

# Message Notes

## The Plagues begin...

**Introduction** – *“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”*

*Today’s Message:*  
**The Plagues Begin:**  
**Blood, Frogs and Gnats**  
Exodus 7:14-8:19

**The Plague of Blood** – Exodus 7:14-25  
*The Reason for Plague #1 (7:14)*

*The Plan (7:15-19)*

*Implementation of the Plan (7:20-21)*

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*Pharaoh’s Heart (7:23b-24)*

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**The Plague of Frogs** – Exodus 8:1-15  
*Go to Pharaoh! (8:1-4)*

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*The Magicians do it again!! (8:7)*

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**The Plague of Gnats** – Exodus 8:16-19  
*God will not be mocked! (8:16-17)*

*The Magicians can’t do anything! (8:18a)*

*The Magicians Beg Pharaoh (8:18b-19)*

### Gospel Implication

#### **The Justice of God**

*What we believe about Justice as Westerners*

*God’s Justice*

1 Thessalonians 1:3-10

Romans 3:22b-26

**Gospel Application** – *Does the justice of God lead you to real repentance?*

# Scripture Passages

*(taken from the New International Version)*

### Exodus 7:14-8:19

<sup>14</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. <sup>15</sup>Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the river. Confront him on the bank of the Nile, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. <sup>16</sup>Then say to him,

‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness. But until now you have not listened. <sup>17</sup>This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. <sup>18</sup>The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.’”

<sup>19</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over the streams and canals, over the ponds and all the reservoirs—and they will turn to blood.’ Blood will be everywhere in Egypt, even in vessels of wood and stone.”

<sup>20</sup>Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood. <sup>21</sup>The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink its water. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.

<sup>22</sup>But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh’s heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

<sup>23</sup>Instead, he turned and went into his palace, and did not take even this to heart. <sup>24</sup>And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile to get drinking water, because they could not drink the water of the river.

<sup>25</sup>Seven days passed after the LORD struck the Nile.

<sup>1</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. <sup>2</sup>If you refuse to let them go, I will send a plague of frogs on your whole country. <sup>3</sup>The Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs. <sup>4</sup>The frogs will come up on you and your people and all your officials.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your staff over the streams and canals and ponds, 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. <sup>7</sup>But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

<sup>8</sup>Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Pray to the LORD to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup>Moses said to Pharaoh, “I leave to you the honor of setting the time for me to pray to your gods and your officials and your people that you and your houses may be rid of the frogs, except for those that remain in the Nile.”

<sup>10</sup>“Tomorrow,” Pharaoh said.

Moses replied, “It will be as you say, so that you may know there is no one like the LORD our God. <sup>11</sup>The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile.”

<sup>12</sup>After Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, Moses cried out to the LORD about the frogs he had brought on Pharaoh. <sup>13</sup>And the LORD did what Moses asked. The frogs died in the houses, in the courtyards and in the fields. <sup>14</sup>They were piled into heaps, and the land reeked of them. <sup>15</sup>But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

<sup>16</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,’ and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats.” <sup>17</sup>They did this, and when Aaron stretched out his hand with the staff and struck the dust of the ground, gnats came on people and animals. All the dust throughout the land of Egypt became gnats. <sup>18</sup>But when the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not.

Since the gnats were on people and animals everywhere, <sup>19</sup>the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.

**Luke 9:51 (ESV)**

When the days drew near for him to be taken up,  
he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

## Luke 19:28-44

<sup>28</sup>After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup>As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup>“Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup>If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

## Luke 19:28-44

<sup>32</sup>Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup>As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

<sup>34</sup>They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

<sup>35</sup>They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup>As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

## Luke 19:28-44

<sup>37</sup>When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

[ALL READ TOGETHER]

<sup>38</sup>“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

## Luke 19:28-44

<sup>39</sup>Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus,  
“Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

<sup>40</sup>“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet,  
the stones will cry out.”

## Luke 19:28-44

<sup>41</sup>As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it <sup>42</sup>and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace — but now it is hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup>The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. <sup>44</sup>They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”



The Gospel  
According to  
**Moses**  
a study of exodus



Let's think about what would have happened if...this scene played out (according to Moses' thinking). Let's say Moses went in and he and Aaron did everything they were supposed to and said everything just as they were supposed to. And that was it. They got to leave. Who gets the credit? Moses and Aaron! Let's say they do everything just right and Pharaoh says, "You know what? I'll just let you go" ...Who gets the credit? Pharaoh! Redemption is not easy because only one can have the credit for it. And so this is why he said "it's not going to be easy but it's going to happen in such a way that everyone will know that I am the LORD."

~ Jen Wilkin, Podcast: *Exodus I, week 5: Opposition and Unbelief*



So, let's say things had gone more easily and the Israelites got to leave with Moses at the outset. Who would know that God was I AM? Israel would. But would Egypt? No.

But what we're going to see is that God will bring them out and redeem them in such a way that everyone will know, *everyone* will know that he is God.

