

Exodus 8

Verses 1 - 7

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Let My people go, that they may serve me. But if you refuse to let *them* go, behold, I will smite your whole territory with frogs. ³ The Nile will swarm with frogs, which will come up and go into your house and into your bedroom and on your bed, and into the houses of your servants and on your people, and into your ovens and into your kneading bowls. ⁴ So the frogs will come up on you and your people and all your servants.’”” ⁵ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your staff over the rivers, over the streams and over the pools, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.’” ⁶ So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. ⁷ The magicians did the same with their secret arts, making frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

2nd plague - Frogs

But if you refuse to let *them* go, I will smite your whole territory with frogs

See Pics 805

Plague #2 – Frogs Heqt – goddess of birth

- The Egyptians believed the **frog was the symbol** of the life-giving power-goddess, Hekt. She was the goddess who oversaw the women, the mid-wives, who helped women have babies. She was thought to blow the breath of life into the nostrils.
- Egyptians often had little statutes of frogs on their night-stands.

She was represented in statues as "a female deity with a frog's head

See pic 810



For a blessed goddess to suddenly become a curse made this an effective plague. The popularity of the goddess Hekt suffered a dramatic blow.

³ The Nile will swarm with frogs, which will come up and go into your house and into your bedroom and on your bed, and into the houses of your servants and on your people, and into your ovens and into your kneading bowls.

The frogs that were once something that they viewed with high esteem became a nuisance and something they loathed. Even worse was the job of cleaning up the remains of the frogs that accumulated along the 4,000 miles of the Nile River.

⁷ The magicians did the same with their secret arts, making frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

Again, you have to give these magicians some credit for their skill in recreating what the Lord had done. However, when did they do this? Was it after the other frogs died and were buried? If not, how could one tell if the frogs came from the miracle the Lord performed or from the magic arts of the magicians?

Verses 8 – 15

⁸ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Plead with the Lord to remove the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, so that they may sacrifice to the Lord.” ⁹ And Moses said to Pharaoh, “The honor is yours to tell me: when shall I plead for you and your servants and your people, that the frogs be destroyed from you and your houses, *that* they be left only in the Nile?” ¹⁰ Then he said, “Tomorrow.” So he said, “*May it be* according to your word, so that you may know that there is no one like the Lord our God. ¹¹ The frogs will depart from you and your houses, and from your servants and your people; they will be left only in the Nile.” ¹² Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried out to the Lord concerning the frogs which He had inflicted upon Pharaoh. ¹³ The Lord did according to the word of Moses, and the frogs died out of the houses, the courtyards, and the fields. ¹⁴ So they piled them in heaps, and the land stank. ¹⁵ But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

⁸ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Plead with the Lord to remove the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, so that they may sacrifice to the Lord.”

This is the first sign that the king was beginning to crack under the pressure. He was also admitting that his magicians were unable to get rid of the frogs.

⁹ And Moses said to Pharaoh, “The honor is yours to tell me: when shall I plead for you and your servants and your people, that the frogs be destroyed from you and your houses, *that* they be left only in the Nile?”

Moses allows the king to decide the time, in doing that; the king was admitting that the Lord was in control.

¹³ The Lord did according to the word of Moses, and the frogs died out of the houses, the courtyards, and the fields.

This brought some relief in that the frogs were no longer invading their homes but the smell of dead frogs in the heat of Egypt had to be nauseating.

¹⁵ But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

Here In Exodus 8:15 it clearly says the king hardened his heart.

See chart 815

Plague	Verse	Who hardened the kings heart	The King	The Lord	Not sure
Blood	7:22	Pharaoh's heart was hardened			x
Frogs	8:15	He (the king) hardened his heart	x		
Gnats					
Flies					
Livestock					
Boils					
Hail					
Locust					
Darkness					

Verses 16 -19

¹⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, that it may become gnats through all the land of Egypt.'"

¹⁷ They did so; and Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff, and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats through all the land of Egypt. ¹⁸ The magicians tried with their secret arts to bring forth gnats, but they could not; so there were gnats on man and beast. ¹⁹ Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

3rd plague – Gnats

¹⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, that it may become gnats through all the land of Egypt.’”

The term translated “gnats” has an uncertain meaning. Other versions use maggots, lice, mosquitoes, fleas and ticks

Whatever it might have been, this plague came without any warning to the king. Perhaps because the king had gone back on his promise to let the people go.

¹⁸ The magicians tried with their secret arts to bring forth gnats, but they could not; so there were gnats on man and beast. ¹⁹ Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

This time the magicians could not replicate what God had done and to their credit they told the king it came from God. However, the king did not ask Moses to petition God about removing the gnats and we are not told how or when that happened.

This is another time when it is not clearly stated if the hardening of the king's heart was self-inflicted or if it came from God.

