

## Life-Study of Exodus Summaries – Messages 16-20

### MESSAGE 16–19 – God’s Demand and Pharaoh’s Resistance (2–5)

To **expose** the real situation of life in the world under Pharaoh’s usurpation, the book of Exodus describes **twelve** conflicts between Jehovah and Pharaoh. In the first conflict there were no miracles, plagues, or judgments. In the second conflict there was a miracle, but no plague; there was exposure to the fact that their life was one under Satan’s usurping hand, under the Devil’s usurpation and possession. This was not a punishment, but an **expression of God’s mercy**. God’s **intention** in this exposure was to cause them to **forsake that kind of living**. After the first two conflicts, the plagues began to come upon Pharaoh and his people. The first plague, **turning the waters of the Nile to blood**, gives a through indication that the life of Egypt issues in nothing but **death**. In the fourth conflict, the Lord smote all the borders of Egypt with **frogs**. The Egyptians did not realize that, in the eyes of God, all their enjoyments were **troubles**. In principle, when the things we treasure turn into “frogs”, then we realize that the enjoyment of the world is not the true enjoyment. In the fifth conflict, the dust in Egypt became **lice** that cause great discomfort to the Egyptians. This is to show that even the dust of Egypt produces **lice**, not grain for food. In the sixth conflict, the Lord sent upon Pharaoh and all the Egyptians swarms of **flies**. These signify the **pollution** in the atmosphere of the world today caused by **immorality**. The next plague was a **pestilence** that came upon all the cattle of the Egyptians. This indicates that the means of transportation and the way of eating in the world today will also be judged by God. In the sixth plague during the eighth conflict, **boils** broke forth upon man and beast. These were caused by the sprinkling of ashes toward heaven. This indicates that even the ashes, the remainder, God would not tolerate. During the ninth conflict, the Lord changed the function of the rain. Instead of water, there was **hail** that damaged the produce of the earth. In the eighth plague, we see a change in the function of the wind so that it no longer supplied fresh air to support life but caused **locusts** to appear which devoured what remained from the plague of the hail. In the ninth plague, He went on to change the function of the sun which caused a thick **darkness** in all the land of Egypt. This **terminated everything**. May we have a **detailed vision** of the world, that we may know God’s attitude toward it and cease to love it. (Life-Study of Exodus, 16–19).

### MESSAGE 20 – Pharaoh’s Subtle Bargaining

God’s demand of Pharaoh was to “**Let My people go**, that they may hold a **feast** unto Me in the wilderness”. The Lord also required His people to take a three days’ journey **into the wilderness** and to **sacrifice unto Him**. In His dealing with Pharaoh, God demanded such a **separation** for His people. God’s goal was that the children of Israel would hold a feast to Him, to be happy with Him in His presence. Furthermore, the children of Israel were to sacrifice unto the Lord, which is the **enjoyment of God’s salvation**. At first, **Pharaoh rejected God’s demand** and said “who is Jehovah.” Then, Pharaoh said that the children of Israel can sacrifice to God **in Egypt**. In the third stage, Pharaoh offered to let Israel go a **short distance** to sacrifice to God in the wilderness. Then, Pharaoh became willing to let the **men** of Israel go to serve their God, but not with the young and the old. In Pharaoh’s next bargaining, he offered to let Israel go to serve God, but **not with the flocks and herds**. But, no matter how much Pharaoh bargained with God, **God is insistent** and will not withdraw His **absolute** demand. God made the Egyptians willing to give to Israel **jewels and raiment**, so that they had the necessary materials to build the **tabernacle**. This is our experience today. Not only have we ourselves left Egypt, but we will not allow anything related to us to remain in the world. Instead, **we plunder the wealth of the world and waste it upon the Lord as a token of our love for Him**. This plundered wealth then is used in God’s dwelling place on earth. (Life-Study of Exodus, 20)