

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
004 - LESSON – Wednesday - July 23, 2025

FLIES, LIVESTOCK, AND BOILS

Read Exodus 8:20–9:12.

Exodus 8:20-9:12 (NKJV) “And the LORD said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Let My people go, that they may serve Me. (21) Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. (22) And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land. (23) I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be.” (24) And the LORD did so. Thick swarms of flies came into the house of Pharaoh, into his servants’ houses, and into all the land of Egypt. The land was corrupted because of the swarms of flies. (25) Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.” (26) And Moses said, “It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing the abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God. If we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, then will they not stone us? (27) We will go three days’ journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our God as He will command us.” (28) So Pharaoh said, “I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for me.” (29) Then Moses said, “Indeed I am going out from you, and I will entreat the LORD, that the swarms of flies may depart tomorrow from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. But let Pharaoh not deal deceitfully anymore in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD.” (30) So Moses went out from Pharaoh and entreated the LORD. (31) And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; He removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. Not one remained. (32) But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go. (1) Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh and tell him, “Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: ‘Let My people go, that they may serve Me. (2) For if you refuse to let them go, and still hold them, (3) behold, the hand of the LORD will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the oxen, and on the sheep—a very severe pestilence. (4) And the LORD will make a difference between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel.” ’ ” (5) Then the LORD appointed a set time, saying, “Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land.” (6) So the LORD did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the children of Israel, not one died. (7) Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one of the livestock of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh became hard, and he did not let the people go. (8) So the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Take for yourselves

handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh. (9) And it will become fine dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt.” (10) Then they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered them toward heaven. And they caused boils that break out in sores on man and beast. (11) And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians. (12) But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses.”

What does this account teach about however great may be the manifestations of God’s power and glory, humanity still has freedom to reject Him?

1. God exalted His power above the Egyptian goddess Uatchit (**fly goddess**) (**Ex. 8:24**)
2. The Egyptians were suffering while the Israelites were protected. (**Ex. 8:11**)
1. Pharaoh was determined to set the parameters of worship for Israel.
 - a. **Exodus 8:25 – 26 – “(25) Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.” (26) And Moses said, “It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing the abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God. If we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, then will they not stone us?”**
2. He was not willing to allow them to worship according to God’s parameters.
 - a. **Exodus 8:28 (NKJV) “So Pharaoh said, “I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for me.””**
3. Moses appeals to Pharaoh to not be deceitful in his conditions of worship.
 - a. **Exodus 8:29 (NKJV) “Then Moses said, “Indeed I am going out from you, and I will entreat the LORD, that the swarms of flies may depart tomorrow from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. But let Pharaoh not deal deceitfully anymore in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD.””**

When it comes to Worship, we cannot negotiate the parameters:

1. **Worship must always be according to God’s parameters : John 4:23-24 (NKJV)**
“(23) But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (24) God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.””
2. **When we worship according to our dictates God does not accept it: Matthew 15:9 (NKJV) “And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ””**

3. **Pharaoh asked for a reprieve from God, but afterwards hardened his heart:**
Exodus 8:32 (NKJV) “But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.”
 - a. **Exodus 9:7 (NKJV) “Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one of the livestock of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh became hard, and he did not let the people go.”**
4. **God totally defeated the god of Egypt: Exodus 9:11-12 (NKJV) “(11) And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians. (12) But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses.”**

Lessons:

- a. We cannot prosper by ignoring God’s parameters of worship
- b. Don’t bargain with God, there is nothing He accepts outside of obedience
- c. Disobedience always comes with consequences
- d. When we disobey God the condition of our heart towards God becomes callous.