

Notes and Quotes

Based on the chronological reading schedule followed in THE DAILY BIBLE compiled by F. LaGard Smith and published by Harvest House Publishers.

Warren E. Berkley

Exodus 5-10

Of all the miracles in the Bible, perhaps the most sensational is the plagues on the Egyptians (see Exodus 5-10).

The purpose of this encounter was not entertainment or mere sensationalism. The plagues happened in a very specific historical context. Moses returned to Egypt and said to the heathen king, "Let My People Go!" God intended to enable Moses to get the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage, give them a law, take them to the "promised land," and eventually bring a Savior to the world through this nation.

Problem was, the Egyptians had no interests in God's plan. They were moved by self-thought, self-interests and self-possession. The plagues were part of God's plan to accomplish His purpose, of getting His people out of Egypt – convincing the Egyptians (if only temporarily) and convincing Moses and the people – God was able to do what He said.

So try to imagine this. You get up one day, and there are frogs everywhere: In the Nile, in your house, in your bedroom, in your bed, in your kitchen, in your containers... Frogs are everywhere. You can do nothing but deal with frogs.

In the middle of this froggy day, Moses explains to Pharaoh the purpose: "so that you may know there is no one like the Lord our God,"



(Ex. 8:10). In the end of this phrase of the miracle, Pharaoh still did not release the people. The whole account of the plagues provides testimony to the stubbornness of man, even up against the very direct, visual evidence of God's existence and His power.

"Overview of the plagues: 'June: the Nile becomes stagnant and red, with microscopic organisms. July: Frogs abound after the inundation of the Nile. Hot summer and damp autumn months: Lice, flies, murrain and boils. January: Hail and rain. (This date fixed by the effect on the crops mentioned). February: Appearance of locusts in early spring, over the green crops. March: Darkness from great sandstorms. April: Death of the firstborn, dated by the Passover celebration,'" (John J. Davis, *Moses and the Gods of Egypt*, Baker, 1971, p.93).

"Marvelous things He did in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan . . . that they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments," (Psa. 78:12,7).