

Exodus 025

Saved Unto Works

Exodus 8:1-8

November 30, 2025

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Let us take our Bibles this morning and open them to Exodus 8:1. The title of our message this morning is "Saved Unto Good Works." We are certainly not saved by good works, but we are saved unto good works, as we will see today in our passage this morning. We are working our way through the Book of Exodus.

The first 12 chapters of the Book of Exodus deal with God redeeming His nation. There arose a pharaoh that knew not Joseph. The nation has been in Egyptian bondage for 400 years and now on schedule, it is time to take them out of bondage. All the way back in Genesis 15, when God was dealing with the patriarch Abram—who later became Abraham—God predicted this would happen. His nation would go into bondage for 400 years, and then in the fourth generation, God would take them out of bondage.

God has raised up Moses as the instrument that He is going to use to accomplish this feat of redemption. Everything that we have read thus far in the Book of Exodus is sort of preparatory for that mission, that assignment. Moses, having been prepared for this assignment for the first 80 years of his life.

Now the mission is in full swing, underway, as now God, through Moses and Aaron, is bringing ten plagues upon Egypt, the first of which we have looked at, the Nile has been turned to blood. Now we are into the second judgment on Egypt, which will be used to expedite their liberation from Egypt, which is the judgment of the frogs.

As we are going to see today, each of these judgments is designed to mock a different deity of the polytheistic Egyptian pantheon. The Egyptians worshiped the Nile, so God turned it to blood red. The Egyptians worshiped frogs. God says, "You like frogs. Here you go. They are about to be multiplied all over the land of Egypt." In a certain sense, in a nonsinful sense, God can be very sarcastic. One of these judgments is going to be darkness. "Do you like spiritual darkness? Then here is the physical darkness that goes with it." God being a mocker.

As the nations are portrayed as conspiring against God, Psalm 2 says that God sits in the heavens and He laughs Psalm 2:4). "Look at what little man is trying to do against me down there with his sand castles and those kinds of things." You see this side of God coming out as now it is judgment day on Egypt.

The frog judgment goes from Exodus 8:1-15. I am not sure if we can cover all of it today, but here is a broad outline that we are going to follow as we navigate Exodus 8:1-15.

Frogs (Exodus 8:1-15)

- I. God's Instructions to Moses (1-5)
 - A. For Pharaoh (1-4)
 1. Command (1)
 2. Consequence (2-4)
 - B. For Aaron (5)
- II. Aaron's Obedience (6)
- III. Pharaoh's Miracle (7)
- IV. Pharaoh's Condition (8-11)
 - A. Pharaoh's Request (8)
 - B. Question of Timing (9)
 - C. Pharaoh's Answer (10a)
 - D. Moses' Promise (10b-11)
- V. Fulfillment of Prophecy (12-14)
- VI. Pharaoh's Condition (15)

The first thing we see are God's instructions to Moses. He instructs Moses to give Moses information for Pharaoh (Exodus 8:1-4). Then God instructs Moses to give information to Aaron (Exodus 8:5). Notice, first of all, the instructions Moses is to give to Pharaoh, coming from the lips of God, the mouth of God.

There is a command that Moses is to articulate to Pharaoh (Exodus 8:1). If he does not follow the command, there is a consequence (Exodus 8:2-4). Notice, first of all this command, which says:

"Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Go to Pharaoh and say to him, "Thus says the Lord, 'Let My people go, that they may serve Me'"'"' (Exodus 8:1).

There are two things that God wants accomplished here. Number one, let My people go. Liberate them, in other words. They are not only to be liberated, but they are liberated for a purpose. They are to serve God. If you can see those two things, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me," you can understand what God is doing in your life and my life as He has redeemed us from the slave market of sin, the nation of Israel being a type, if you will, of salvation history for all of us.

