

Exod 8:20-32, Swarm

Demand: 20 And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he cometh forth to the water; and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Warning: 21 Else, if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send the swarms of flies upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thy houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of the swarms of flies, and also the ground whereon they are.

Exemption, Knowledge: 22 And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. 23 And I will put a division between my people and thy people: to morrow shall this sign be.

Imposition: 24 And the LORD did so; and there came a grievous swarm of flies into the house of Pharaoh, and into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt: the land was corrupted by reason of the swarm of flies.

Negotiation: 25 And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land. 26 And Moses said, It is not meet so to do; for we shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God: lo, shall we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us? 27 We will go three days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the LORD our God, as he shall command us. 28 And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away: intreat for me. 29 And Moses said, Behold, I go out from thee, and I will intreat the LORD that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people, to morrow: but let not Pharaoh deal deceitfully any more in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD.

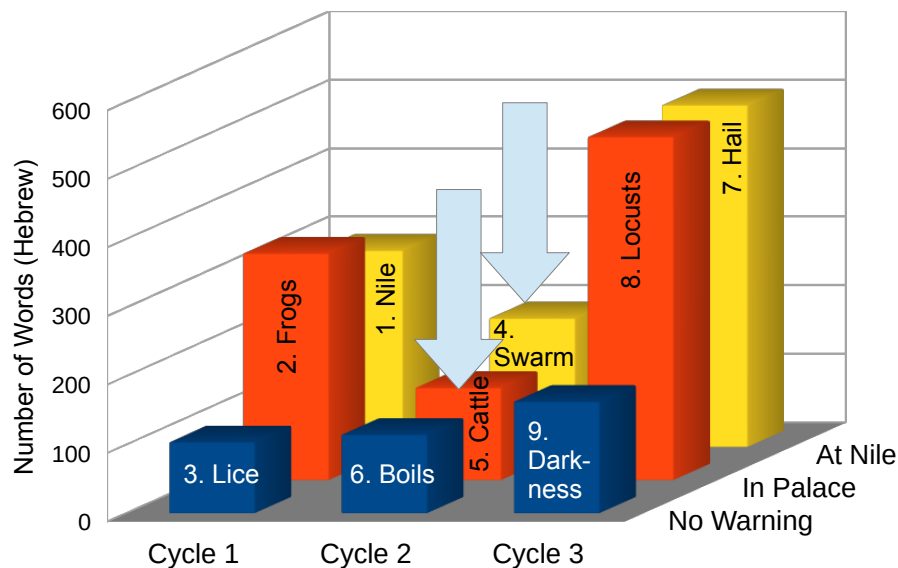
Relief: 30 And Moses went out from Pharaoh, and intreated the LORD. 31 And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; and he removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people; there remained not one.

Hardening: 32 And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.

For Discussion

8:24-9:7

Agency			Setting
Aaron's Rod	No Rod	Moses' Rod or Hand	
7:14-25 Nile to Blood	8:20-32 Swarm	9:13-35 Hail	Stand
8:1-15 Frogs	9:1-7 Cattle	10:1-20 Locusts	Go
8:16-19 Lice	9:8-12 Boils	10:21-29 Darkness	None



- How does Pharaoh's restriction on Moses' request in 8:25 show his understanding of the lesson of 8:22?
- Why does this plague emphasize the theme of sacrifice so much?
- Moses asked for three days, but intended to take the people to Canaan and never come back. Was he deceiving Pharaoh?
- What is significant about where Moses goes to intreat the Lord for Pharaoh?
- How does Moses' behavior contrast with that of false religious leaders?
- With whom is Pharaoh compared with respect to his deceitful promises?
- What key word does the plague on the cattle introduce?
- With what other terms is this word associated, and how do they apply to the other plagues?
- What is the purpose of this plague (and the boils)?

Imposition and Negotiation

24 the land was corrupted

Psa. 78:45 He sent ~~divers sorts of flies~~ a **swarm** among them, which **devoured** them; and frogs, which destroyed them.

Egyptian Sacrifice (Herodotus, *History*)

History 2:38 But the penalty is death for sacrificing a bull that the priest has not marked.

