

## 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> So the frogs will come up on you and your people and all your servants.’”” <sup>5</sup> 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.’” <sup>6</sup> So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. <sup>7</sup> The magicians did the same with their secret arts, making frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 statues 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

There is no doubt that the popularity of the goddess Hekt suffered a dramatic blow

**The magicians did the same with their secret arts**

Again, you have to give these magicians some credit for their skills

Verses 8 – 9

**<sup>8</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> 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?”**

**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

They were able to bring them forth, but they could not get rid of them

**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

Verses 10 - 15

**<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> The frogs will depart from you and your houses, and from your servants and your people; they will be left only in the Nile.” <sup>12</sup> Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried out to the Lord concerning the frogs which He had inflicted upon Pharaoh. <sup>13</sup> The Lord did according to the word of Moses, and the frogs died out of the houses, the courtyards, and the fields. <sup>14</sup> So they piled them in heaps, and the land stank. <sup>15</sup> But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.**

**And the frogs died out of the houses, the courts, and the fields. So they piled them in heaps, and the land stank.**

This brought some relief in that the frogs were no longer invading their homes

However, the smell of dead frogs in the heat of Egypt had to be nauseating

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

In the 1<sup>st</sup> 9 plagues we will see times when the king will harden his heart, when God will harden the king's heart and times when it is not clear if it was the king or God.

In Exodus 7:22 it says Pharaoh's heart was hardened but it is not certain from the text if that was his doing or Gods.

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

See chart 820

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

We will follow this through the other 7 plagues and come to a final conclusion at the end of plague 9

Verses 16-19

**<sup>16</sup> 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.’”**

**<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> The magicians tried with their secret arts to bring forth gnats, but they could not; so there were gnats on man and beast. <sup>19</sup> 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.**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> plague - Gnats**

**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

**Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, This is the finger of God**

The magicians could not duplicate this plague using magic so they admitted that the plague was supernatural

However, the king did not ask Moses to petition God about removing the gnats

And we are not told how or when that happened

**But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said.**

This is another time when it is uncertain if the hardening came from the king or from God.

Verses 20-24

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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*. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign will occur.’”” <sup>24</sup> 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.

**This is the 4<sup>th</sup> of 10 plagues**

**Rise early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh, as he comes out to the water**

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

**I will send **swarms of flies** on you and on your servants and on your people**

See Psalms 78:45

The Septuagint translated the swarms as dog-flies

A sharp-biting fly actually capable of killing animals when attacked by sufficient numbers

And they can inflict very painful bites on people

**But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people are living, 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

**<sup>25</sup> Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God within the land.” <sup>26</sup> 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? <sup>27</sup> We must go a three days’ journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God as He commands us.” <sup>28</sup> 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.” <sup>29</sup> 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.”**

### **Go sacrifice to your God within the land**

The king had seen enough that he was ready to compromise

Within the land was the 1st of 4 compromises suggested by the King

The 2nd is in verse 28.....You shall not go very far away

The third is in Exodus 10:11.....Only the men must go

The 4th is in Exodus 10:24.....The flocks and the herds must be left behind

**If we sacrifice what is an abomination to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not then stone us?**

See Genesis 46:34

It is Interesting that the Egyptians used stoning.

This shows that stoning was used by other cultures

We know this will become part of the Jewish law in about 3 months

It would be interesting to now when this became a common practice in Egypt

Verses 30 - 32

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

### The Lord removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh

Again the king must rely on God to end a plague.

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

See chart 825

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

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