

Exodus chapter 8.

As we look at this passage, we see a fascinating "Introduction to God" for Pharaoh. Remember, Pharaoh had previously asked, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice?" Well, in chapter 8, God begins to answer that question with absolute clarity. He is showing Pharaoh—and He is showing us—that He is the Lord of all creation.

The Stench of Empty Idols

In the first part of the chapter, we see the plague of frogs. Now, to us, a bunch of frogs sounds like a nuisance, but to an Egyptian, this was a theological crisis. They worshipped a goddess named Heqet, who was depicted as a woman with the head of a frog. She was supposed to control fertility and the jumping of the frogs in the Nile.

So God says, "You want to worship frogs? I'll give you more frogs than you can handle."

They were in the bedrooms, in the kitchens, even in the kneading troughs where the women were making bread. Imagine folding dough and a frog jumps right in! And because the Egyptians viewed them as sacred, they couldn't just kill them. They had to live with their "gods" everywhere.

When Pharaoh finally cracks and asks Moses to pray, Moses asks, "When do you want them gone?" Pharaoh says, "Tomorrow." Why not right now? Perhaps he hoped they'd just go away on their own so he wouldn't have to give God the credit. But notice what happened in Exodus 8:13-14:

"And the Lord did according to the word of Moses. And the frogs died out of the houses, out of the villages, and out of the fields. They gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank."

What a picture. Dead, rotting gods. When we put anything in the place of the true and living God, it eventually dies and leaves a stench in our lives. Only Jesus Christ brings life that never fades.

The Limit of Counterfeits

Then we see the dust of the earth turning into lice—or perhaps mosquitoes. The Egyptian magicians, who had been able to "mimic" some of the previous signs through their enchantments, finally hit a wall. In Exodus 8:19, they have to admit:

"This is the finger of God."

There is a limit to what the enemy can do. Satan is a counterfeiter, but he is not a creator. He can twist what exists, but he cannot bring life from the dust. Only the Lord God Almighty holds the power of life in His hands.

The Danger of Compromise

As the plagues continue with the swarms of flies, God makes a beautiful distinction. He severs the land of Goshen, where His people live, from the rest of Egypt. The flies were everywhere else, but in Goshen, there was peace.

Pharaoh, feeling the heat, tries to cut a deal. Take note of this, because the enemy uses these same tactics on us today.

1. **"Sacrifice in the land" (Exodus 8:25):** Pharaoh says, "Go ahead and worship your God, but stay right here in Egypt." This is the enemy saying, "Be a Christian, but don't change your lifestyle. Stay in the world. Don't let your faith separate you from your old habits."
2. **"Don't go very far away" (Exodus 8:28):** When the first compromise fails, Pharaoh says, "Okay, leave, but don't go too far." He wanted them within reach so he could pull them back.

Moses knew better. He knew that you cannot worship the true God while remaining shackled to the systems of this world. We are called to a "three days' journey"—a complete separation from the old life to follow the Lord.

Practical Application

What "frogs" are jumping around in your life today? What are the things you've allowed to become more important than your relationship with the Lord? Often, the things we think will bring us "fertility" or "success" apart from God end up becoming a nuisance and, eventually, a stench.

Don't listen to the enemy's offer of compromise. Don't be a "border Christian," trying to keep one foot in the world and one foot in the kingdom. God is looking for those who will follow Him fully into the wilderness of faith.

A Challenge for the Believer

I challenge you this week: Examine your heart for compromise. Is there an area where you've said, "I'll follow Jesus, but I'm staying 'in the land' regarding this habit or that relationship"? God wants to deliver you completely, not just relocate your chains. Trust Him. He who controlled the dust and the creatures of Egypt is more than able to provide for you in the wilderness.

An Invitation to New Life

Maybe you're like Pharaoh today, asking, "Who is the Lord?" Let me tell you who He is. He is the Creator who knows the homing instinct of the bird and the number of hairs on your head. But more than that, He is the Savior.

You see, the "finger of God" that wrote the Law also directed Jesus Christ to the cross. Jesus didn't just come to show us signs; He came to shed His precious blood to pay for our sins. He died in our place, and three days later, He rose again! The resurrection is the shout from heaven declaring that He is God, He is Savior, and He is Lord.

If you are tired of the "stench" of trying to run your own life, you can come to Him today. You don't have to clean yourself up first; you just have to come.

There is no greater decision you will ever make than to stop the "negotiation" with God and simply surrender to His love and grace.

Since we were just looking at Exodus chapter 8, why don't we look at how that story points us directly to the Gospel? It's a beautiful picture of what it means to be saved.

From Egypt to the Cross

In the Bible, Egypt is often a "type" or a picture of the world—a place of bondage and heavy burdens. Pharaoh represents the enemy, who never wants to let you go.

- **The Problem:** Like the Egyptians, we often try to find life in things that end up "stinking." We worship our careers, our reputations, or our comforts, only to find they leave us empty.
- **The Power:** The magicians said, *"This is the finger of God."* They realized human effort and demonic counterfeits have a limit. You cannot "fix" your own soul.
- **The Provision:** Just as God put a "division" between His people and the judgment on Egypt, He has provided a way for us to be spared from the judgment of sin.

What Does it Mean to Give Your Life to Jesus?

It's as simple as **A-B-C**, but it requires a sincere heart:

1. **A – Admit:** Acknowledge that you are a sinner in need of a Savior. Like Pharaoh, we've all had "hard hearts" at times, going our own way instead of God's.
2. **B – Believe:** Believe that Jesus Christ is who He said He is. He is the Son of God who took your place. When He shed His blood on that cross, He was paying the debt for your sins. When He rose from the dead, He proved He has the power to give you eternal life.
3. **C – Confess:** Confess Him as your Lord. This means you stop trying to "stay in the land" of your old life. You tell Him, "Lord, I'm yours. I'm moving out of Egypt and following You."

A Simple Prayer of Surrender

If you want to make that decision right now, you can pray something like this from your heart:

"Lord Jesus, I admit that I am a sinner and I need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and shed Your blood to wash me clean. I believe You rose from the grave to give me life. I turn from my old life and I ask You to be my Lord and Savior. Help me to follow You all the days of my life. Amen."

Your New Journey

If you've made that decision, you are now a "new creation." The old has passed away, and the new has come!