

Exodus 8:1–15

“How an Army of Frogs Exposed Heart-Hardness by Humiliating Pharaoh”

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Why a plague of frogs? Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. Exodus 8:1–15 prepares us for the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these fifteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that the Lord bends all sinners’ knees to Himself by humiliating them, but it is a saving mercy when behind the bent knee is a grace-softened heart that acknowledges that we ultimately belong to Him and must serve Him in all things and depend upon Him for all fruitfulness.

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 ▫ Read Exodus 8:1–15

Questions from the Scripture text: Who spoke (v1)? To whom? To whom did He send him? How was he to introduce his statement there? What was he to command Pharaoh to do? So that what could happen? What did He threaten if Pharaoh refused (v2)? What would bring forth these frogs (v3)? How many? Where would they go? Into whose house, specifically? Into whose bedroom, specifically? Onto whose bed specifically? Into who else’s houses? On whom? Into what two things? Even onto whom, specifically, would these frogs come up (v4)? How does v5 introduce again? Looking at the rest of the verse, what has happened between v4 and v5? Now to whom is Moses to speak? What is Aaron to do? With what? Over what three things? What would this cause? What does Aaron do in v6? Over what? What come up? What do they do to the land? Whom else does Yahweh permit to do this (v7)? How do they think they are doing it? But who still calls for whom in v8? What does he ask them to do? What does he promise that he will do? What does Moses ask Pharaoh to accept in v9? For what three groups does Moses say he would intercede? What would he ask Yahweh to do? Where would frogs remain? What time does Pharaoh choose (v10)? What does Moses say that this timing will make Pharaoh know? From which four places does he say the frogs will depart (v11)? Where will they remain? Where do Moses and Aaron go in v12? What does Moses do to Whom, concerning whom? According to what does Yahweh do (!!, v13)? What do the frogs do, from where? What do the people do with the bodies (v14)? With what result? What does Pharaoh see in v15? What does he therefore do? What doesn’t he do? What had predicted/determined this?

Whom will the people serve? v1 restates the struggle of this contest. Pharaoh wants the Hebrews to keep serving Him, but Yahweh specifically tells Moses to say that “Yahweh” demands that they “serve Me” (v1). Part of the plague is that Yahweh will make his servants worthless by covering them with frogs (end of v4). There are many things/ones competing for the service of God’s people. He will devastate all competition.

Who makes fruitfulness? Again, the Nile is specifically attacked (v3), as well as Pharaoh himself. His house, his bedroom, and his bed (v3). Even upon him himself (v4)! The frog was the image of Hekhet, a purported fertility goddess in Egypt. But she was also supposedly to multiply crocodiles to keep the frogs in check. Apparently, she fails spectacularly to contain them.

Also, Pharaoh’s magicians are able to make more frogs (v7). But the last thing that Pharaoh needs is more frogs! So, the magicians’ failure results in Pharaoh asking the only ones who can help him with his “Yahweh problem” (v8, cf. 5:2). Still, he uses the words “sacrifice to Yahweh” instead of “serve.” Pharaoh is unwilling to concede. Sinners want to be served. They do not want to acknowledge dependence upon the Lord, and they do not want to tolerate others’ serving the Lord.

Who is in control? Moses offers Pharaoh, “glorify yourself over me when to intercede for you” (v9). Something in Pharaoh’s response shows that he is still trying to maintain some semblance of control, and Moses (perhaps facetiously, perhaps to teach him a lesson) reinforces that by letting him set a time for the frogs to be gone. Pharaoh’s selection of “tomorrow” in v10 is basically impossible, but Moses still says, “let it be according to your word.” The point is to use words that sound like Pharaoh being in control to show how complete Yahweh’s control actually is. Whatever Pharaoh asks, Yahweh can do. It will be tomorrow “that you may know that there is no one like Yahweh.” The Lord is in complete control of all of history, and each of us must bow the knee.

How hard is Pharaoh’s heart? Pharaoh still refuses to heed them (v15). What’s worse is that he looks at the situation in v14 and actually thinks that “there was relief” (v15). Heaps upon heaps of dead frogs throughout the land? Is that relief? The whole land stank? Is that relief? Here’s a man who is irrationally committed to his wickedness. Just like everyone, apart from Christ, is irrationally committed to his wickedness.

