PHARAOH AND THE FROGS

 **DATE: 6/10/2018 pm**

**TEXT: Exodus 8:1-15**

**INTRODUCTION**

We are continuing to study the Life of Moses

We’ve come to that part in his life where he is dealing with Pharaoh and the Plagues

Pharaoh in his stubbornness has refused to obey the Lord and let God's people leave Egypt

The Lord has begun to increase the pressure by turning the rivers, streams, and pools into blood

This was the first of ten plagues that God will use to bring Pharaoh to a point of submission

Pharaoh hasn't gotten the message

-- He is determined to Disobey and Defy the Lord

-- He is resolved to Resist and Rebel against His commands

Pharaoh is intent on Ignoring the Lord

With this attitude, we’ll look at God’s next attempt to get Pharaoh’s attention with the Second Plague

**“Pharaoh and the Frogs”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “DISASTER” – vs. 1-7 …**

The Disaster was millions of Frogs invading the land

Can you imagine that?

**A. The ‘Repeated Request’ – v. 1**

God repeats the same request He asked earlier

***“Let My people go!”***

But Pharaoh has stood in the way,

Keeping God's people from serving and worshiping Him

Don't stand in the way of someone who wants to serve the Lord

If God calls your Wife, your Husband, your kids to minister, don't stand in their way

**B. The ‘Response to the Refusal’ – v. 2**

***“And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs:”***

The Lord, in His mercy, warns again of judgment

This time He warns of an infestation of frogs

These judgments were blows from God

God's judgment is not vague or general

He is very specific

He has warned us that to deny and reject Christ results in spending eternity in Hell

Just as the frogs would cover the land in every nook and cranny,

God's judgment will find us out in every sphere of our lives

**Numbers 32:23 – *“But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out”***

**1.** Why Frogs?

Frogs were considered sacred in Egypt, and believed to have divine power

They were worshiped

One of their gods was a woman with a frog's head

From her nostrils, came the breath of life of the creatures created by her husband, the god Khnum

This woman was the sacred emblem of creative power, rebirth, and fertility

This invasion would be annoying and straining to the Egyptians

God was showing the fallacy of the Egyptian gods,

Bringing the Egyptians to the point where they would detest them

What becomes an idol to us will someday become a plague and burden

Anything that gets between us and God will eventually curse us

God does not tolerate competition

Our idols must go

God will make them a real problem to us if we don’t forsake them

The frogs would craw all over everything, even upon the people

The Egyptians would hate this especially because of their big emphasis on cleanliness

The water and food would be contaminated

To have these creatures all over the place, to have to step upon, over them, would drive someone crazy

It would drive me crazy too!

**2.** Egypt’s response to the Frogs

The Egyptians could not kill the frogs because they believed they were gods,

Even though they were destroying their comfort

Remember that the Egyptians worshiped the frog as a god of fertility

Now in the plague, the frog's fertility will run wild and produce abundantly

These folks would be miserable

The perpetual croaking, and the frog’s abundance, would drive them nuts and rob them of any peace and rest

Sin is like that too

It robs us of our peace and joy

It plagues us with guilt

You cannot escape the effects of sin except through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ

When the Nile River cleared up of Blood,

Pharaoh thought he got rid of God and he had no more worries

You can't get rid of God's commands by resistance or holding out

The Lord comes back with the same message to obey His commands

If you don't, you’ll incur new pressure

**C. The ‘Raid of Ribbits’ – vs. 5,6**

***“And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch forth thine hand with thy rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up upon the land of Egypt” “And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt”***

Here they come!

There were frogs everywhere they went

In the kitchens, in the bath rooms, in the hall ways, and in their bed rooms!

Frogs normally would never enter a house or leave a moist environment,

But this army of amphibians was under God's command

Everyone including Pharaoh would be infested with frogs

God was getting the Egyptians to the point where they didn't want to see another frog

The frog goddess wasn't the creator and source of life

Jehovah God is!

