

# **A Very Grievous Murrain**

Exodus 8:6 – 9:7

~ In my very first Spiritual Safari report, I clearly stated my intent was to simply lead this expedition across the spiritual desert by the grace of God Himself. Well, that's still my intent; to take the entire Word of God to the entire world in sound doctrine. Further, I just give it all away. Day by day. I do, however, depend on financial support to continue. I am not a part of a nonprofit company – I just write this article you are reading. I've been told there are many people who read these reports that I have no idea about. Maybe I'll be here tomorrow, maybe I won't. I, honestly, do not know. I hope you are praying I will be around. Some are likely praying I won't be around much longer. As you have seen, there is no compromise with the Word of God in this safari. We pray that the Holy Spirit will open our minds to understanding as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ - and all for His glory in His Word. Period. Full stop.

Well, we're still in the land of Egypt with the children of Israel - where they all worshipped some three thousand different gods at the time in which we are studying. We have seen Moses take the rod of Authority in his hands, turn the Nile River to blood - and then we saw the frogs come up. We also saw that Pharaoh wasn't even slightly moved or impressed. Egypt was the land of zoology. Their goddess was a frog-headed goddess. Another god was Hapi, the one who bestows nourishment. The Egyptians depicted Hapi as holding a frog out in front and providing a stream of everlasting nourishment. This demonstrates a very close relationship with the god of the Nile and the frog goddess; they are inextricably intertwined, if you will. This frog-headed goddess is the oldest fertility goddess that man has made. She is believed to speak spells that counter the effects of the resurrection of other gods. Well, we really have a problem here with frogs because they are everywhere....

**VIII**

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

***7 And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt.***

***8 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, Intreat the LORD, that he may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the LORD.***

***9 And Moses said unto Pharaoh, Glory over me: when shall I intreat for thee, and for thy servants, and for thy people, to destroy the frogs from thee and thy houses that they may remain in the river only?***

***10 And he said, To morrow. And he said, Be it according to thy word: that thou mayest know that there is none like unto the LORD our God.***

***11 And the frogs shall depart from thee, and from thy houses, and from thy servants, and from thy people; they shall remain in the river only.***

***12 And Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh: and Moses cried unto the LORD because of the frogs which he had brought against Pharaoh.***

***13 And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; and the frogs died out of the houses, out of the villages, and out of the fields.***

***14 And they gathered them together upon heaps: and the land stank.***

***15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.***

***16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.***

***17 And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.***

***18 And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast.***

***19 Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.***

~ Interestingly, Pharaoh doesn't seem to notice that his magicians couldn't make the frogs disappear. They all had to call on the True and Living God for that miracle. This is a satanic demonstration as the magicians duplicate with their enchantments all of the plagues so far except the lice. What that does is make Pharaoh harden his OWN heart – as in verse fifteen. Pharaoh would not repent because his people were able to duplicate the plagues up until the lice. I don't know how they did their tricks - but it does bring a question about the authenticity of whatever spells the magicians were performing for Pharaoh. The plagues from God were real, friends – very real. At this point the Lord is gradually convincing the children of Israel by revealing His might. Keb – or Geb – was the Egyptian earth god. This god made a report concerning the world's harvest. From this god emanated a holy oil by which the backbone was immersed in the work of making a dummy. The account of these plagues in the Bible takes us into the very life of the everyday Egyptians. Here we have the lice and the dust of the ground both become as living. Well, that's where the magicians can't keep up with God anymore. God draws the line here; and now we're going to see Who is really in charge of what....

***20 And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he cometh forth to the water; and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.***

***21 Else, if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thy***

***houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground whereon they are.***

***22 And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.***

~ Up until this point the plagues have all touched the children of Israel and have affected the entire land. Now, God says the future plagues will not affect the land of Goshen where the Children of Israel lived. So, we have here the lord of the flies. The god of the lice was the earth god, but these little beetles are the same beetles the Egyptians molded an image of into gold – they aren't lice! They were sacred to Ra, the sun god. They spoke of eternal life and they can still be found in Egyptian tombs today. Well, because this bug has become a curse, of course, Pharaoh wants to compromise. Pharaoh will, ultimately, suggest four compromises by telling Moses and Aaron that they can worship - but they just can't leave the land or worship the way God was commanding him to. Pharaoh says they can worship Pharaoh's way - and then get back to work...