What other entities are competing for the service of Christ’s people? Who will win that contest? Who/what else is thought to make people fruitful in our culture? How are you tempted to buy into that idea? What do you need, in order to give in to God’s call to repentance?

Sample prayer: O Lord, You alone are God. Grant unto us to serve You alone! Grant unto us to trust in You alone for fruitfulness! Grant unto us tenderheartedness when Your providence is designed to get our attention and call us to repentance. Forgive us for being so much like Pharaoh, and spare us from needing such miserable circumstances to reveal it from our hearts; for, we ask it through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP2 “Why Do Gentile Nations Rage” or TPH2B “Why Do Heathen Nations Rage”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Exodus chapter 8 verses 1 through 15. These are God's words and you always spoke to Moses. Go to Pharaoh and say to him, thus says Yahweh, let my people go that they may serve me, but if you refuse to let them go behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs.

So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly which I'll go up to come into your house and to your bedroom on your bed, into the houses of your servants. On your people into your ovens and into your needing bowls and the frogs shall come up on you, on your people and on all your servants.

And y'all always spoke to Moses say to Aaron stretch. Out your hand with your rod, over the streams over the rivers and over the ponds, and cause the frogs to come up on the land of each it. So, air and stretched out his hand. Over the waters of Egypt and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt and the magicians did.

So with their enchantments brought up frogs, on the land of Egypt, then Pharaoh called for Moses. And Aaron and said, then treat, y'all way that he may take away the frogs from me and from my people and I will let the people go that they may sacrifice. You always, and Moses said to Pharaoh, accept the honor of saying.

When I saw intercede for you for your servants and for your people, to destroy the frogs from you and your houses that they may remain in the river only. So, he said tomorrow and he said, let it be according to your word that you may know that. There is no one like y'all way our God and the frogs shall depart from you from your houses, from your servants.

And from your people they shall remain in the river. Only then Moses and Aaron went out from pharaoh and Moses, cried out to Yahweh. Concerning the frogs, which he had brought against Pharaoh. So, you always did according to the word of Moses. And the frogs died out of the houses, out of the courtyards, out of the fields, they gathered them together in heaps and the land stank.

But when Pharaoh saw that, there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not eat them as Yahweh had said,

So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent work.

Well, the humbling of Pharaoh continues. He began saying, I do not know y'all way, and I will not let the people go.

But now, by the middle of the plague, or the account of the plague of the frogs, he's saying, well, you pray tea hallway for me very much. Like you may have an experience that I've had many times and maybe a little bit more, because some people know that, I'm a pastor, where they refuse to believe in the Lord, but the Lord puts them through things, and they know in their heart just like Romans one says, they can see in the creation, his divine nature.

They know his law and those who do such things deserve death. They know when their heart that it's my God who can do something about it. And so even though they refused to believe in Jesus, they still was like, will you pray to Jesus for me and help me?

And yet just like Pharaoh as soon as they come out of the trouble, their heart is hardened and they don't honor Jesus any further than that just as long as the Jesus person prays for them and they get a little bit of relief and they don't realize the greater truth that the Lord is exalting himself.

And the Lord is demanding that they turn from their sin and submit to him, he's giving them an opportunity but it becomes an opportunity for hardness of heart. It must not be so among you my children, you know that the Lord is working all things. According to the council of his will that everything that happens in your life is something that he expects you to interact with him about, according to his work.

And so, he does bring us through things in order to stir up tender, heartedness toward him and one of the things that we ought to pray, even in the midst of trial, even as we are asking him for relief, is that when the trial is gone that are hearts, would remain tender and not hardened back up, that we would walk with him sweetly in times of prosperity, even as we do in times of suffering, that's the main overall lesson.

There are many sub lessons smaller lessons. Here there's a question here of whom will the people serve Pharaoh thinks that the people belong to him to serve him but the Lord says, let my people go, that they may serve me. The reason you want to be good children to your mom and your dad is not so much because

we are lord over you or master over you.