The Egyptians could pray to this goddess all they wanted, but to no avail

They could pray to what ever god they wanted

But the frogs were still coming out of the Nile and the swamps

These little Kermits were driving them crazy

**D. The ‘Replication by the Reprobates’ – v. 7**

***“And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt”***

Once again, the Egyptian magicians counterfeited God’s work as Satan often does

But in so doing, again they only make matters worse

The last thing they needed was more frogs!

They only increase their own problems

Again, we see the lack of common sense of those who rebel against God

In **Acts 5:39**, Gamaliel, a doctor of the law warned the Sanhedrin to take care as to what they where going to do to the Apostles

***“But if it be of GOD, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against GOD”***

He was the voice of sanity in an insane world

The magicians could not remove the frogs

They only proved that this was surely a judgment from God

If you try to Disprove, Outwit, or Mock God's judgment, it will only increase your problems

Like the magicians, Satan is unable to restrain or exterminate God's judgments

He can only make matters worse

He is a Destroyer, not a Deliverer

He is not a Redeemer, but a Wrecker of lives

**THE “DISASTER” of the Frogs**

**II. THE “DECISION” – vs. 8-10 …**

This second Plague begin to get Pharaoh’s attention

Something is happening here

Let’s look at some things that we find here in this exchange between Moses and Pharaoh

**A. The ‘Requisition’ – v. 8**

***“Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, Intreat the LORD, that He may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the LORD”***

He called for Moses and Aaron and tells them to …

***“intreat the LORD, that He may take away the frogs”***

Get these Frogs out of here!

Guess he had had enough

In so many words, he ordered them to pray that God would remove the frogs

And if they do, he will let the people go

Isn’t it funny when things get to a point that something is out of our control …

That we start changing our tune, we start to look at the situation a little differently

The sad part is that our changed attitude doesn’t last long

Only until the situation is rectified, then it’s back to normal (And most people’s normal is insane)

**B. The ‘Response’ – v. 9, 10**

Moses therefore tells Pharaoh to ***“glory over me”***

In other words, you tell me how you want this done

He says ***“when shall I intreat (God) for thee?”***

Pharaoh had already begun to harden his heart

Then he says the strangest thing - ***“To morrow”***

*Pharaoh, when do you want to get rid of these frogs?*

*Tomorrow for I want one more night with the frogs*

Moses replied - ***“Be it according to thy word (i.e., have it your way) that thou mayest know that there is none like unto the LORD our God”***

This king is suffering from a severe case of procrastination

Unpleasant things are many times put off until tomorrow

But when tomorrow comes, ***“Tomorrow!”*** is the cry again

Why tomorrow and not today?

I think Pharaoh thought that this problem would go away overnight, somehow just disappear

Then he would have no obligation to God or Moses

**1.** Procrastination is one of Satan's most effective tools

Destroying the souls of men and the service of Christians

-- I'll be saved tomorrow

-- I'll get right with God tomorrow

-- I'll serve the Lord when I get older

**Humor:** The story is told of a family that moved into a new community. They were promptly visited by the pastor of a nearby church who cordially invited them to attend the services on the Lord's Day. The man assured them that he would come just as soon as he got straightened out. …

Several months passed, and he still hadn't come, so the pastor called again and repeated his invitation, but he received the same reply. The fellow hadn't yet gotten everything straightened out, but he'd be there just as soon as he did. A few weeks later he died, and his widow asked to have the funeral in the church. The preacher graciously agreed. It was indeed a sad affair. Later when a member of the congregation asked the pastor if the man was a Christian, he answered, *“He never attended services here, and no one can recall ever hearing him give a testimony of his faith in Christ, so I can't say. I only know he was a man of his word. He promised to come to church just as soon as he got straightened out—and he did!”*

Beloved, Vice has slain its thousands, Pride has slain its ten thousands, but Procrastination has destroyed hundreds of thousands of people

*“I won't now. I will soon. I will when...”* are the words of spiritual suicide

To defer duty until tomorrow may be to defer it forever

**Quote:** Arthur Godfrey said – *“Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there and do nothing”*

**Quote:** Benjamin Franklin said – *“Never leave until tomorrow that which you can do today”*

**Proverbs 3:27,28 – “*... Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it” “Say not unto thy neighbor, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee”***

