Exodus Series L.5
(The Plagues Continue)
Chapter 8
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Thesis: I want to show what we can learn about God's power.

Introduction:
1. The power of God over the false "gods" of Egypt continues to be on display as God lays down plague after plague.
2. Today we will continue to see God's power over these make-believe gods.

I. Plague #2 – Frogs & Pharoah ignorance
A. God VS the god Hekt (Ex 8:1-7)
1. 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 of the new babies. Her husband, Khnum, was the god who made the bodies of babies on the potter's wheel from the dust of the ground.*

*Hekt was represented in paintings as a woman with the head of a frog. She was so important that she is pictured in one place as helping the god Anubis rebuild the body of Osiris after the god Seth had killed him. So when the True God gave Moses and Aaron the power to bring forth frogs by the millions (Exodus 8:1-15), He was showing His power over Hekt. There were so many frogs that they were bringing destruction (**Psalm 78:45**) to the land. The frogs didn't just stay in the pools of water and the river. They jumped into the houses. They jumped in their beds. The Egyptians could not even cook because the frogs were in their ovens. No one could take a step without stepping on a frog.*

Pharaoh asks Moses to pray to Jehovah to take away the frogs the next day. This is important because Pharaoh is already showing that he believes God is stronger than Hekt. Moses prays to God and the next day the frogs all die. The people gather the dead frogs into large piles. The whole land stinks from the dead frogs.

This was a further demonstration by God to tell the Egyptians that Hekt had no power. Instead of breathing life, the symbol of Hekt is dead and stinking up the land.

B. Pharoah is dishonest in his changed mind (**Ex 8:8-15**)
1. He ask Moses to do something about the frogs
2. Notice the frogs are killed and then must be piled up, they do not simply disappear.

II. Plague #3 & #4 & the weakness of the Magicians.
A. God vs the god Seth (LICE); (**Exodus 8:16-19)**
1. *The use of an expression about the finger of a god was related to the god Seth. Seth had fought against Horus for world domination (they wanted to rule the earth). "The finger of Seth" was the expression for this fight over power and rule. The same type of expression was also used for other Egyptian gods, such as Thoth who fought against the sun god, Ra.*

When the Egyptian priests said it was the "finger of God," they were admitting that the One True God was most powerful and had dominion over the earth.
This plague of lice was also against the Egyptian priesthood itself. The ancient historian Herodotus tells us that the Egyptian priests shaved their bodies every other day to prevent lice and other impure things from adhering to their bodies. They bathed twice every day in cold water and twice each night. (You wonder how they bathed when the water had been turned into blood!)
With the lice continually upon them, the Egyptian priests would not have been able to be "pure" for their service to their gods. This would also be a way of God showing them that He was more powerful than their gods.

2. It is interesting to note that the "magicians" are not able to pull off any trickery or enchantment here to try and duplicate what God has done. They seemingly admit defeat by saying it was "the finger of God"

B. God vs the god Khepera (**Ex 8:20-28**)

1. *This plague was aimed at the Egyptian god Khepera. Khepera was represented as a beetle headed human. He was worshipped as the god of the resurrection (rising from the dead to go to heaven). The plague was also against another part of the Egyptians' religious belief. They believed that flies were involved in the process of getting to heaven. They wore ornaments of human-headed flies. These were supposed to help them get to heaven. And their "Book of the Dead" gives honour to the bird fly who was supposed to be able to bring a man to heaven. The flies would also make the Egyptians impure for their religious services.*

2. The word for swarms can mean "all kinds of" or "mixture". In **Psalm 78:45**, we are told that "divers sorts" came upon them. This means all kinds of flies and probably includes the dog-fly which is common there. The dog-fly bites any exposed skin and is painful. The bite usually swells and hurts. The horse-fly would also be included. It has a very painful bite. And it is very probable that the beetle is included in the word used for "fly". The ancient historian Josephus said that they <u>were</u> included.

3. Pharaoh's response (**Ex 8:28-32**), was that the people could sacrifice but not leave Egypt. This isn't what God desired, He wanted them let go. A "plea bargain" as Pharaoh was half-heartedly making would not work with God.

III. Lessons for us today.

A. God is not mocked.
1. He knew of Pharaoh's insincerity (**1 Sam 16:7**)
2. Despite this he still held up His end of the deal (He killed the frogs).

B. The plagues show God's power over all the false "gods" of this world.
1. God showed His might over the false "gods" of their time (**Jer 10:8-11,14-16a**)
2. He still does so today, however men have the same problem Pharaoh had.

Conc:
1. We must not live our lives today as if God can be mocked or made a fool of (**Gal 6:7**).
2. Do we believe, truly, that God has more to offer than the materialistic and selfish ways of life that we often set up for ourselves as gods?
3. Full Invitation