



Exodus

GOD'S MIRACULOUS DEMONSTRATION OF POWER

Exodus 8:16-32

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Signs and Plagues

God's deliverance of His people from bondage will include "signs" and "plagues" - all demonstrations of His power. The plagues are all evidence of God's preeminence over the various "gods" of the Egyptians. The plagues are also signs to God's people that will encourage them in their confidence in God.

Below the Gnat Line

The next plague after frogs was the invasion of gnats/lice/mosquitoes. The dust of the ground (used in Genesis to form humanity - Genesis 2:7) became a swarm of gnats that affected the Egyptians and their animals.

The Finger of God

For the first time, the Egyptian magicians were unable to replicate any form of this miracle. Their response was to attribute this plague to an act of God - not the work of magicians (perhaps they thought Moses and Aaron to be magicians).

Lord of the Flies

Next, God sent a swarm of flies throughout the land of the Egyptians. The people were overcome by the devastation and the land was ruined. However, we are specifically told that God miraculously protected His people from the plague!

Pharaoh's Concessions

Pharaoh was personally afflicted by the plagues. He asked for prayer. He offered limited freedom for the Israelites. Moses refused the concessions of Pharaoh. The only satisfactory answer was complete freedom for Israel.

Miracle of the Plagues

Joseph Free, in his book *Archaeology and Bible History* offers up 5 reasons why we know the plagues were miracles performed by God:

1. Intensification - frogs, insects, plagues on cattle, hail, and darkness were all known in Egypt. However, there is an intensity that is way beyond anything ever experienced.
2. Prediction - the time was given for the flies, death of the cattle, the hail, the locusts - the removal of frogs and thunder ---- the Lord was demonstrating His power over creation.
3. Discrimination - God judged the Egyptians but He acted discriminately by protecting the Israelites.
4. Orderliness - the plagues began to increase in intensity, culminating in the final act of judgment.
5. Moral Purpose - the plagues were not just accidental or coincidental occurrences. They were intentional expressions of power by God to dismantle the pantheon of gods and goddesses of the Egyptians. God revealed Himself as Savior!

Pharaoh Remains Unconvinced

The plague of the gnats and the plague of the flies both end --- and Pharaoh's heart remains hardened against Israel.