

Sleeping with the Frogs

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet sources)

Introduction:

A. Ex. 8:1-15

B. At 8:02 AM on May 8, 1902, nearly 30,000 people died instantly in one of recorded history's worst natural disasters. The cause of their deaths was the volcanic eruption of Mount Pelee on the French colonial island of Martinique. It hurled millions of tons of rock, boiling lava, and a terrible blast of super-heated air at the town of St. Pierre. The indirect cause of their deaths was a sordid record of human stupidity, greed, and political opportunism. The volcano first began misbehaving a full week before the disaster with warnings of what was to come including a gigantic mudslide which killed several hundred people at a factory outside of town. But, with only a few exceptions, none of the persons in authority made any effort to evacuate the town that lay at the foot of the rumbling volcano.

C. Procrastination. Some things can wait, some cannot.

1. The 10 plagues against Egypt represent the power of Jehovah over the various false gods of Egypt. This test addresses the second of the plagues, frogs. This was a direct attack on Heqet, the frog-headed goddess who was believed to breathe life from her nostril into humans created from dust by her husband, the god Phah Khnum
2. This plague was designed to show Egypt that Jehovah alone is God.
3. Pharaoh could have delivered his people from this and the remaining plagues if he had not hardened his heart with the belief that delaying the right and responsible response to God would deliver him instead.
4. How could procrastination provide the same relief from the plagues as obedience to God?
5. How can procrastination provide relief as good as yielding to the will of God in Christ?

I. A TERRIBLE CALAMITY

A. Ex. 8:1-7

B. A disgusting calamity

1. Frogs in every part of their daily life illustrate the extent of God's power in this plague.
2. A comet, or earthquake, etc. tends to be national and not personal
3. Frogs in the bed and cookpot are personal

C. A disturbing calamity

1. Frogs were considered sacred and could not be killed by Egyptians
2. God is using their idolatry as a stick to paddle them

D. A devastating calamity

1. No Egyptian was beyond the reach of frogs, from servant to sovereign

E. A defiling calamity

1. The frogs filled all the temples, defiling them, preventing the people from worshiping the other gods.

F. A descriptive calamity

1. A vivid illustration of the plague that afflicts all men everywhere
 - a. Sin is everywhere - 1John 5:19; Rom. 3:23
2. Ex. 8:7 - Magicians could produce frogs, but not remove them
 - a. Sin cannot be handled by humankind without God's help
 - b. Psalm 107:17; Prov. 20:9, 13:15
3. Like frogs in every Egyptian bed, so sin touches every human life
 - a. Rom. 3:9; Gal. 3:22
4. Sin keeps the sinner separated from God - Isa. 59:2; Psalm 66:18

II. A THOUGHTLESS CHOICE

A. Ex. 8:8-10

B. Pharaoh's desire: To be free from the frogs.

C. Pharaoh's dilemma: To call on God would be to admit his own helplessness.

D. Pharaoh's decision: Because he got a temporary relief, he decided to delay doing the right thing

E. Pharaoh's depiction: He exemplifies lost sinners.

1. The lost want a relationship with God, whether they understand and acknowledge the hunger or not. It eats at their souls. Their sins trouble them and they may even know the need to prepare for Judgment.
2. However, before they can come to the Lord, they must acknowledge God as their only hope. As a result, they delay coming to God and make up excuses in a feeble attempt to justify their indecision.

F. Common excuses:

1. "I love my present pattern of sin" - 2Tim. 3:4; Rom. 6:23
2. "I am a good person already" - Prov. 20:9; Matt. 5:20
3. "I am too evil to be forgiven" - Luke 19:10; John 6:37; Mark 2:17
4. "I would be giving up too much" - Mark 8:36
5. "I don't want to be around the hypocrites in the church." Better to sit with them in church services than to burn with them in Hell.
6. "I just don't understand the Gospel" - Matt. 7:7-8, 5:6
7. "I am waiting until I feel compelled to obey" - 1Thes. 2:13; 2Thes. 2:14
8. "I can't be sure that I won't fall again" - 1Peter 1:5
9. "I'll wait until I can live it" - Gal. 2:20
10. "I've got plenty of time" - Luke 12:19-20

III. A TRAGIC CONSEQUENCE

A. Ex. 8:10-15

B. The source of the consequence

1. Pharaoh's own words decided his fate; God could not be blamed for the next plague

C. The scope of the consequence

1. Pharaoh's decision affected more than just himself; every person and family in Egypt was affected.
2. No one sins alone: my sins impact God, Christ, any victims, any observer, anyone who hears of it

D. The standard set by the consequence

1. The result of Pharaoh's decision teaches a valuable lesson about the danger of postponing spiritual decisions.
2. The consequences of sin will continue until we respond appropriately to the Gospel - Gal. 6:7-8.
3. The choice to continue in sin continues to affect more people than merely ourselves. Until the sin ceases, it continues to poison the moral climate around you.
4. It is foolish to delay in spiritual matters
 - a. Prov. 27:1, 29:1; Gen. 6:3; 2Cor. 6:2
5. Salvation is too precious to take a chance on squandering the opportunity to be saved - Luke 13:3; Matt. 7:13-14.
6. God will never force His will on us - John 3:16; 2Peter 3:9
7. Eternity is a long time, and there are only two possible destinations
 - a. John 14:1-3, 6
 - b. 2Thes. 1:8-9

Conclusion:

A. Once an eagle was seen to land on a carcass floating down a river during a bitterly cold time of winter. As the bird feasted on the dead animal, the river was taking them both steadily nearer to a waterfall. The eagle paid no attention to the danger was getting closer by the second. Perhaps the eagle knew that with one flap of its wings, it could rise off the carcass at the last second and fly to safety. As they reached the edge of the falls, the eagle spread its wings and tried to fly away. However, because of the cold and the water soaked nature of the carcass, the eagle's talons had frozen fast to the dead animal. Try as it might, it could not lift itself free. Seconds later, both the carcass and the screaming eagle plunged over the falls where the eagle fell to its death, drowned by millions of gallons of water.

B. Only it isn't a water fall to which you are headed; it is the wrath of God

1. John 3:36
2. You will not know, until it is too late, when you have crossed the line between being able to be saved to being reprobate and unable to be moved by the Gospel.
3. Your procrastination is lulling you into a spiritual sleep from which you will not awaken.