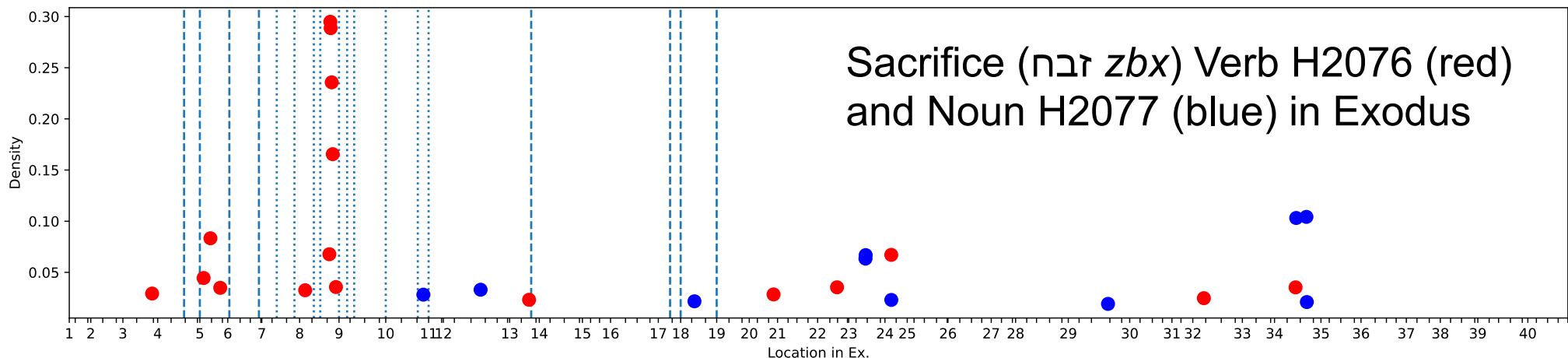
History 2:41 All Egyptians sacrifice unblemished bulls and bull-calves; they may not sacrifice cows: these are sacred to Isis.

27 three days' journey?

Exo 3:18 ... and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, **three days' journey** into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

Exo 5:3 And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, **three days' journey** into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God; ...

Exo 15:22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went **three days** in the wilderness, and found no water.



References on 8:27-29

27 the final permission

Exo 12:31 And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and **get you forth** from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said. 32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and **be gone**; and bless me also. 33 And the Egyptians were **urgent** upon the people, that they might **send them out of the land in haste**; for they said, We be all dead men.

28-29, Who's in Control?

Exod 8:28 And Pharaoh said, I **[myself] will let you go ...**

Exod 8:29 And Moses said, Behold, I **[myself] go out** from thee

29 Why did Moses go out to pray?

Exo 8:12 And Moses and Aaron **went out from Pharaoh**: and Moses cried unto the LORD because of the frogs which he had brought against Pharaoh.

Exo 9:29 And Moses said unto him, As soon as I am **gone out** of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail;

Exo 10:18 And he **went out from Pharaoh**, and intreated the LORD. 19 And the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt.

References on 8:29-32

Heathen Prayer

2Ki 5:11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely **come out to me**, and **stand**, and **call on the name** of the LORD his God, and **strike his hand over the place**, and recover the leper.

1Ki 18:26 And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And **they leaped upon the altar** which was made. ... 28 And they **cried aloud**, and **cut themselves** after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

Mat 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, **that they may be seen of men**. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

8:29 Deal Deceitfully (לָלַל *tala* H2048)

Gen. 31:7 And your father hath **deceived me**, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me.

8:32, the missing prediction

Exo 7:4 But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments.

9:1-7, Cattle

Demand: 1 Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Warning: 2 For if thou refuse to let them go, and wilt hold them still, 3 Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous **murrain**.

Exemption: 4 And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all that is the children's of Israel. 5 And the LORD appointed a set time, saying, To morrow the LORD shall do this thing in the land.

Imposition: 6 And the LORD did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died:

Exemption: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one. 7 And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead.

Hardening: And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

What's New?

Feature	7:14-25, Nile	8:1-15, Frogs	8:20-32, Swarm	9:1-7, Cattle
Divine Analysis	14			
Demand to Pharaoh	15-16	1	20	1
That you may know	17a	10	22	
Warning	17b-18	2-4	21	2-3
Exemption	19?	3? 11?	22	4-5, 6b-7
Command to Moses & Aaron	19	5		
Imposition	20-21	6	24	6a
Magicians	22a	7		
Negotiation		8-11	25-29	
Relief	24-25	12-14	30-31	
Hardening	22b-23	15	32	7b

Murrain = Pestilence (דֶּבֶר *deber* H1698)

God's Four Judgments

Ezk 14:21 For thus saith the Lord GOD; How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the **pestilence** *deber*, to cut off from it man and beast?

- Noisome beasts: frogs, lice, swarm
- Famine: hail, locusts
- Pestilence: cattle, boils, firstborn
- Sword: Red Sea

Ex. 14:14 The LORD shall **fight** (לָחַם *lacham* H3898) for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

Ex. 14:25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD **fighteth** *lacham* for them against the Egyptians.

A Shot Across the Bow

Exod 9:15 For now I ~~will stretch~~ could have stretched out my hand, ~~that I may smite~~ and smitten thee and thy people with pestilence דֶּבֶר; and thou ~~shalt be~~ wouldst have been cut off from the earth.

The Recollection in Psalms

Psa 78:49 He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them.
50 He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the **pestilence**.