**2.** Procrastination with God is a form of rebellion

It says – *“I will … on my own terms & time”*

Procrastination creates complications

With the passing of time …

-- Our Tomorrows becomes more Complicated

-- Our Responsibilities become more Numerous

-- Our Needs and Demands become more Urgent

-- Our Difficulties and Entanglements get thicker

For this reason, God warns us about Procrastination

**Proverbs 27:1 – “*Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth”***

Boasting of tomorrow leads to carelessness and dropping your guard against temptation

A classic example in the New Testament of Procrastination is found in **Acts 24**

**vs. 24,25 – *“... And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ” “And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee”***

Felix said Tomorrow

God says we are to take advantage of our opportunities today

Especially when it comes to being saved

There may not be a Tomorrow

**James 4:14 – *“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”***

**II Corinthians 6:2** says – **“*(For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation)***

Today! Not Tomorrow

**Poem:** *I've gone for a drink and sharpened my pencils, Searched through my desk for some forgotten utensils. I reset my watch, I adjusted my chair, I've loosened my tie and straightened my hair. I filled my pen and tested the blotter. And gone for another drink of water. Adjusted the calendar, and I've raised the blind, And I've sorted erasers of all different kinds.*

*Now down to work I can finally sit, Oops, too late, it's time to quit.* Author Unknown

An incident from the American Revolution illustrates what tragedy can result from Procrastination

It is reported that Colonel Rahl, commander of the British troops at Trenton, New Jersey, was playing cards when a courier brought an urgent message stating that General George Washington was crossing the Delaware River. Rahl put the letter in his pocket and didn't even bother to read it until the game finished. Then, realizing the seriousness of the situation, he hurriedly tried to rally his men to meet the coming attack, but his procrastination was his undoing. He and many of his men were killed, and the rest of the regiment was captured.

Only a few minutes' delay cost him his life, his honor, and the liberty of his soldiers

Earth's history is strewn with the wrecks of half-finished plans and unexecuted resolutions

Tomorrow is the Excuse of the Lazy and the Refuge of the Incompetent

**THE “DISASTER” of the Frogs**

**THE “DECISION” of Pharaoh**

**III. THE “DISAPPOINTMENT” – vs. 11 -15**

Nothing is more Disappointing than to have some expectationnot fulfilled

God is moving in Moses’ life, and great things are happening

I mean, if you saw the hand of God moving in your life, like Moses saw God moving

Your expectation would beheightened, you would expect the situation to turn out the way you thought, right?

Unfortunately, we see just the opposite here

**A. The ‘Revelation’ – v. 11**

Moses asks Pharaoh when he wants the Frogs gone

Pharaoh tells him ***“Tomorrow”*** (LOL)

And Moses reveal to him that is what he will do

***“And the frogs shall depart from thee, and from thy houses, and from thy servants, and from thy people; they shall remain in the river only”***

Pharaoh’s magicians couldn’t do it!

The miraculous removal of the frogs was designed to open Pharaoh's eyes and show him that there was no one else like the Lord

**B. The ‘Removal’ – vs. 12-14 …**

**vs. 12 & 13** shows that the prayers of the godly person should be Feared if they are against us and Desired if they are for us

The frogs died as Moses requested

(I can imagine that the stores had a special on frog legs that week. Ha! Ha!)

**v. 14 – *“And they gathered them together upon heaps: and the land stank”***

Even in death, the frogs served God's purpose of judgment

Heaps upon heaps of dead frogs were gathered and the stench of death blanketed the land

We see, there is a residue to rebellion and sin

The stench of death is linked to sin

When we sin, we can find forgiveness,

… but sometimes the stench of our sin stays with us for a while

People need time to see if your repentance is genuine

That's just the way it is, and even then, they still have their doubts

Sin leaves scars that don't disappear quickly

The sown fields of rebellion in a person's life will sprout a great crop of corruption that doesn't go away so easily

Pharaoh's hard heart created a hard life for Egypt

What we do always affects others!

