# THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

A Journey Through the Old Testament

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.

#### Exodus 7 22 But the magicians of Egypt did the same things by their magic arts. So Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said. 23 Instead, Pharaoh turned around, went into his palace, and did not take any of this to heart.

#### Exodus 7 24 So all the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink, because they could not drink the water from the river. 25 And seven full days passed after the LORD had struck the Nile.

#### **Exodus 8** The Second Plague: Frogs

- 1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and tell him that this is what the LORD says: 'Let My people go, so that they may worship Me.
- 2 But if you refuse to let them go, I will plague your whole country with frogs.
- 3 The Nile will teem with frogs, and they will come into your palace and up to your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and your people, and into your ovens and kneading bowls. 4 The frogs will come up on you and your people and all your officials.'"



**Exodus 8** The Second Plague: Frogs 5 And the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your staff over the rivers and canals and ponds, and cause the frogs to come up onto the land of Egypt."

6 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.

#### Exodus 8 The Second Plague: Frogs

- 7 But the magicians did the same thing by their magic arts, and they also brought frogs up onto the land of Egypt.
- 8 Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said,
- "Pray to the LORD to take the frogs away from me and my people.
- Then I will let your people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD."

#### Exodus 8 The Second Plague: Frogs 9 Moses said to Pharaoh, "You may have the honor over me. When shall I pray for you and your officials and your people that the frogs (except for

- those in the Nile) may be taken away from you and your houses?"
- 10"Tomorrow," Pharaoh answered.
- "May it be as you say," Moses replied,
- "so that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.
- 11 The frogs will depart from you and your houses and your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile."

#### **Exodus 8** The Second Plague: Frogs

- 12 After Moses and Aaron had left Pharaoh, Moses cried out to the LORD for help with the frogs that He had brought against Pharaoh.
- 13 And the LORD did as Moses requested, and the frogs in the houses, the courtyards, and the fields died.
- 14 They were piled into countless heaps, and there was a terrible stench in the land.
- 15 When Pharaoh saw that there was relief, however, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

**Exodus 8** The Third Plague: Gnats 16 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, that it may turn into swarms of gnats throughout the land of Egypt." 17 This they did, and when Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, gnats came upon man and beast. All the dust of the earth turned into gnats throughout the land of Egypt.

**Exodus 8** The Third Plague: Gnats 18 The magicians tried to produce gnats using their magic arts, but they could not. And the gnats remained on man and beast. 19"This is the finger of God," the magicians said to Pharaoh.

But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said.

#### **Romans 1**

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. 19 For what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from His workmanship, so that men are without excuse.

#### **Romans 1**

- 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking and darkened in their foolish hearts.
- 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools,
- 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images of mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Exodus 8 The Fourth Plague: Flies 20 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, and when Pharaoh goes out to the water, stand before him and tell him that this is what the LORD says:

'Let My people go, so that they may worship Me. 21 But if you will not let My people go, I will send swarms of flies [a noxious mixture] upon you and your officials and your people and your houses. The houses of the Egyptians and even the ground where they stand will be full of flies.

Isaiah 7
18 On that day the LORD will whistle to the flies at the farthest streams of the Nile and to the bees in the land of Assyria.

Exodus 8 The Fourth Plague: Flies 22 But on that day I will give special treatment to the land of Goshen, where My people live; no swarms of flies will be found there.

Exodus 8 The Fourth Plague: Flies 22 But on that day I will give special treatment to the land of Goshen, where My people live; no swarms of flies will be found there.

I will set apart the land of Goshen

Septuagint – I will distinguish marvelously in that day the land of Goshen

Psalm 4
3 Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for Himself; the LORD hears when I call to Him.

Psalm 139
13 For You formed my inmost being;
You knit me together in my mother's womb.
14 I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

#### Psalm 17 6 I call on You, O God, for You will answer me. Incline Your ear to me; hear my words. 7 Show Your marvelous lovingkindness by Your right hand, O You who save those who trust in You from those who rise up against them. 8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings 9 from the wicked who assail me, from my mortal enemies who surround me.

**Exodus 8** The Fourth Plague: Flies 22 But on that day I will give special treatment to the land of Goshen, where My people live; no swarms of flies will be found there. In this way you will know that I, the LORD, am in the midst of the land. 23 I will make a distinction between My people and your people. This sign will take place tomorrow."

**Exodus 8** The Fourth Plague: Flies 22 But on that day I will give special treatment to the land of Goshen, where My people live; no swarms of flies will be found there. In this way you will know that I, the LORD, am in the midst of the land. 23 I will make a distinction (put a division) between My people and your people. This sign will take place tomorrow."

Isaiah 50 2 Why was no one there when I arrived? Why did no one answer when I called? Is My hand too short to redeem you? Or do I lack the strength to deliver you? Behold, My rebuke dries up the sea; I turn the rivers into a desert; the fish rot for lack of water and die of thirst.

