

# Amphibian Assault

Long Beach Alliance Church • February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.  
~Exodus 8:15 (NASB)**

## 1) A Warning Of An Amphibious Explosion

- A) As God had warned, Pharaoh would be stubborn and hard of heart (cf. Exodus 4:21), despite the week-long plague of the Nile being turned to blood (7:14-25).
- B) After the first sign of God's power had subsided, the Lord sends Moses back to Pharaoh to request the release of the Israelites (8:1).
- C) Along with the request, is the warning to Pharaoh that God will "smite" ("strike a blow," or "plague," ESV) the Egyptian territory with frogs (8:2). Lots of frogs. More frogs than anybody can imagine. Bajillions of frogs (8:3-4).
- D) While the text does not indicate Pharaoh's response, clearly the tone of his hardness of heart has not changed. Pharaoh might be thinking the worst is over (after the first plague), but he is about to be sorely disappointed.

## 2) God vs. Pharaoh ~ Round #2

- A) In ancient Egypt, frogs were considered a sign of abundance and fruitfulness. After the flood season, the Nile River would recede and the many pools left behind would be populated with frogs.
- B) The sound of frogs fills the nighttime air of Egypt to this day after the flood season. The frog was deified (Heqt), and was never to be voluntarily killed in Egypt because of its inherent divine qualities.
- C) Once again, the Nile River produces pollution and death, rather than abundance and life. Powerful gods Heqt and Hapi (god of the Nile) were impotent compared to Yahweh!

## 3) Plague #2 ~ Kermit Gone Crazy

- A) Following God's command, Aaron stretches out his staff over the waters of Egypt resulting in frogs covering the land (8:6). Much like the snake and blood miracles (cf. 7:11-13, 22), Egyptian magicians duplicate God's miracle (8:7).
- B) Recognizing ~~the~~ God's supernatural power in the plague, Pharaoh proposes a deal to Moses & Aaron. Remove the frogs, and I'll let the people worship their God (8:8).
- C) To assure that Pharaoh that God was in control, Moses allows Pharaoh to "name the time" the plague ceases (8:9-11). With Pharaoh's promise in mind, Moses pleads with God to remove the amphibian plague (8:12-13).
- D) While the people are still cleaning up the mess from the frogs (8:14), Pharaoh's heart grows stubborn again (8:15). Thinking he had discovered a way to control God, Pharaoh refuses to release Israel, hardening his heart toward God.