~ Jen Wilkin, Podcast: *Exodus I, week 5: Opposition and Unbelief*



Today's Message:  
**The Plagues Begin:**  
*Blood, Frogs, Gnats*  
Exodus 7:14-8:19



**Waters Turn to Blood**  
Exodus 7:14-25



**Amphibians (Frogs)**  
Exodus 7:25-8:11



**Gnats (Lice)**  
Exodus 8:12-15



**Flies**  
Exodus 8:15-28



**Disease on Livestock**  
Exodus 9:1-7

# The Ten Plagues of Egypt



**Unhealable Sores**  
Exodus 9:8-12



**Hail and Fire**  
Exodus 9:13-35



**Locusts**  
Exodus 10:1-20



**Darkness**  
Exodus 10:21-29



**Death of First-Born**  
Exodus 11:1-12:36

plague	magicians reproduce plague	magicians or court beg	Pharaoh begs/capitulates	Pharaoh hardens heart <sup>a</sup>	Pharaoh's heart is/becomes hard	God hardens Pharaoh's heart <sup>b</sup>	distinction between Israel and Egypt	early morning confrontation	confrontation in palace	Aaron's staff	Moses' staff
[Snake] <sup>c</sup>	X			X						X	
Nile	X				X			X		X	
Frogs	X		X	X						X	
Gnats		X			X					X	
Flies			X				X	X			
Livestock				X	X		X		X		
Boils						X	X				
Hail		X	X		X		X	X			
Locusts			X			X			X		X
Darkness			X			X	X				X
Firstborn			X <sup>d</sup>			X <sup>e</sup>	X				X

In order to understand these plagues we need to understand that they were directed against the gods and goddesses of Egypt and were intended to show the superiority of the God of Israel to the Egyptian gods. There were about eighty major deities in Egypt, all clustered about the three great natural forces of Egyptian life: the Nile river, the land, and the sky. It does not surprise us, therefore, that the plagues God sent against Egypt in this historic battle follow this three-force pattern. The first two plagues were against the gods of the Nile. The next four were against the land gods. The final four plagues were against the gods of the sky, culminating in the death of the firstborn.

~ James Montgomery Boice, *Psalms: An Expository Commentary; Volume 2: Psalms 42–106* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1996), pp. 849, 850.



# The Plague of Blood

## *The reason*

### Exodus 7:14

<sup>14</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses,  
“Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding;  
he refuses to let the people go.



# The Plague of Blood

## *The plan*

### Exodus 7:15-19


<sup>15</sup>Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the river. Confront him on the bank of the Nile, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. <sup>16</sup>Then say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness. But until now you have not listened. <sup>17</sup>This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. <sup>18</sup>The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.' "

# The Plague of Blood


## *The plan*

### Exodus 7:15-19

<sup>19</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt – over the streams and canals, over the ponds and all the reservoirs – and they will turn to blood.’ Blood will be everywhere in Egypt, even in vessels of wood and stone.”



The river of blood was the first of ten plagues that afflicted the Egyptians. Rather than calling them “plagues,” the Bible prefers to call them “miraculous signs and wonders” (Exod. 7:3). Nevertheless, the word *plague* expresses an important truth. The term comes from the Latin *plaga*, meaning “a blow or wound,” which is exactly what the plagues were. God said, “I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them” (Exod. 3:20)...



The way God dealt with Pharaoh shows that his demands are nonnegotiable. Every time Pharaoh encountered God, he was confronted with the same God making the same demand. God never changed his terms or issued a counteroffer. This is because God never changes his terms: “The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations” (Ps. 33:11).

~ Philip Graham Ryken and R. Kent Hughes, *Exodus: Saved for God's Glory* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005), 214–216.

# The Plague of Blood

## *The implementation*

### Exodus 7:20-21

<sup>20</sup>Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood. <sup>21</sup>The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink its water. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.

# The Plague of Blood

## *The Street Magicians do it too!!*

**Exodus 7:22a**

<sup>22</sup>But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts,

# The Plague of Blood

## *Pharaoh's heart*

**Exodus 7:14-8:19**

<sup>22</sup>But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said. <sup>23</sup>Instead, he turned and went into his palace, and did not take even this to heart.





# The Plague of Blood

## *The Suffering of the Egyptian People*

### Exodus 7:14-8:19

<sup>22</sup>But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said. <sup>23</sup>Instead, he turned and went into his palace, and did not take even this to heart.

<sup>24</sup>And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile to get drinking water, because they could not drink the water of the river. <sup>25</sup>Seven days passed after the LORD struck the Nile.





# The Plague of Frogs

## *Go to Pharaoh!!*

### Exodus 8:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. <sup>2</sup>If you refuse to let them go, I will send a plague of frogs on your whole country. <sup>3</sup>The Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs. <sup>4</sup>The frogs will come up on you and your people and all your officials.’ ”

# The Plague of Frogs

*It presumably doesn't go well*

## Exodus 8:5-6

<sup>5</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your staff over the streams and canals and ponds, 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. <sup>7</sup>But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

# The Plague of Frogs

## *The Magicians do it again!*

**Exodus 8:7**

<sup>7</sup>But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.





