

When “They” Refuse

Exodus 8:1-19 (Living in Covenant, Series)

On March 4, 2018, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church

Background and preliminaries

Review: First “plague” (judgment) – Nile River to blood (7:14-25)

- ✓ Third appearance of Moses & Aaron to Pharaoh; second sign
- ✓ Egyptian magicians replicated it
- ✓ “Pharaoh’s heart *remained* hardened.”

A striking parallel

- ✓ Obvious activity of God
- ✓ Refusal to submit
- ✓ Same for Egyptians as at the end of time (Rev. 16:11-21)
- ✓ Same heart conditions today
 - Skeptics in 1446 BC refused based on personal interpretations of the data
 - Claimed ultimate authority over slave/ those with a differing faith
 - Skeptics today refuse on personal interpretation of the data (they call it “science”)
 - Claim “moral high ground” of “objectivity” that is authoritative over those of a differing faith
 - The issue is _____

Three major players

- 1) Pharaoh is like those in the world *today* whose _____ are _____ against God.
- 2) _____, who is trying desperately to get the attention of people who simply refuse to submit.
- 3) Moses and Aaron as God’s _____.

Generally, we are told to expect that people will _____ our message from God (the Gospel).

Defining “plagues”

- Hebrew word meaning “to _____” or “to _____”

[Moses told Pharaoh] 8:2 And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will **smite** [ESV = “**plague**”] all thy borders with frogs: [KJV]

- or the word meaning “_____” or “cattle disease”

9:3 [Moses told Pharaoh] Behold, the hand of the LORD will fall with a **very severe plague** [“**very grievous murrain**” – KJV] upon your livestock that are in the field, the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herds, and the flocks. [ESV]

[Moses warned Pharaoh] 9:15 For by now I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with **pestilence**, and you would have been cut off from the earth. [ESV]

- or the word meaning “_____”

10:17 [Pharaoh said] Now forgive my sin once more and pray to the LORD your God to take this [“**death**” – KJV] **deadly plague** [of locusts] away from me. [ESV]

- in 9:14 the Hebrew word used can mean “plague” or “pestilence,” but in the sense of “_____”

9:14 For this time I will send all my **plagues** on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth. [ESV]

Increasing severity of the judgments

Second judgement Ex. 8:1-7

Judgement by frogs – what’s the big deal?

- 1) They were considered sacred.
- 2) Population explosions of frogs were normal but...
 - i. it was not at the time of the year this most likely occurred
 - ii. they did not stray far from the Nile – certainly not into people’s homes

Third judgement Ex. 8:15-18

Judgement by gnats (mosquitoes?)

Magicians: “This is the _____ of _____!”

Facing “them” today

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 - Skeptics in 1446 BC refused based on personal interpretations of the data
 - Claimed ultimate authority over slave/ those with a differing faith
 - Skeptics today refuse on personal interpretation of the data (they call it “science”)
 - Claim “moral high ground” of “objectivity” that is authoritative over those of a differing faith
 - The issue is **pride**

Three major players

- 1) Pharaoh is like those in the world *today* whose **hearts** are **hard** against God.
- 2) **God**, who is trying desperately to get the attention of people who simply refuse to submit.
- 3) Moses and Aaron as God’s **messengers**.
Generally, we are told to expect that people will **reject** our message from God (the Gospel).

Defining “plagues”

- Hebrew word meaning “to **strike**” or “to **smite**”

[Moses told Pharaoh] 8:2 And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will **smite** [ESV = “**plague**”] all thy borders with frogs: [KJV]

- or the word meaning “**pestilence**” or “cattle disease”

9:3 [Moses told Pharaoh] Behold, the hand of the LORD will fall with a **very severe plague** [“**very grievous murrain**” – KJV] upon your livestock that are in the field, the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herds, and the flocks. [ESV]

[Moses warned Pharaoh] 9:15 For by now I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with **pestilence**, and you would have been cut off from the earth. [ESV]

- or the word meaning “**death**”

10:17 [Pharaoh said] Now forgive my sin once more and pray to the LORD your God to take this [“**death**” – KJV] **deadly plague** [of locusts] away from me. [ESV]

- in 9:14 the Hebrew word used can mean “**plague**” or “pestilence,” but in the sense of “**divine judgment.**”

9:14 For this time I will send all my **plagues** on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth. [ESV]

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Second judgement Ex. 8:1-7

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Third judgement Ex. 8:15-18

Judgement by gnats (mosquitoes?)

Magicians: “This is the **finger of God!**”

Facing “them” today