

# Up From Slavery

A man / A people / A plan

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## THE PERNICIOUS NATURE OF COMPROMISE

Exodus 8:20 – 9:12

# Are the Plagues Really Miracles

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1. Prediction
2. Orderliness
3. Intensification
4. Discrimination
5. Moral purpose

# 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 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

## Flies

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<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes to the water and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. <sup>21</sup> If you do not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you and your officials, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies, and even the ground where they are.

<sup>22</sup> “ ‘But on that day I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I, the LORD, am in this land. <sup>23</sup> I will make a distinction between my people and your people. This

miraculous sign will occur tomorrow.' ”





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<sup>24</sup> And the LORD did this. Dense swarms of flies poured into Pharaoh’s palace and into the houses of his officials, and throughout Egypt the land was ruined by the flies.

<sup>25</sup> Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land.”

# Initial Observations

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

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<sup>24</sup> And the LORD did this. Dense swarms of flies poured into Pharaoh’s palace and into the houses of his officials, and throughout Egypt the land was ruined by the flies.

<sup>25</sup> Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land.”

<sup>26</sup> But Moses said, “That would not be right. The sacrifices we offer the LORD our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their eyes, will they not stone us? <sup>27</sup> We must take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, as he commands us.”

<sup>28</sup> Pharaoh said, “I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the LORD your God in the desert, but you must not go very far. Now pray for me.”

<sup>29</sup> Moses answered, “As soon as I leave you, I will pray to the LORD, and tomorrow the flies will leave Pharaoh and his officials and his people. Only be sure that Pharaoh does not act deceitfully again by not letting the people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD, <sup>31</sup> and the LORD did what Moses asked: The flies left Pharaoh and his officials and his people; not a fly remained. <sup>32</sup> But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

# Compromise

A compromise is often a deal in which two people get what neither of them wanted.

James Russell Lowell

Look out for the compromising Spirit. They had that in Pergamum and Thyatira, with the result that Balaam and Jezebel took advantage of a false tolerance and corrupted the life of the church. Sometimes we **mistake** compromise for charity and put up with what we should put out.

Vance Havner

## Livestock

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**9** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: “Let my people go, so that they may worship me.”<sup>2</sup> If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back,<sup>3</sup> the hand of the LORD will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field—on your horses and donkeys and camels and on your cattle and sheep and goats.

## Livestock

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**9** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: “Let my people go, so that they may worship me.”<sup>2</sup> If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back,<sup>3</sup> the hand of the LORD will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field—on your horses and donkeys and camels and on your cattle and sheep and goats.<sup>4</sup> But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.’ ”

<sup>5</sup> The LORD set a time and said, “Tomorrow the LORD will do this in the land.” <sup>6</sup> And the next day the LORD did it: All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one animal belonging to the Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> Pharaoh sent men to investigate and found that not even one of the animals of the Israelites had died. Yet his heart was unyielding and he would not let the people go.

## Boils

<sup>8</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. <sup>9</sup> It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on men and animals throughout the land.”

<sup>10</sup> So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on men and animals. <sup>11</sup> The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils that were on them and on all the Egyptians. <sup>12</sup> But the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses.

## What falls under the banner of Worship?

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Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1–2

## Where are we tempted to compromise

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- 3 “You shall have no other gods before me.
- 4 “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below
- 7 “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.
- 8 “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Exodus 12: 2-11

## To Go . . .

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- Who decides what your worship will look like?
- Where are you tempted to seek compromise?
- What will be required for you to realize worship is a whole life matter?