When God saved us, He did not only save us from something, He saved us unto something. A lot of people look at salvation as I have got my fire insurance paid up. I am not going to hell, and praise God for that, but that is only part of the picture. God did not just save us to keep us from the eternal consequences of our sins and eternity under His wrath, separated from Him, but He saved us also that He might work the works of Jesus Christ through us.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Most people stop reading right there. In fact, a lot of Bible literature when they quote this verse stops quoting at the end of Ephesians 2:9. Ephesians 2:8-9 is a wonderful description, a wonderful explanation of how God has redeemed us by His grace, but the last time I checked, Ephesians 2:10 follows Ephesians 2:9. Why do we always leave Ephesians 2:10 out? It is kind of peculiar, but if you just keep reading, it says:

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

When God saved me—He saved me at the age of 16—He did not only save me to keep me out of eternal retribution. He saved me because He wanted to do something with my life of eternal consequence to reach other people. That is what God is doing in your life. Having one's fire insurance paid up is a wonderful thing, but there is more to it than that.

God moves us out of justification, which takes place at a moment in time, and He moves us into sanctification. Justification is birth. Sanctification is growth. You cannot be used by God unless you are willing to grow up in God. These are different and separate phases of salvation.

It is kind of interesting that the nation of Israel would succeed in being redeemed, but this generation that came out of Egypt did not get very far in the way of sanctification or service. This is the crowd that is going to build the golden calf. In fact, Aaron, the high priest, is going to lead the charge into building the golden calf.

When Aaron is confronted about this golden calf at Mount Sinai being built—while Moses was on the mountain of God Horeb or Mount Sinai, receiving the Law of God—he is going to say, "I do not know how this came about. We all just sort of grabbed a gold and silver and threw it into this fire, and this calf popped out of nowhere." It is kind of a denial of responsibility.

I remember when I was substitute teaching years ago. I watched a kid on a field trip take a frisbee and throw it into the lake that we were visiting. I confronted the kid. I said, "Johnny, what happened to the frisbee?" He told me that the lake took it. We have an interesting way of avoiding responsibility, which is what Aaron is going to do.

God has a plan for us where salvation is wonderful. It is an executed phase of our salvation, but He has so much more for us and I sometimes fear that we emphasize salvation to such an extent that we forget the rest of the picture.

Just because you are not serving the Lord the way you should does not mean you have not been justified. These people are going to build a golden calf, but that does not mean they had not been redeemed. They had been redeemed. That is why Ephesians 2:10, related to our good works, says that "we [subjunctive mood] might walk in them."

Whether I am going to grow up in Christ or not really depends on a lot of things related to myself. Am I going to be in an environment where I can be taught the resources that God has for my growth? Am I going to yield to those resources moment by moment, by faith? As we appropriate those, we obey them in His strength. The extent that we are willing to do that as Christians dictates our usability.

This generation coming out of Egypt, as much as is written about their redemption, did not get very far in terms of their growth or sanctification. That does not mean they had not been born because they had. You can have someone in the natural world that is not growing, right—developmental delays, malnutrition, whatever the case may be—but no one says the person was never born. They have been born. It is not a birth issue. It is a growth issue.

God has two major things for us. The first phase is, number one, our birth. That happens through faith alone in Christ alone. Then as that phase of our salvation is executed, now He has our growth, our development. Then the time in history will come when we will die or be raptured, whichever comes first—I personally hope the Rapture comes first, although I cannot guarantee that. Then we will be in the very presence of the Lord, freed from the sin nature.

There is justification, the past tense of salvation; sanctification, the present tense of salvation; and glorification, the future tense of salvation. You see these things as God is speaking to Moses to tell Pharaoh.

"Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, 'Let My people go [that is redemption], that they may serve Me [that is growth, or what we would call progressive sanctification]'" (Exodus 8:1).

What if Pharaoh does not do what God said? Well, there is a consequence. There are always consequences associated with rebelling against God's revealed will. Notice, if you will Exodus 8:2. These are words to be spoken to Pharaoh:

"'But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite your whole territory with frogs'" (Exodus 8:2).

There are always consequences associated with disobeying God.