You certainly don't exist for our sake, but because the Lord who picked your parents for you, is your Lord. You are his people and you serve him in part by honoring mom and dad, and by serving in this home and in the church where you honor and submit to your elders and you serve the congregation and in the state where we honor and submit to the civil authority and we serve in the civil sphere in the state and the ways that God created neighbors and subjects to be good for one another in in his order and yet in each one of these, we're recognizing that the Lord is the one who is a pointed for us, our family, or our church or our nation and his wisdom.

His providence is goodness, his love that saves us and his love that calls us remember from second, Timothy one yesterday being purpose unto salvation and unto calling from before the time before time began. So we're his people and we serve him, and if ever a pharaoh or anyone else, wishes to encroach trespass crowd in on to your duties unto God.

You must resist him because you are the Lord's people and you are to serve him. Pharaohs being brought to bend his knees, not willingly, but by force to acknowledge that. Now, another thing here is who makes fruitfulness most of us. Can't see this right away in the English passage because we are unfamiliar with the God.

Hackett h e k h e, t is the English transliteration. It's a frog. Looking God. Who is supposed to produce fertility and fruitfulness. Here is something that pharaoh thinks he can force to happen by oppressing the Hebrews. And this is kind of similar to when the the Israelites in the wilderness are whining for meat and cuts.

As you want meat, I'll bury you and meet and he brings all the birds that pile up and stack up all over the place. The the Lord here shows himself to be the God of fruitfulness. In fact, it's so fruitful that they can't bear it. You want your near people to be fruitful?

Cover them with your little symbol of your God of fertility. He covers the people with frogs even on Pharaoh, how horrifying for Pharaoh, who is supposed to be very dignified and he's got a frog's jumping up. His has cloak, and all over him and on his bed and in his bedroom.

And then, not only that, that seems like it would be startling. And if you are a proper and clean, pharaoh would be very disgusting as well, but noing that these frogs are the army of Yahweh. You remember, back to the hearing, the preaching through Joel and there were locusts who were an army from Yahweh, how vulnerable, the Pharaoh must feel that dozens of Yahweh's soldiers can infiltrate his bedroom and even up onto himself, and they can't even prepare food without constantly flicking the frogs out of the bowl.

And they open the oven to put the prepared food in and the vlogs come flying out of the oven. And if you don't get them out as your heating, the the wood or whatever it is that they're using to kindle the fire. Then you got burnt frog, smell to go along with whatever you're making for Pharaoh's supper.

The Lord is the one who makes fruitfulness and it can't be accomplished by sending against him. There's no righteous lie. There's no righteous. Any kind of sin based upon outcome because God gives the outcome and the right way of pursuing any kind of good is by honoring him. This is one reason why, you know, we don't participate and state programs are whatever because he's got, right ways of earning money.

Even, you know, work hard generosity of individuals, not forced stealing from individuals, inheritance wise, use of money, for investment, those kinds of things. The right way of fruitfulness, as always to follow the Lord, there are no sin shortcuts and of course, God is humiliating the idols of each was.

He will humiliate all the idols of a culture? He does us from time to time and America. He continually humiliates, the government, which is a big idol. He humiliates athletics like he did last year with the covenant, he humiliates economics with great, big fluctuations, and crashes, and so forth.

So that people who trust in money, find that their idols are harming them instead of helping them. So, also, with the frogs here, Pharaoh's magicians. Yeah. The, the magic trick that Pharaoh really wanted was the disappearing frog. Not the appeared of more frogs if you look verse 7 and the magicians did.

So with their enchantments and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt, then Pharaoh called from us as an errands at entry Yahweh, he brings his magicians in and in the middle of a frog plague, it's not much of a trick to make frogs appear. You get a bed.

Imagine he's like the flesh. And king, who goes do? I have a shortage of madman that you have brought David before me. You do and I have a shortage of frogs this, you made some of here. So as soon as you know, as soon as the magicians do it in verse 7, he calls for buses and he needs more more power and he knows that you always in control and Moses mocks him in verse 9, the English cleans it up a bit.

It says, accept the honor of saying, when I shall intercede for you, he literally says be honored or

be exalted above me. And the point is that the hallway is so high above everyone that he is able to do all his holy will, he's able to do anything at any time.

