated by mighty forces like darkness and death. But long before the sky turned black over Egypt and the angel of death snatched his firstborn son, it was the little things that got to Pharaoh--little things like gnats and flies. One of the wonders of the exodus is that God used tiny insects to demonstrate His power over Pharaoh and his gods. This miracle led Charles Spurgeon to observe, "When it pleases God by His judgments to humble men, He's never at a loss for means: He can use lions or lice, famines or flies."*

**The Purpose of the Plagues was two-fold.**

**#1 - Freedom**

**#2 - Revelation**

**Exodus 7:5** - The *Egyptians* shall know that I'm the LORD when I stretch out My hand on Egypt.

The Pattern of the Plagues was they happened in three sets of three.

- **Plague #1 - Moses and Aaron warn Pharaoh at the Nile River**
- **Plague #2 - Moses and Aaron warn Pharaoh at the Palace**
- **Plague #3 - No warning was given**

**Plague #4 - Flies**

**v. 8:20-21** - Then the Lord said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes to the river and say to him, 'This is what the Lord says: Let My people go, so that they may worship Me. If you don't let my people go, I'll send swarms of flies on you and your officials, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies; even the ground will be covered with them.

**v. 8:24** - And the Lord did this. Dense swarms of flies poured into Pharaoh's palace and into the houses of his officials; throughout Egypt the land was ruined by the flies.

**Psalm 78:45** - God sent swarms of flies that *devoured* them.

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**v. 8:22-23** ““But on that day I'll deal *differently* with the land of Goshen, where *My people* live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you'll know that I, the Lord, am in this land. I'll make a *distinction* between *My people* and your people.””

**1 Cor. 11:32** - When we're judged by the Lord, we're being *disciplined* so that we won't be *condemned* with the world

**John 3:17-18** - God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him isn't condemned, but whoever doesn't believe stands condemned already because they haven't believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

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#### **Compromise #1 - "Don't separate yourselves."**

**v. 8:25** -Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God *here in the land.*”

**v. 26** - But Moses said, “That wouldn't be right. The sacrifices we offer the Lord our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their eyes, will they not stone us?”

The problem was the Egyptians worshipped all these animals.

- **The god Apis was a bull.**
- **The god Hathor (the goddess of love, beauty and joy) was a cow.**
- **And Khnum (the creator god) was a ram.**

**v. 27** - "We *must* take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, *as He commands us.*”

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**2 Cor. 6:14-17** - Don't be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership can righteousness have with wickedness? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement can exist between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people." "Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

**John 17:15-16** - Jesus: *"I don't pray that You should take them (My disciples) out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They're not of the world, just as I'm not of the world."*

#### **Compromise #2 - "Don't go too far."**

**v. 28** - Pharaoh said, "I'll let you go to offer sacrifices to the Lord your God in the wilderness, but you must not go very far."

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#### **Compromise #3 - "Only the men should go."**

**Exodus 10:8-10** - Then Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. "Go, worship the Lord your God." he said. "But tell me who'll be going." Moses answered, "We'll go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we're to celebrate a festival to the Lord." Pharaoh said, "No! Have only the men go and worship the Lord."

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#### **Compromise #4 - "Keep your possessions in Egypt."**

**Exodus 10:24-26** - Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the Lord. Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind." But Moses said, "You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the Lord our God. Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind."

**Jesus said:** "Where your treasure is--there your heart will be also."

**Proverbs 3:9** - Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.

**Exodus 8:28-30** - Pharaoh said, "Pray for me." Moses answered, "As soon as I leave you, I'll pray to the Lord, and tomorrow the flies will leave Pharaoh and his officials and his people. Only let Pharaoh be sure that he doesn't act deceitfully again by not letting the people go to offer sacrifices to the Lord." Then Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the Lord, and the Lord did what Moses asked. The flies left Pharaoh and his officials and his people; not a fly remained. But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and wouldn't let the people go.

#### **Plague #5 - Livestock**

**Exodus 9:1-4** - Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: "Let my people go, so that they may worship Me." If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back, the hand of the Lord will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field—on your horses, donkeys and camels and on your cattle, sheep and goats. But the Lord will

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make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.”

**v. 5-7** - The Lord set a time and said, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this in the land.” And the next day the Lord did it: All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one animal belonging to the Israelites died. Pharaoh *investigated* and found that not even one of the animals of the Israelites had died. Yet his heart was unyielding and he wouldn't let the people go.

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### **Plague #6 - Boils**

**v. 8-11** - Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on people and animals throughout the land.” So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on people and animals. The magicians couldn't stand before Moses because of the boils that were on them and on all the Egyptians.

**v. 12** - But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart and he wouldn't listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said to Moses.

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**8:20** Then the Lord said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes to the river and say to him, ‘This is what the Lord says: Let My people go, so that they may worship Me. **21** If you don't let my people go, I'll send swarms of flies on you and your officials, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies; even the ground will be covered with them...

**24** And the Lord did this. Dense swarms of flies poured into Pharaoh's palace and into the houses of his officials; throughout Egypt the land was ruined by the flies.

**22** “But on that day I'll deal *differently* with the land of Goshen, where My people live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you'll know that I, the Lord, am in this land. **23** I'll make a *distinction* between My people and your people.”

#### **Pharaoh's Four Compromises:**

**Compromise #1 - "Don't separate yourselves."**

**25** Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God *here in the land.*”

**26** But Moses said, “That wouldn't be right. The sacrifices we offer the Lord our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their eyes, will they not stone us?

**27** Moses: "We *must* take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, *as He commands us.*”

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**Compromise #2 - "*Don't go too far.*"**

**28 Pharaoh said, "I'll let you go to offer sacrifices to the Lord your God in the wilderness, but you must not go very far."**

**Compromise #3 - "*Only the men should go.*"**

**Exodus 10:8-10 - Then Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. "Go, worship the Lord your God." he said. "But tell me who'll be going." 9 Moses answered, "We'll go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we're to celebrate a festival to the Lord." 10 Pharaoh said, "No! Have only the men go and worship the Lord."**

**Compromise #4 - "*Keep your possessions in Egypt.*"**

**Exodus 10:24-26 - Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the Lord. Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind." 25 But Moses said, "You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the Lord our God. 26 Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind."**

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#### **Plague #5 - Livestock**

**9:1** Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: “Let my people go, so that they may worship Me.” **2** If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back, **3** the hand of the Lord will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field—on your horses, donkeys and camels and on your cattle, sheep and goats. **4** But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.”

**5** The Lord set a time and said, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this in the land.” **6** And the next day the Lord did it: All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one animal belonging to the Israelites died. **7** Pharaoh investigated and found that not even one of the animals of the Israelites had died. Yet his heart was unyielding and he would not let the people go.

#### **Plague #6 - Boils**

**8** Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. **9** It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on people and animals throughout the land.” **10** So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on people and animals. **11** The magicians couldn’t stand before Moses because of the boils that were on them and on all the Egyptians.

**12** But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart and he wouldn’t listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said to Moses.