

# Up From Slavery

A man / A people / A plan

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The Need for Worship  
Exodus 7:14-8:19

## The importance of worship

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We who worship the true and living God would be better, if not completely different, if we worshiped Him better. For to worship Him as we ought is to become what we ought.

Ben Patterson

# Initial Observations

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- A clearly stated plan: (5:1-2)
  - A people
  - A purpose
  - A place
  - A perspective

# Initial Observations

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- Discernable cycles
- Intent and Purpose
  - To accomplish the liberation of God's covenant people
  - To demonstrate the superiority of the LORD
  - To call God's people to appropriate worship

# The Nile

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<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. <sup>15</sup> Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the water. Wait on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. <sup>16</sup> Then say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the desert. But until now you have not listened. <sup>17</sup> This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. <sup>18</sup> The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.’ ”

<sup>19</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over the streams and canals, over the ponds and all the reservoirs’—and they will turn to blood. Blood will be everywhere in Egypt, even in the wooden buckets and stone jars.”

<sup>20</sup> Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood. <sup>21</sup> The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink its water. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.

<sup>22</sup> But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said. <sup>23</sup> Instead, he turned and went into his palace, and did not take even this to heart. <sup>24</sup> And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile to get drinking water, because they could not drink the water of the river.

## The Frogs

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<sup>5</sup> Seven days passed after the LORD struck the Nile. **8** <sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. <sup>2</sup> If you refuse to let them go, I will plague your whole country with frogs. <sup>3</sup> The Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs. <sup>4</sup> The frogs will go up on you and your people and all your officials.’ ”

<sup>5</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your staff over the streams and canals and ponds, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.’ ”

<sup>6</sup> So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land. <sup>7</sup> But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

<sup>8</sup> Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Pray to the LORD to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup> Moses said to Pharaoh, “I leave to you the honor of setting the time for me to pray for you and your officials and your people that you and your houses may be rid of the frogs, except for those that remain in the Nile.”

<sup>10</sup> “Tomorrow,” Pharaoh said.

Moses replied, “It will be as you say, so that you may know there is no one like the LORD our God. <sup>11</sup> The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile.”

<sup>12</sup> After Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, Moses cried out to the LORD about the frogs he had brought on Pharaoh. <sup>13</sup> And the LORD did what Moses asked. The frogs died in the houses, in the courtyards and in the fields. <sup>14</sup> They were piled into heaps, and the land reeked of them. <sup>15</sup> But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

## The Gnats

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<sup>16</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,’ and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats.” <sup>17</sup> They did this, and when Aaron stretched out his hand with the staff and struck the dust of the ground, gnats came upon men and animals. All the dust throughout the land of Egypt became gnats. <sup>18</sup> But when the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not. And the gnats were on men and animals.

<sup>19</sup> The magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.

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## What are the false God's of modern culture?

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But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. <sup>2</sup> People will be **lovers of themselves, lovers of money**, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, rash, conceited, **lovers of pleasure** rather than lovers of God— <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

2 Timothy 3:1–5

## What are the false God's of modern culture?

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<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For everything in the world—the **cravings of sinful man**, the **lust of his eyes** and the **boasting** of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup> The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

I John 2:15-17

## A WORLD GONE WRONG

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"Most middle-class Americans tend to worship their work, to work at their play, and to play at their worship. As a result. . . their life-styles resemble a cast of characters in search of a plot.

Gordon Dahl, quoted in Leadership Journal (Fall 1984)

## To Go . . .

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- What or who do you really worship?
- What commitment(s) could you make that will clarify your spiritual vision as you walk through 2016?
- How is God glorified through your worship?