And so he says that, it may be, let it be. According to your word, Moses says about Pharaoh's word and verse 10, and then in verse 13. It's so y'all way did according to the word of Moses, but the word that controls everything is really the word at the end of verse 15, when Pharaoh saw that, there was relief, hardened, his heart and did not heed them.

As Yahweh had said, there is only one true power and existence. And that is the power of the Lord. All other power is derivatives. Subsidiary sustained by dependent upon the power of the Lord. And there's only one through authority. So that the only way the words of Pharaoh bring anything about is because Yahweh is willing to the only way that the words of Moses and Aaron can bring anything about us because the Lord is willing to.

We remember this in prayer, one of the things that is unknown and maybe exposes us the way we think and feel in the churches is how we talk about for all your prayers did so much. No, they didn't. Maybe the Lord did according to our words in prayer and yes, our Lord of course, did because he loves to listen to his children and to reveal himself as a heroine answer a prayer.

But let us learn to talk about the Lord's answering and exalt him even as we express gratitude to our brothers sister praying for us, the ultimate real story is that the Lord has done according to his work, he is the one who is in control. And finally, I think we need to point out because it's pointed out over and over again.

How hard the wicked heart is the heart. That has not been given new life by the spirit in order to believe in Jesus, when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them. You know, who was relieved, just feral the rest of the land is covered in mountains of stinking frogs, because there's too many debris and their idol rules say they aren't allowed to burn them.

So, you know, there are no longer, you know, jumping up Pharaoh's skirts, or in his bed, or on his dinner plate, the whole land is afflicted with the fall stench and he thinks that this relief has. Heart is so harsh towards God. Nothing will get through because God is giving him over.

As hardening him into what he is not isn't making Pharaoh something he isn't, he's just allowing him to be what he is. And one of the things that we need to ask of God, continually, and this brings us back to the main overall lesson, as for this tenderness of heart, towards him, apart from the Lord, giving us spiritual life, and willingness to listen to him, and to be corrected, and instructed and tenderness of heart towards him, apart from the Lord.

Giving that to us, we would all be wicked as feral, nothing would get through. And then, if you ever give you sorrow for sin or desire after righteousness, you can be encouraged already. Even though you may be very discouraged about how your walk with him has been going, just the fact that he has given you soft heartedness, you can remember from the Bible, how hard you are, except for grace, and you can see that even your your sorrow over past sin and your resolve unto new.

Obedience is a mercy from him, that he's given you. He says, Lord, you are the one who's giving me the soft heartedness help me now to follow through and keep my heart soft for even my willing must come from you. Yes. I by your command and response to your command and working out my own salvation with fear and trembling but it'll oh Lord, you must work in me.

Even to will let alone to work. According to your good pleasure and I thank you that you have given me at least this just see my sinfulness and to hate it to see your love and to love it and to love you because you first love me. What? A marvelous thing.

The grace of God is lest. We should all be like Pharaoh in this passage, Let's praise him for it, and ask him for more of it. Our Father in heaven. We thank you for this passage. We thank you for how you humiliated Egypt and her idols and we thank you for the times that you have humiliated us and the things that we depended upon board is very unpleasant, but it's exactly what we needed for.

There's nothing better. Then to know you and worship you and depend upon you to like you. And so we thank you for all that you and your mercy and your love and your grace. You do to soften our hearts, we confess that they are not as they ought to be, but Lord, whatever softness there is has come from you.

And we bless your name for it and we ask you for more of it, we ask that you would help us to remember that in every situation under every other lesser authority. It, is you to whom we belong? We are your people and we serve you. We pray that you would give us wisdom for recognizing situations in which other lesser authorities are trying to prevent us or our otherwise.

Keeping us from serving you rightly that we would be courageous and resolved to keep worshiping you to keep the public assembly to keep calling good, good and evil evil, and all those things for which we

might suffer and to which, we might face great resistance. And these days we bless your name.

Oh God. That ultimately Egypt and her idols and every authority that raises itself against you and every idol deceived by manner or conceived by manner. Demon will be shattered. And Christ alone will reign and Christ, alone will be worshiped and you are triune and God in him, will be worshiped to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And so we pray that you would keep us. We have nowhere, no other hope. And so it is unto you that we have committed, all of our hope and you are able to keep us until the last day. So we trust ourselves to you and Jesus name. Amen.