

Bible Study - Dust and Lice, Flies and oil

Exodus Lesson 10 - Lice and Dust, Flies and oil

Exodus 8:16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

Exodus 8:17 And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

Exodus 8:18 And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast.

Exodus 8:19 Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

I. Dust and Lice - This third plague is the shortest account of all of the plagues, but its significance lies in the fact that it could not be replicated by the King of Egypt's magicians and even produces in them an admission of the power of God. As with each of these plagues there is great typical significance, as well as practical principles to be understood and put in practice.

A. The Plague of Lice is a picture of the Curse - When God sent the lice upon the land of Egypt he did so through the dust of the land

1. This brings to mind, not only man's origin, but the curse upon man because of sin

Genesis 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Genesis 3:18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: **for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**

B. The plague of Lice is the final plague to which the Hebrews would be exposed.

I. Here, with the plague of flies, God puts a division between His people and the Egyptians

Exodus 8:22 And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.

Exodus 8:23 And I will put a division between my people and thy people: to morrow shall this sign be.

2. This means that Israel was not spared the first three plagues, even as the church has not been spared their typical representations:

- **Blood:** Pictures death (Romans 6:23, Hebrews 9:27)
- **Frogs:** Pictures the influence of Satan (Hebrews 2:14, I Peter 5:8)
- **Lice:** Pictures the curse of sin (John 19:2)

3. Satan's Failure in the Plague of Lice - (Verse 18) -

- a. Until now, the magicians had replicated the 3 signs performed by God
- b. These were: rod to serpent-7:11, water to blood-7:22, and frogs from the waters-8:7.
- c. But when it comes to creating something from the dust Satan is unable
- d. And God's great power is manifested as being superior.
- e. Of course man was shaped from the dust - Satan cannot make anything out of dust.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

- f. With all of man's boasts, he'd have to make man with dust alone
- g. To have any boasting ground, and then....

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- h. He would have had to create dust out of nothing first.
- i. Man can't match wits with Almighty God.
- j. The greatest testimony to this is the creation

Psalms 8:1 A Psalm of David. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

Psalms 8:2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

Psalms 8:3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

Psalms 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Psalms 8:5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Psalms 8:6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

Psalms 8:7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;

Psalms 8:8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

Psalms 8:9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

C. The Finger of God (v. 19) - The magicians are forced to tell Pharaoh

- 1. This plague is out of their league
- 2. Only the finger of God could have wrought such a thing.
- 3. Likewise, Satan himself will be forced to bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Philippians 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- 4. Satan had to resist the truth by counterfeiting what God was doing
- 5. In Moses day he did this by giving lying signs and wonders to the magicians
- 6. In the church age he has his people with a form of godliness denying the Power
- 7. Today he infiltrates Churches with cults like *once saved always saved*, Calvinism, etc.
- 8. But there is an end to Satan's shenanigans
- 9. This is the last time we hear from the magicians

II Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

II Timothy 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

II Timothy 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

II Timothy 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

II Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

II Timothy 3:6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

II Timothy 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

II Timothy 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

II Timothy 3:9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

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10. "The finger of God" is a reference to God's power, but always used in judgment:

1. Exodus 31:18
2. Dan 5:5
3. John 8:6

- The One whose finger wrote the commandments on the tables of stone
- The One who pronounced Judgment upon Belshazzar
- The same one writing in the sand

Luke 11:20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

- Christ the Judge

John 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

- Christ the power of God

I Corinthians 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

- Christ the Word

John 12:48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Isaiah 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

II. Keep the Flies Out of the Ointment

Exodus 8:20 And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he cometh forth to the water; and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Exodus 8:21 Else, if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thy houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground whereon they are.

Exodus 8:22 And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.

Exodus 8:23 And I will put a division between my people and thy people: to morrow shall this sign be.

Exodus 8:24 And the LORD did so; and there came a grievous swarm of flies into the house of Pharaoh, and into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt: the land was corrupted by reason of the swarm of flies.

Exodus 8:25 And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land.

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Exodus 8:26 And Moses said, It is not meet so to do; for we shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God: lo, shall we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us?

Exodus 8:27 We will go three days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the LORD our God, as he shall command us.

Exodus 8:28 And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away: intreat for me.

Exodus 8:29 And Moses said, Behold, I go out from thee, and I will intreat the LORD that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people, to morrow: but let not Pharaoh deal deceitfully any more in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD.

Exodus 8:30 And Moses went out from Pharaoh, and intreated the LORD.

Exodus 8:31 And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; and he removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people; there remained not one.

Exodus 8:32 And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.

I. The Grip of False Religion (v. 20)

We saw in chapter seven that these early morning visits to the river by the Pharaoh is part of his religious observance. The fact that he's still going down to the river as faithfully as before is a rather incredible thought since each of these plagues has struck to the very heart of Egypt's false religious system. Along with each of these plagues God is executing judgment upon the false gods of Egypt.