Lunga Biyela

@KingBiyela

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How would you deal with this?



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**Barnabas Piper**

@BarnabasPiper

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Probably should let God's people go.



**Lunga Biyela** @KingBiyela

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5



40



336

# The Plague of Frogs

*However, they can't get rid of the frogs*

## Exodus 8:8-14

<sup>8</sup>Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Pray to the LORD to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup>Moses said to Pharaoh, “I leave to you the honor of setting the time for me to pray for you and your officials and your people that you and your houses may be rid of the frogs, except for those that remain in the Nile.”

# The Plague of Frogs

*However, they can't get rid of the frogs*

**Exodus 8:8-14**

<sup>10</sup>“Tomorrow,” Pharaoh said.

Moses replied, “It will be as you say, so that you may know there is no one like the LORD our God. <sup>11</sup>The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile.”

# The Plague of Frogs

*However, they can't get rid of the frogs*

## Exodus 8:8-14

<sup>12</sup>After Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, Moses cried out to the LORD about the frogs he had brought on Pharaoh. <sup>13</sup>And the LORD did what Moses asked. The frogs died in the houses, in the courtyards and in the fields. <sup>14</sup>They were piled into heaps, and the land reeked of them.

# The Plague of Frogs

*Fake News! Pharaoh's heart is not really changed*

**Exodus 8:15**

<sup>15</sup>But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.



# The Plague of Gnats

## *God will not be mocked!*

### Exodus 8:16-17

<sup>16</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,’ and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats.” <sup>17</sup>They did this, and when Aaron stretched out his hand with the staff and struck the dust of the ground, gnats came on people and animals. All the dust throughout the land of Egypt became gnats.

# The Plague of Gnats

## *The Magicians can't do anything!*

### Exodus 8:18b-19

<sup>18</sup>But when the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not. Since the gnats were on people and animals everywhere, <sup>19</sup>the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.



# The Plague of Gnats

## *The Magicians beg Pharaoh*

### Exodus 8:18b-19

<sup>18</sup>But when the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not. Since the gnats were on people and animals everywhere, <sup>19</sup>the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.



Professor Norman Gary engulfed by bees as he carries out research into the species

# The Plague of Gnats

## *The Magicians beg Pharaoh*

### Exodus 8:18b-19

<sup>18</sup>But when the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not. Since the gnats were on people and animals everywhere, <sup>19</sup>the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.

# *Gospel Implication*

A black and white graphic featuring a silhouette of a gavel resting on a block. The text "THE JUSTICE OF GOD" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font. A vertical white line is positioned to the left of the text.

**THE JUSTICE  
OF GOD**

The Christian philosopher Miroslav Volf, in *Exclusion & Embrace*, argues that belief in a God of judgment (a point of contradiction) is a crucial resource for nonviolence (a point of contact). Speaking as a Croatian whose people experienced the ethnic cleansings of the 1990s, Volf proposes that “the practice of non-violence requires a belief in divine vengeance.” If victims of violence believe there is no God, or no God who will bring a final justice on the earth, they will feel justified, or at least provided incentive, to pick up weapons in vengeance. So Volf argues the only way to “prohibit recourse to violence by ourselves” is to fully believe that God alone has that right, and that will square all accounts some day.



~ Timothy Keller, *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism*

## 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10

<sup>3</sup>We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. <sup>5</sup>All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.

## 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10

<sup>6</sup>God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you

<sup>7</sup>and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This

will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. <sup>8</sup>He will punish those who

do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might <sup>10</sup>on

the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes

you, because you believed our testimony to you.



FREDRIK BACKMAN

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF  
*A MAN CALLED OVE*

# BEAR TOWN

A NOVEL



Hate can be a deeply stimulating emotion. The world becomes much easier to understand and much less terrifying if you divide everything and everyone into friends and enemies, we and they, good and evil. The easiest way to unite a group isn't through love, because love is hard. It makes demands. Hate is simple. So the first thing that happens in a conflict is that we choose a side, because that's easier than trying to hold two thoughts in our heads at the same time. The second thing that happens is that we seek out facts that confirm what we want to believe – comforting facts, ones that permit life to go on as normal. The third is that we dehumanize our enemy. There are many ways of doing that, but none is easier than taking her name away from her.

~ Fredrik Backman, *Beartown: A Novel* (p. 273). Atria Books. Kindle Edition.

## Romans 3:22b-26

<sup>22b</sup>There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup>God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, <sup>m</sup> through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – <sup>26</sup>he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.



There are no atheists in the foxholes  
of Bataan...

— *Douglas MacArthur* —

AZ QUOTES

# Gospel Application:

# Gospel Application:

*Does the justice of God  
lead you to real repentance?*