***23 And I will put a division between my people and thy people: to morrow shall this sign be.***

***24 And the LORD did so; and there came a grievous swarm of flies into the house of Pharaoh, and into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt: the land was corrupted by reason of the swarm of flies.***

***25 And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land.***

***26 And Moses said, It is not meet so to do; for we shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God: lo, shall we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us?***

***27 We will go three days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the LORD our God, as he shall command us.***

~ This proposed satanic compromise is extremely subtle - and it's the same one that is always given to Christians today. The lost world says to go ahead and be a Christian - but don't be a "narrow" Christian. The world will still accept a broad-minded Christian. What this religious philosophy really says is, "... don't change your life or your lifestyle just because you found Jesus - He loves you just the way you are." Well, friends, if there was no radical change in your heart and life when you think you were born again, then you are not a Christian. We are saved by faith and nothing else; but if you have put a saving trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, He will change that life. If your life isn't changed then you haven't trusted Him! This is where conduct and Christian manners come in, by the way. We're not trying to change the outward man. We don't do good works to be saved; we do good works because we ARE saved!

The church today compromises in every imaginable way with the Word of God; so, most believers are still in the land of Egypt, spiritually speaking. The church is abjectly ineffective at reaching the lost world with the Gospel message or sound doctrine today. The man of the world and the average Christian man are positively indistinguishable. They do the same things, like the same music, eat the same things - go to the same places, wear the same clothes. We see the Christian at a cold-blooded business meeting and at the risqué social gathering. A full seventy percent of the population of the world are the members of some type of religious body. Do you want to live like the world lives today? Do you want to live for the Lord Jesus Christ? Well, they aren't the same lives, my beloved. In the worldly race we begin by standing on two horses. As soon as those horses start out of the gate, we discover they are running in two opposite directions. You will make up your mind real fast which horse you're going on. Moses doesn't want to compromise - Moses wants to go three days into the frightful wilderness.

Well, old man Pharaoh has another compromise to suggest, one that sets a different tone but is still, ultimately, a compromise. Pharaoh says, "... okay - but - don't go too far." Our church today has adopted the programs of catering to the world and they run their entire program on the basis of recognition and promotion. They vote for the Bible, in general; but you can't tell the difference between them and the Bible beliefs of the local

secular Elk, Mason or Moose Lodge club. The church is made up, by and large, of people who have no clue what the Bible really teaches - and that do not know what it means to honestly trust Christ with their life....

***28 And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away: intreat for me.***

***29 And Moses said, Behold, I go out from thee, and I will intreat the LORD that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people, to morrow: but let not Pharaoh deal deceitfully any more in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD.***

***30 And Moses went out from Pharaoh, and intreated the LORD.***

***31 And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; and he removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people; there remained not one.***

***32 And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.***

***~ God is not hardening the heart of Pharaoh! Pharaoh is hardening the heart of Pharaoh! God is only forcing this man to reveal what is already in his heart. So, we move into the fifth judgment involving the cattle....***

## **IX**

***1 Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.***

***2 For if thou refuse to let them go, and wilt hold them still,***

***3 Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous murrain.***

***4 And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all that is the children's of Israel.***

***5 And the LORD appointed a set time, saying, To morrow the LORD shall do this thing in the land.***

***6 And the LORD did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one.***

***7 And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.***

~ So, we're stuck in the land of zoology as we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. They had critters running around everywhere; and so did we in this report. Right now, at this place in our studies, the Egyptians are worshipping a sick cow, but not the Israelites. No, we're enjoying some very healthy filets and porterhouse steaks today out here on the range. God is smiling on you, friends; but God is not smiling on the judgment He is leveling on this awful and frightful institution of idolatry that was permeating the land of Egypt at this time in which we are studying. This can easily be translated spiritually to current events - but don't attempt to prophecy when you don't really know what you're talking about. This had no effect whatsoever on Pharaoh's heart; but it had a profound affect on the children of Israel - because they had gone into idolatry with the Egyptians - and now their hearts were convicted. Make no mistake, Satan is our enemy today, friends. Our Spiritual Safari is at an observation post as we see the Lord Jesus Christ fight, win and secure the victory on our behalf - again and again and again. That battle rages on - but we trek on safely forward in our next report. It's business as usual in this so-called safari ~

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