- Frogs – Hekt – goddess of reproduction
- Lice – Seb – god of the earth
- Water to Blood – Nilus – sacred river god

Even though God is methodically dismantling Egypt and it's gods in the sight of all Egypt

- Pharaoh still goes down to the river's side to do his religious duty.
- It is hard to understand how otherwise intelligent people stay in false religious systems
- Especially when all the evidence of the truth is against them.
- But there is an intense grip upon the soul of the man that rejects the light of God.
- When a man continually rejects the Light, he takes a leap into darkness.
- God will give them man what he wants and leave him alone (Romans 1:24-26).
- That spiritual ground is then assumed by the enemy
- When a person rejects God's light, he is accepting Satan's lies by default (Ephesians 2:2).
- There comes a point when it is too late for that man (Proverbs 7:21-27).

Proverbs 7:1 My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

Proverbs 7:2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

Proverbs 7:3 Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.

Proverbs 7:4 Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:

Proverbs 7:5 That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.

Proverbs 7:6 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,

Proverbs 7:7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,

Proverbs 7:8 Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,

Proverbs 7:9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:

Proverbs 7:10 And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

Proverbs 7:11 (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:

Proverbs 7:12 Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)

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Proverbs 7:13 So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,
Proverbs 7:14 I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.
Proverbs 7:15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.
Proverbs 7:16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.
Proverbs 7:17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.
Proverbs 7:18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.
Proverbs 7:19 For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey:
Proverbs 7:20 He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed.
Proverbs 7:21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.
Proverbs 7:22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;
Proverbs 7:23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.
Proverbs 7:24 Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.
Proverbs 7:25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.
Proverbs 7:26 For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.
Proverbs 7:27 Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

III. The Grief of the Swarms of Flies (v. 21)

Isaiah 7:18 And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the LORD shall hiss for the fly that is in the uttermost part of the rivers of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria.

Attempt reading verse 21 without the italics. Swarms of what? The KJV translators are honest, they had to add to make the sense, but put them in italics to let you know “of flys” is not in the Hebrew.

Psalms 78:45 He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them.

Psalms 105:31 He spake, and there came divers sorts of flies, and lice in all their coasts.

[They, unlike the modern translators, are honest enough however to let us know that they have inserted “of flies” by place the phrase in italics.]

- All of the preceding plagues were bad,
- But they are growing in severity;
- This is the first plague that is said to be “grievous” (v. 24).
- Whereas the frogs were destructive in their quantity,
- The lice were an awful nuisance,
- These flies are said to actually devour the people,
- This is the first plague where bodily harm is caused by the plague.

Deuteronomy 7:15 And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee.

III. The Goodness of God's Severance (v. 22-24)

The first three plagues affected God's people as well as the Egyptians

God is revealed in the Bible as a divider from the very first chapter of Scripture.

- He has divided the land,
- He has divided the heaven,
- He has even divided the people.
- He divides light from dark,
- He divided night from day,
- He divided clean from unclean,
- He divided saved from lost,
- He divided righteous from unrighteous,

And among the divisions that he makes is between his people and the world.

God's people to be separate from the world:

II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

II Corinthians 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

II Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

II Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

II Corinthians 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

I Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

I Peter 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

I Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

I Peter 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Colossians 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

- We need to stay separated.
- What would have happened if a Jew left Goshen and went over to Egypt (Type of the word?)

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Ephesians 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

Ephesians 4:18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Ephesians 4:19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Ephesians 4:20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

A worldly Christian is like talking about a heavenly devil.

James 4:1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

James 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

James 4:5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

James 4:9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

James 4:11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

James 4:12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psalm 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalm 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Exodus 30:22 Moreover the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Exodus 30:23 Take thou also unto thee principal spices, of pure myrrh five hundred shekels, and of sweet cinnamon half so much, even two hundred and fifty shekels, and of sweet calamus two hundred and fifty shekels,

Exodus 30:24 And of cassia five hundred shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, and of oil olive an hin:

Exodus 30:25 And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil.

Exodus 30:26 And thou shalt anoint the tabernacle of the congregation therewith, and the ark of the testimony,

Exodus 30:27 And the table and all his vessels, and the candlestick and his vessels, and the altar of incense,

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Exodus 30:28 And the altar of burnt offering with all his vessels, and the laver and his foot.

Exodus 30:29 And thou shalt sanctify them, that they may be most holy: whatsoever toucheth them shall be holy.

Exodus 30:30 And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office.

Exodus 30:31 And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, This shall be an holy anointing oil unto me throughout your generations.

Exodus 30:32 Upon man's flesh shall it not be poured, neither shall ye make any other like it, after the composition of it: it is holy, and it shall be holy unto you.

Exodus 30:33 Whosoever compoundeth any like it, or whosoever putteth any of it upon a stranger, shall even be cut off from his people.

Exodus 30:34 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; these sweet spices with pure frankincense: of each shall there be a like weight:

Exodus 30:35 And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure and holy:

Exodus 30:36 And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy.

Exodus 30:37 And as for the perfume which thou shalt make, ye shall not make to yourselves according to the composition thereof: it shall be unto thee holy for the LORD.

Exodus 30:38 Whosoever shall make like unto that, to smell thereto, shall even be cut off from his people.

But just a few dead flies in the ointment send a stinking savor:

Ecclesiastes 10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.

Ecclesiastes 10:2 A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left.

Ecclesiastes 10:3 Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.

But - It only takes a few dead flies to spoil the savor of the ointment

Malachi 1:14 *But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.*

I Corinthians 6:19 *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

Revelation 18:4 *And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*