See chart 820

[illegible]

Verses 20-24

²⁰ Now the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh, as he comes out to the water, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Let My people go, that they may serve Me. ²¹ For if you do not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and on your servants and on your people and into your houses; and the houses of the Egyptians will be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they *dwell*. ²² But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people are living, so that no swarms of flies will be there, in order that you may know that I, the Lord, am in the midst of the land. ²³ I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign will occur.’”” ²⁴ Then the Lord did so. And there came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and the houses of his servants and the land was laid waste because of the swarms of flies in all the land of Egypt.

The 4th plague – Flies

²⁰ Now the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh, as he comes out to the water, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

Most likely the king made repeated visits to the Nile, which could have been for bathing and/or worship.

²¹ For if you do not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and on your servants and on your people and into your houses; and the houses of the Egyptians will be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they *dwell*.

The Septuagint translated the swarms of flies as dog-flies.

20 And the Lord did thus. And the dog-fly came in abundance into the houses of Pharaoh, and into the houses of his servants, and into all the land of Egypt; and the land was destroyed by the dog-fly.

The dog fly is a sharp-biting fly actually capable of killing animals when attacked by sufficient numbers and they can inflict very painful bites on people.

²² But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people are living, so that no swarms of flies will be there, in order that you may know that I, the Lord, am in the midst of the land.

The important thing here is the exemption of Israel from the suffering. It should have been clear to any reasonable person that these plagues were not the result of some random act of Mother Nature but if there were any doubts, this should have put a nail in that coffin.

Verses 25 - 29

²⁵ Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God within the land.” ²⁶ But Moses said, “It is not right to do so, for we will sacrifice to the Lord our God what is an abomination to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice what is an abomination to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not then stone us? ²⁷ We must go a three days’ journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God as He commands us.” ²⁸ Pharaoh said, “I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Make supplication for me.” ²⁹ Then Moses said, “Behold, I am going out from you, and I shall make supplication to the Lord that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people tomorrow; only do not let Pharaoh deal deceitfully again in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the Lord.”

²⁵ Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God within the land.”

The king had seen enough and he was ready to compromise. He will suggest two different compromises in this chapter and two more in chapter 10.

1. Sacrifice to your God within the land.
2. You shall not go very far away. Verse 28
3. Only the men must go. Exodus 10:11
4. The flocks and the herds must be left behind. Exodus 10:24

Of course none of these compromises will be accepted and eventually the king will have to do what the Lord commanded.

²⁶ But Moses said, “It is not right to do so, for we will sacrifice to the Lord our God what is an abomination to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice what is an abomination to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not then stone us?”

See Genesis 46:33 - 34

³³ When Pharaoh calls for you and says, ‘What is your occupation?’ ³⁴ you shall say, ‘Your servants have been keepers of livestock since our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,’ so that you may live in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians.”

Why sacrificing animals was an abomination to the Egyptians is not known for sure. Despite some good scholarly work done on this subject, there is no definitive solution to his question because in each case there are some good arguments for and against each of the proposed solutions.

It is Interesting that the Egyptians used stoning. This shows that stoning was used by other cultures as a means of punishment for certain crimes. We know this will become part of the Jewish law very soon and it would be interesting to now when this became a common practice in Egypt.

²⁷ We must go a three days’ journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God as He commands us.” ²⁸ Pharaoh said, “I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Make supplication for me.”

This compromise may have solved the problem that Moses raised about them being stoned by the Egyptians but God didn’t suggest three days’ journey he commanded it. It seems the king was hoping God would give into his suggestion of not going very far when he asked Moses to pray for him.

²⁹ Then Moses said, “Behold, I am going out from you, and I shall make supplication to the Lord that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people tomorrow; only do not let Pharaoh deal deceitfully again in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the Lord.”

Moses ignored the king’s suggestion that the people not go very far and reminded the king that he should not go back on his word to let the people go.

Verses 30 - 32

³⁰ So Moses went out from Pharaoh and made supplication to the Lord. ³¹ The Lord did as Moses asked, and removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants and from his people; not one remained. ³² But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and he did not let the people go.

³¹ The Lord did as Moses asked, and removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants and from his people; not one remained.

Again the king had to rely on God to end the plague.

³² But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and he did not let the people go.

After getting relief from the flies the king hardened his heart once again.

See chart 825

Plague	Verse	Who hardened the kings heart	The King	The Lord	Not sure
Blood	7:22	Pharaoh's heart was hardened			x
Frogs	8:15	He (the king) hardened his heart	x		
Gnats	8:19	But Pharaoh's heart was hardened			x
Flies	8:32	But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also	x		

At this point in time we know that the king has hardened his heart at least 2 times.