

The PLAGUE of FROGS

in Exodus 8:1-15 **was** / is ...

“And the LORD spoke to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, “Thus says the LORD: ‘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 shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. And the **frogs** shall come up on you, on your people, and on all your servants.” (Exodus 8:1-4)

**

against

frog related idolatry

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

**

aimed at

all Egyptian homes

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

an opportunity

for Egyptians to repent

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

**

both

miraculous & natural

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

disgusting

but not (very) deadly

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

effective

in the long run (Rom. 9:17)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

ended

miraculously in an instant

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

African
Common
Toad



probably
both frogs
and toads



Marsh
Frog



Green
Toad

Descriptive

Meditation

the Creator demonstrating his control over all life

**

in

Egyptian beds & bowls

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

**

leaving

a stinking mess (8:14)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

more prominent

than some other plagues

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

not as destructive as

the locust plague (10:1-20)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

**

quickly

forgotten by Pharaoh

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

somehow linked to

the first (Nile) plague

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

**

somewhat like

the next two plagues

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

theological and

creation-based evangelism

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

wrongly considered

mild & insignificant

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

Directions: after reading through Exodus 8:1-15 and some online research on the frogs and toads of Egypt, consider and discuss how the plague of frogs is described above. **Do you agree with the various points made? Would you change them in some ways? At the end, discuss the most important descriptive phrases and make applications.** In this, think about why God chose to use lowly frogs and toads to humble Pharaoh and to impact the homelife and beliefs of all Egyptians (8:3). Obviously, believers should not be like Pharaoh, but we should also think differently from ordinary Egyptians regarding family. — © 2022 by Jon F. Mahar, Hakusan City, Japan and Alexander, Maine, U.S.A.

Why did God send frogs?

The Egyptians had many frog related objects and images, including a popular goddess of fertility and childbirth which had the body of a woman and the head of a frog. So by sending frogs, the Lord demonstrated in a physical way how creepy the froggy faith of many Egyptian people was. Moses could have simply predicted that the frogs would be in homes in general, but by specifically targeting their beds and bowls (8:3) the Lord addressed the fertility aspects of popular religion in Egypt.

Was there a special emphasis on “beds”?

Yes, for Moses could have just predicted that the frogs would be in Egyptian bedrooms, but he was more specific. He probably was directly addressing the sexual and reproductive nature of Egyptian idolatry by speaking of *beds*. Unsurprisingly, in line with this, most frogs and toads are more sexually active at night than during the day. Also the order in 8:3 may be significant, for *bed* comes before *bowls*. So the sexual and reproductive aspect of the worship of the frog goddess may have been more prominent than the agricultural, wheat-and-bread-related aspect.

What kind of frogs were the problem?

Obviously, it was not just one type of frog or toad, since there were many varieties in Egypt thanks to the God-given waters of the Nile. That said, the kinds of frogs and toads that so bothered the Egyptians were probably more often than not those who were noisily looking for a mate at night and actively looking for food during the day.

Is there a natural explanation on this plague?

In part, there probably is since frogs and toads are known to migrate in response to seasonal and environmental changes. There was probably some connection with the water of the Nile being turned into blood in the first plague (7:14-25) since frogs and toads need water in order to reproduce. The loss of useable rivers and ponds (8:5) may have caused a desperate search for alternative sites. However the exact timing of their invasion and sudden all-at-once death that ended it were obviously miraculous. Moreover, we should always remember that the Lord is free to use so-called natural and supernatural means as he chooses for to him they are both the same.

Is this disgusting plague important?

Unlike several other plagues, it was not deadly, other than for the frogs. There are fifteen verses written about it, however, which is considerably more than about the third plague of lice (8:16-19) and even somewhat longer than the first, water-into-blood plague (7:14-25). Beliefs about fertility and the origin of life are foundational. So there is more written about the second plague than we might expect. It is not just about frogs! Nor is it only about Pharaoh, since there was corrective evangelical outreach to every Egyptian home though God's word and millions of lowly toads and frogs.

What are the applications?

Obviously we should not harden our hearts as Pharaoh did (8:15). However, the main applications of this passage are about our attitude toward life, fertility, and children who are to be treasured as gifts from the God of the Bible.