Isaiah 43 3 For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cusha and Seba in your place. 4 Because you are precious and honored in My sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you and nations in place of your life.

**Exodus 8** The Fourth Plague: Flies 22 But on that day I will give special treatment to the land of Goshen, where My people live; no swarms of flies will be found there. In this way you will know that I, the LORD, am in the midst of the land. 23 I will make a distinction between My people and your people. This sign will take place tomorrow."

**Exodus 8** The Fourth Plague: Flies 24 And the LORD did so. Thick swarms of flies poured into Pharaoh's palace and into the houses of his officials. Throughout Egypt the land was ruined by swarms of flies.

Psalm 78
45 He sent swarms of flies that devoured them, and frogs that devastated them.

**Exodus 8** The Fourth Plague: Flies 24 And the LORD did so. Thick swarms of flies poured into Pharaoh's palace and into the houses of his officials. Throughout Egypt the land was ruined by swarms of flies.

25 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said,

"Go, sacrifice to your God within this land."

#### **Exodus 8** The Fourth Plague: Flies

- 26 But Moses replied, "It would not be right to do that, because the sacrifices we offer to the LORD our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. If we offer sacrifices that are detestable before the Egyptians, will they not stone us?
- 27 We must make a three-day journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our God as He commands us."
- 28 Pharaoh answered, "I will let you go and sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness, but you must not go very far. Now pray for me."

**Exodus 8** The Fourth Plague: Flies 29"As soon as I leave you," Moses said, "I will pray to the LORD, so that tomorrow the swarms of flies will depart from Pharaoh and his officials and his people. But Pharaoh must not act deceitfully again by refusing to let the people go and sacrifice to the LORD."

- Exodus 8 The Fourth Plague: Flies 30 Then Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD,
- 31 and the LORD did as Moses requested. He removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh and his officials and his people; not one fly remained.
- 32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time as well, and he would not let the people go.

**Exodus 9** The Fifth Plague: Livestock 1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and tell him that this is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: 'Let My people go, so that they may worship Me. 2 But if you continue to restrain them and refuse to let them go, 3 then the hand of the LORD will bring a severe plague on your livestock in the field -on your horses, donkeys, camels, herds, and flocks.

**Exodus 9** The Fifth Plague: Livestock 4 But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die." 5 The LORD set a time, saying, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this in the land." 6 And the next day the LORD did just that. All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one animal belonging to the Israelites died.

Exodus 9 The Fifth Plague: Livestock 7 Pharaoh sent officials and found that none of the livestock of the Israelites had died.

But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not let the people go.

#### **Exodus 9** The Sixth Plague: Boils

- 8 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from the furnace; in the sight of Pharaoh, Moses is to toss it into the air (toward the heavens).
- 9 It will become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on man and beast throughout the land."
- 10 So they took soot from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh.
- Moses tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on man and beast.

# Deuteronomy 28 27 The LORD will afflict you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors and scabs and itch from which you cannot be cured.

#### **Revelation 16**

2 So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and loathsome, malignant sores broke out on those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

**Exodus 9** The Sixth Plague: Boils 11 The magicians could not stand before Moses, because the boils had broken out on them and on all the Egyptians. 12 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said to Moses.

## Five Truths That Should Move Us As We Read Through the Plagues

1. The possible hardness of the human heart.

#### Romans 9

- 16 So then, it does not depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.
- 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed in all the earth."
- 18 Therefore God has mercy on whom He wants to have mercy,
- and He hardens whom He wants to harden.

## Five Truths That Should Move Us As We Read Through the Plagues

- 1. The possible hardness of the human heart.
- 2. How blessed we are that we can learn from the sins of others.

#### 1 Corinthians 10

- 1 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud, and that they all passed through the sea.
- 2 They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.
- 3 They all ate the same spiritual food
- 4 and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

#### 1 Corinthians 10

- 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the wilderness. 6 These things took place as examples to keep us from craving evil things as they did.
- 11 Now these things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.

  12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

## Five Truths That Should Move Us As We Read Through the Plagues

- 1. The possible hardness of the human heart.
- 2. How blessed we are that we can learn from the sins of others.
- 3. How blessed we are that God marvelously separates His people.

#### Romans 9

- 22 What if God, intending to show His wrath and make His power known, bore with great patience the vessels of His wrath, prepared for destruction?
- 23 What if He did this to make the riches of His glory known to the vessels of His mercy, whom He prepared in advance for glory—24 including us, whom He has called not only from the Jews, but also from the Gentiles?

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- 2. How blessed we are that we can learn from the sins of others.
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- 4. God can and does, sovereignly use all of creation for His purposes.

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- 1. The possible hardness of the human heart.
- 2. How blessed we are that we can learn from the sins of others.
- 3. How blessed we are that God marvelously separates His people.
- 4. God can and does, sovereignly use all of creation for His purposes.
- 5. All that God has done in destroying the work of the devil on my behalf.

# Matthew 12 29 ... how can anyone enter a strong man's house and steal his possessions, unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house.

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