

Exegetical Notes, Exodus 7:25-8:15
“The Humbling Hand of God, Part #2: Frogs”
Prepared by Charles H. Jensen, Pastor, Cornerstone Fellowship
101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19329
610-384-1375
charleshjensen@aol.com

Exodus 7:25-8:15

Verse 6:25-7:4

Seven days passed after YHWH struck the Nile. Then YHWH said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what YHWH says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. If you refuse to let them go, I will plague your whole country with frogs. The Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs. The frogs will go up on you and your people and all your officials.’”

- One week passed after God turned the water of the Nile to blood. God gave Egypt one week to consider his power and the effect of refusing his requests.
- At the end of that week, God told Moses to return to Pharaoh with the same request as before, that he let the people of Israel go into the desert to worship God. Having seen the first consequence of his refusal, the water turning to blood, Moses is told to tell Pharaoh what will happen if he, again, refuses God’s request.
- This time the land of Egypt will be plagued with frogs. Frogs will be everywhere from Pharaoh’s own bed to the bowls women use to knead bread.

Verse 5

Then YHWH said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your staff over the streams and canals and ponds, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.’”

- Aaron is, again, to summon the plague with his staff.

Verse 6-7

So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land. But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

- There is no waiting for Pharaoh to respond to the request. The assumption is that he will respond negatively to YHWH's request since his heart has been hardened. Moses simply tells him what is up and Aaron summons the frogs and the frogs come. The whole land is overrun by frogs.
- Pharaoh's magicians use their secret arts to summon more frogs. They are able to call forth more frogs to plague the Egyptians. The absurdity of this should be obvious. Egypt does not need more frogs. It needs someone to send the frogs back to the places where frogs belong. This, the magicians cannot do. So, Egypt is not only plagued by the frogs summoned by Aaron stretching out his staff but also by those of Pharaoh's magicians.

Verse 8

Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Pray to YHWH to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to YHWH."

- The frogs get to Pharaoh. He asks Moses to end the curse of the frogs, promising that if Moses does so he will let the Israelites go to worship YHWH. This is significant because Pharaoh, who claimed that he did not know YHWH, has now acknowledged the power of YHWH and asked Moses to intercede with YHWH on Egypt's behalf. In this, the plagues have worked. Pharaoh now knows who YHWH is.
- Pharaoh has also made a promise to do as YHWH requested if Moses sends the frogs away.

Verse 9

Moses said to Pharaoh, "I leave to you the honor of setting the time for me to pray for you and your officials and your people that you and your houses may be rid of the frogs, except for those that remain in the Nile."

- Moses agrees to pray to YHWH for the lifting of the curse of frogs that has struck Egypt. However, he requests that Pharaoh set the time when the prayer to lift the curse should be offered. In this way, Pharaoh will know that the plague ended according to the grace of YHWH.

Verse 10-11

“Tomorrow,” Pharaoh said. Moses replied, “It will be as you say, so that you may know there is no one like YHWH, our God. The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile.”

- This verse presents one of the great questions of the Scripture. Moses told Pharaoh to set the time for the lifting of the curse of frogs without any restrictions. Pharaoh could have asked Moses to lift the curse at once. But Pharaoh delays the lifting of the curse by 24 hours. Why? Why does Pharaoh allow his people to suffer for one more day when he has the power to end the curse immediately?
- Moses agrees to ask YHWH to lift the curse of frogs as per Pharaoh’s request. This way, Pharaoh would know that YHWH had lifted the curse.

Verse 12

After Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, Moses cried out to YHWH about the frogs he had brought on Pharaoh. And YHWH did what Moses asked. The frogs died in the houses, in the courtyards and in the fields. They were piled into heaps, and the land reeked of them.

- God ended the plague in response to Moses prayer by allowing the frogs to die. Egypt was covered with dead frogs and reeked as a result. Instead of living frogs all over the land, there were piles of dead frogs everywhere.

Verse 15

But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as YHWH had said.

- When the plague was lifted, Pharaoh changed his mind and refused to let the people of Israel go into the desert to worship YHWH. Even though he now acknowledged the power of YHWH, he still would not yield to YHWH’s request.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *The Humbling Hand of God! Part # 2: Frogs*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)