

“Pharaoh’s False Conversions”

(Exodus 8)

– The Plague of the Frogs (v1-15)

- An inconvenience, but not an overt danger to individuals.
- Vengeance upon “Hekt” and “Osirus”, gods of childbirth & the Nile.
- The sanctity of frogs in Egypt would have meant the Egyptians came to hate the thing they worshipped - as is the case with idolatry in every age. The thing people seek after and love becomes the thing that enslaves and dominates them.
- Seek first the Kingdom – or you will be enslaved to your frogs.
- True conversion does not ask another to stand on your behalf (unless that other is Jesus Christ). No priest, pope, parent, apostle or pastor can make peace with God on your behalf.
- True conversion is not concerned with deliverance from personal crisis; it is concerned with the honour of God, and cleansing from the stain of sin.
- True conversion is not merely to have had a favourable answer to prayer; God sometimes answers the prayers of unbelievers for His own reasons.

– The Plague of the Gnats (v1-15)

- **A great irritation, and a national frustration; but no blood shed yet.**
- **God was making a theological point, not an entomological point.**
 - **Pharaoh was seen as a living god whose job it was to maintain cosmic order – “Ma’at”. But now Jehovah throws Egypt into disorder.**
 - **In the Egyptian pantheon, the god “Geb” was god of the earth.**
- **The plagues are beginning to resemble the days of Creation. But God is ‘decreating’ Egypt.**
- **All things worked together for the harm of Pharaoh who hated God, and was punished according to His purpose.**
- **True conversion is not merely to acknowledge God. Many are ready to acknowledge a Judeo-Christian ‘god’, but not bow the knee to Him.**

– The Plague of the Flies (v1-15)

- **There is direct physical harm coming to the Egyptians (Psalm 78:45). The plagues are intensifying and becoming more painful.**
- **Another theological lesson in the humiliation of Uatchit (who ‘incarnates’ as a fly), Kheprer (as a beetle) and Beelzebub (the ‘Lord of the Flies’ – who was also worshipped in Egypt).**
- **True conversion is not the result of a negotiation process with God.**
- **True conversion IS IN GOSHEN; in Christ.**
- **God shields Goshen for good reasons:**
 - **1) A loving protection extended to a land “where MY PEOPLE dwell”**
 - **2) A missional proclamation of His power – “that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth”**
 - **3) To draw a sharp distinction between “my people and your people”**
 - » **The very things that Christ continues to do to this day.**
- **Only those in Goshen were safe. Only those on the Ark were safe. Only those in Christ are safe.**