

# WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Exodus 8:16-32--October 27th, 2024

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## **Sermon Recap:**

## **Plagues- Insects**

Three reasons that people might reject God:

### **I. The Judgment of God**

- V.16- "Strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt."
  - "Gnats" could be gnats, fleas, lice, or mosquitos. Hebrew literally translates it as "lice."
    - "Dust of the earth" (Gen. 13:16) implies that the gnats were innumerable.
- V.24- "Then came great swarms of flies..."
  - Could be a common house fly or something similar to a biting, blood sucking horse fly.
- The plagues were about redemption for God's people. They were about revelation of God's character. But they were also about retribution.
- Israel was a "stink in the sight of Pharaoh," as they multiplied the land was teeming with them.
  - Now Egypt stank and the land was teeming with dead frogs, gnats, and flies.
- This was a act of divine judgment. In the plagues, God is disrupting the natural order of creation. He is dismantling Egypt. According to Dr. John Currid, God is "decreating" Egypt.
- There's no mistaking that the God of the Bible is a God who judges the wicked—sometimes through natural circumstances, sometimes by allowing the devil to reign, sometimes using our own stupidity, and sometimes (directly) the very finger of God.

### **II. The Distinction of God**

- V.22- For the first time in the plague stories, there is a distinction made between God and His people. This plague will be visited upon Egypt but not upon Goshen.
  - God makes distinctions- sheep/goats, wheat/tares, children/orphans, light/dark, righteous/wicked, etc.
  - Luke 12:51-53-Jesus sometimes brings division. God makes distinctions.
  - The sun shines and the rain falls on the unrighteous and the righteous, but a day is coming where some will enter into His rest and others will not.

### **III. The Enormity of God**

- God is bigger than the gods of Egypt.
  - God swallows the god of the Nile, fertility, the dust, and rebirth. All of these are represented in the plagues.
- God is bigger than Pharaoh's magicians.
  - V.18-19- For the first time they are unable to replicate the plague.
    - "The finger of God"- a general term for "the gods." They are admitting defeat.
- God is bigger than Pharaoh.
  - Pharaoh compromises, offering the opportunity to make sacrifices within the land and offering to let the go if they do not go far. He still wants to be in control.
    - But partial obedience is still disobedience for Moses and for us.
  - Moses prays for the flies to stop...and then Pharaoh would keep his word to release the Israelites.
    - Again, as God has said, Pharaoh hardens his heart and refuses.

Regardless of how we feel about the God presented in the Bible, it's still true. God still judges. God still makes distinctions. And God is bigger than you or anything in your life

## Discussion Questions:

- Why do people not like the God of the Bible?
- Discuss what it might have been like to live in a land swarming with gnats/lice/flies?
- What was God's purpose in these two plagues?
- How is this an act of judgment?
- What distinction does God make between Egypt and Israel in these plagues?
- What other distinctions are made throughout Scripture?
- How is this distinction evident in redemption/salvation?
- In what three ways in the enormity of God presented in the third and fourth plagues?
- Why is partial obedience still disobedience?

## Application:

- How do the people around you (family, friends, coworkers, etc.) view God? How do those views compare to the God presented in Scripture?
- How do you feel about the God of the Bible? How is that evident in your life today?
- What would you say to a person who is uncomfortable with God's judgment of sin?
- How can we use that discussion to point them to the gospel?
- Is there a way that you are meeting God "half-way" in your obedience?
- Do you have a "Big God" theology? How does that make the gospel real to you?

