

As You Sow, So Shall You Reap
Exodus 7:14-8:19
Berean Baptist Church
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INTRODUCTION

The Pattern of Judgment

The ten plagues come in three sets of three, with the tenth set apart as the climax. Each set of three plagues uses the same phrases and situations at the beginning middle and end. This pattern teaches us about God, sin, and judgment.

First Three Plagues (7:15 – 8:19)

1. God tells Moses to go see Pharaoh early in the morning; water into blood.
2. God tells Moses to confront Pharaoh; frogs everywhere, Pharaoh's heart becomes hard
3. Without warning, God tells Moses to bring the next plague; dust into lice

Second Three Plagues (8:20 – 9:12)

4. God tells Moses to go see Pharaoh early in the morning; swarms of flies
5. God tells Moses to confront Pharaoh; livestock die, Pharaoh's heart becomes hard
6. Without warning, God tells Moses to bring the next plague; sores

Final Three Plagues (9:13 - 10:29)

7. God tells Moses to go see Pharaoh early in the morning; the rain of fire
8. God tells Moses to confront Pharaoh; locusts everywhere, Pharaoh's heart becomes hard
9. Without warning, God tells Moses to bring the next plague; darkness

We will see many truths working through these scriptures. See now that: God wants sinners to respond and repent, that is why He sends His word early. God loves sinners, that is why He sent His word again. But God will not strive with us forever; eventually, the opportunity for repentance will end and he will send judgment without warning.

The first three plagues show God's judgment on Egypt's past sins and God's superiority over evil power.

Repent and respond to God, because judgment will come, it will follow you home, and no power of earth or hell can deliver you.

Exodus 7:14-25 The Blood of Israel Cries Out Against Egypt; Water to Blood

The place and time, the river early in the morning, is very significant: Pharaoh performed idolatrous religious duties early in the morning at the banks of the Nile. Worship at, and even of, the river was central to the Egyptian false religion. The corruption of their idols is to be revealed in the river itself.

Vs 15-18 God calls Pharaoh to repent early in the morning and tells him exactly what will happen if he does not. Pharaoh is without excuse.

Vs 19-20 What happened here, was this real blood? This is the normal word for "blood," but it is used at least once (Joel 2:31) to figuratively describe the color red. And the word for "blood" is only one silent letter different from the word for "red." The Nile does change color and consistency because of bacteria and silt. With this in mind, some think the Nile experienced miraculously timed algae or

bacteria plum that polluted the water and turned it red.

The problems with the view that the first plague was a natural disaster with supernatural timing are that it seems like the water was transformed everywhere in Egypt, not just in the river. Also, even though the words for "blood" and "red" sound similar, they are different words. The one-time "blood" for "red" in Joel is prophetic poetry.

Vs 17 God did this to teach Pharaoh "In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD." The holy river, the object of worship and symbol of the nation, was polluted with blood. But the blood in this water began long before this plague.

About 80 years before this, "...Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, 'Every son who is born you shall cast into the river'...(1:22)." This is blood for blood.

Do right because the blood of the mistreated will be avenged.

Vs 22-23 Pharaoh comforted by his magicians, turns away, goes into his house, and refuses to think about these things. But he cannot escape...

Exodus 8:1-15 Judgment Comes Home; Frogs Everywhere

Vs 3 The first two plagues come out of the river, blood, and frogs, and they point back to Egypt's attempted genocide of the Jewish people. The Egyptian goddess of fertility, midwives, and childbirth was closely associated with the frog.

Vs 4 the frogs were everywhere and on everyone. Pharaoh could have kept himself untouched by the first plague by making his servants dig wells for him (7:24) but now there are frogs in his house, in his kitchen, in his food, in his bedroom, and in his bed!

Vs 7 The magicians can do a trick like this as well, but the cruel irony is that Pharaoh does not need MORE frogs! He needs the frogs taken away. So Pharaoh calls for Moses and Aaron in order that they might pray to God for him; Pharaoh can no longer claim ignorance about the Lord.

Vs 9-12 Moses may be a little sarcastic here "do me the honor of telling me when you would like the frogs removed." Certainly, they both know that Pharaoh wants the frogs gone now! But in his pride, Pharaoh wants to show some restraint and asks for deliverance in the morning.

Vs 8-15 Pharaoh agrees but goes back on his word once he's comfortable again

Do right, do not allow evil powers to harden your heart, because God brings judgment home to sinners; even the very powerful will not escape.

Exodus 8:15-19 The Hand of God; Dust to Lice

Here at the end of the first set of three plagues, Pharaoh has gone back on his word

Vs 16-17 All of Egypt was covered with some kind of small insect supernaturally generated from the dust of the ground.

Vs 18 the magicians were able to ape the first two plagues, not that this helped anyone, but they do not have this power and they know why: this is the finger of God. God created life from the dust of the

earth (Gen 2:7) and he does it here again. Satanic power can destroy and also twist, but it cannot create.

The magician acknowledges their inability to stand against God, but...

Vs 19 still, Pharaoh does not listen

Be encouraged and also wary of perversion that evil and copy or pervert, but it cannot create.

CONCLUSION

“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good (Prov 15:3).” And, “be sure your sin will find you out (Numbers 32:23).” The rulers of Egypt began preparing their own catastrophic judgment when they raised their hands against God's children. Pharaoh sealed this judgment by trying to ignore it, and then by choosing to trust the power of his magicians in defiance of God's command. Not long after Pharaoh's magicians had to confess that they were powerless before “the finger of God.”

Nothing in the world will deliver you from the natural consequences of sin, you need grace that comes from outside of the world. So when you are confronted about your sins, humble yourself! “For God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5).”

Repent and respond to God, because judgment will come, it will follow you home, and no power of earth or hell can deliver you.