**C. The ‘Rebellion’ – v. 15**

Here’s the Disappointment!

Moses is thinking that they were now going to be out of there

Surely this miracle will do the trick

***“But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said”***

The Relief from the frogs led to the Release from Pharaoh's promise in his mind and hardened heart

He felt that he did not have to keep his word …

… now that the frogs were gone

Remember, this man thinks he’s a god

His pride and rebellion have overpowered his reasoning as he renounced his promise

Pharaoh was like men and women today

He abused the kindness and longsuffering of God

I call it grace abuse

He hardened his heart when he saw there was ***“respite”***

The word ***“respite”*** means *space or a breather*

Pharaoh took God's mercy for granted

Isaiah and Paul both described men like this

**Isaiah 26:10 – “*Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the Lord”***

**Romans 2:4,5 – “*... Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?” “But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;”***

**1.** What we do affects others

This is a Truth that I hope will help you seriously think before you decide to do something

Especially things that are reckless

Pharaoh had a rebellious heart that was destroying his life and the Egyptian's lives

Rebellion does that

Rebellion:

-- Robs you of God's blessings

-- Ruins your testimony for Christ

-- Ready’s your heart for sinful pleasures

-- Raids your mind with bitterness

-- Rears a miserable future

-- Receives God's punishment and justice

-- Rewards you with misery and unhappiness

-- Reduces your ability to learn the Word of God

-- Rejects the folks who have a concern for your life

-- Relaxes your attitude toward spiritual matters

-- Replaces God's authority with self-authority

-- Revives old, sinful habits that you once conquered

Pharaoh begins a destructive pattern here

He will promise freedom and then rebel and break his promise

Each time he does it, it gets easier it seems to do it again because his heart is harder

The terror and fear of death produced a fickle repentance which can lead to hardening when the fear or threat is gone

A heart seldom changes by vows that were made in seasons of sorrow, fear, or grief

Many times, when health or prosperity returns, the decisions are renounced

**Psalm 78:31-37 …**

If there is no true genuine repentance, decisions made by the force of the affliction will not abide when the conviction is gone

You cannot force a salvation decision

Fox hole, prison cell or hospital bed decisions sometimes don't last very long because there was no genuine repentance in the decision

**2.** How we React Reveals what we are

The Actions of the Pharaoh Reveal that he was a double-minded, unstable man

He would say one thing and then do another

He claimed to submit to the Lord and then recant on his decision

If you don't make up your mind, then your unmade mind will unmake you

God can do anything for the man who has made up his mind

He can do little or nothing for the double-minded

**James 1:6-8 – “*... But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed” “For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord” “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways”***

**3.** Peoples Instability

A double-minded person is an unstable person

They are out of balance and cannot get their priorities straight

They are not on a firm foundation because the Lord is not really first in their lives

They are not anchored to a firm foundation

Paul said we are to be rooted and grounded in the Lord

Double minded people are weak and wobbly in the way that is right

They are feeble and flimsy in their convictions because they are trying to serve two masters

You can’t do that

**Matthew 6:24 – “*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”***

The Bible challenges us repeatedly to not be double minded

**I Kings 18:21 – “*And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word”***

**Hosea 10:2 – “*Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images”***

**I Corinthians 10:21 – “*Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils”***

**CONCLUSION**

**Ill.** A missionary in India was once teaching the Bible to a group of Hindu ladies. Halfway through the lesson, one of the women got up and walked out. …

A short time later, she came back and listened more intently than ever. At the close of the hour the teacher inquired, *"Why did you leave the meeting? Weren't you interested?" "O yes,"* the Hindu lady replied. *"I was so impressed with what you had to say about Christ that I went out to ask your driver whether you really lived the way you talked. When he said you did, I hurried back so I wouldn't miss out on anything."*

Beloved, may the Lord help us to be consistent in our daily walk for Christ

People are watching how we live

**II Corinthians 3:2 – “*Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:”***

**THE “DISASTER” of the Frogs**

**THE “DECISION” of Pharaoh**

**THE “DISAPPOINTMENT” of Moses**