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this will he will reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh from the flesh will reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life" (Galatians 6:7-8).

It is an agrarian principle, an agricultural principle. Whatever you put into the ground comes out of the ground. If you put an apple seed into the ground, then you are not going to get a lemon tree, you are going to get an apple tree. If you put nothing into the ground, then you are going to get nothing. If you put something negative into the

ground, something like poison ivy or something, then that is what you are going to get. It is a neutral principle that applies across the board. Life can become very difficult for the person that perpetually sows bad seed because of payday someday. The crop is going to come up.

"But the way of the transgressors is hard" (Proverbs 13:5, KJV).

"Pharaoh, if you do what you are supposed to do, things are generally going to go well with you, but if you do not do what you are supposed to do, there are going to be some negative consequences." In this case, the negative consequences are described as the multiplication of frogs all over the land of Egypt.

As I said before, the Egyptians worshiped frogs. There is a particular deity behind these Egyptian frogs—Heqt. There are several other deities behind frogs as well. Ed Hindson, in his commentary on the Book of Exodus, says:

"Egyptian deities challenged by this particular plague were Hopi, the spirit of the Nile, and Heqt, the frog-headed goddess of childbirth assistance, who had the distinction of being the wife of Khnum, the guardian of the Nile."¹

What you see God doing here is that, in judgment three, He is going after idols in Egypt. What is an idol? An idol is anything that we worship above and beyond God. It does not necessarily have to be a piece of metal or a statue. It is anything you look to that gives you worth, security, meaning, or provision other than God Himself.

We are very good as human beings at erecting in our hearts idols. It could be anything: health, talent. Those things in and of themselves are not wrong, but they can become wrong when they eclipse the place of God: career, resources, reputation. I am here to tell you, if some of those things are in your heart today, if some of those things are in my heart today, everything I know about God says that He is going after those things. His agenda is to expose those things for what they are, so that we turn our attention to the true and living God. Hallelujah!

*"I am the Lord, that is My name;
I will not give My glory to another,
Nor My praise to graven images" (Isaiah 42:8).*

Here goes God after three of the great deities in Egypt, the deity is associated with frogs. Notice the scope of this judgment that is coming. If Pharaoh will not comply:

""The Nile will swarm with frogs, which will come up and go into your house and into your bedroom and on your bed, and into the houses of

¹ Hindson, E. E., & Mitchell, D. R., eds. (2010). *King James Version Bible Commentary for Today: The Most Up-to-Date Commentary on the Time-Honored Text of the King James Version* (p. 91). Thomas Nelson.

your servants and on your people, and into your ovens and into your kneading bowls"" (Exodus 8:3).

We just had an opportunity to go on a cruise. One of the desserts they served one night, I guess it was not a dessert; it was more of an hors d'oeuvre. They served frog legs. I was preparing this sermon that afternoon, and I said, "Thanks, but no thanks."

""So the frogs will come up on you and your people and all your servants"" (Exodus 8:4).

This is something that is going to start in the Nile, but it is going to comprehensively cover the land of Egypt. Do not think for a minute that God is incapable of bringing comprehensive judgment. At one time there was something called the global flood, where this entire world was underwater.

Just as there was a past judgment, there is coming upon this earth, a future judgment described in Revelation 6:19, which will be worldwide in scope. It will manifest itself through six seal judgments, and then the seventh seal, unleashing the next set of judgments called the trumpet judgments. The seventh trumpet judgment releasing the bowl judgments described in Revelation 16.

You have to understand that when these judgments hit, half of the world's population will be wiped out. Revelation 6 talks about how one of those seals is opened, and a quarter of the world's population will die. You move into the trumpet judgments and it says of the remaining people on the earth, a third will die. According to my old math, that means by the time you get to Revelation 9, half of the world's population will be wiped out, and we have not even gotten to the bowl judgments yet.

This is not something that is fun to talk about, but it is a biblical reality. There was a past judgment, and there is coming upon the earth a future judgment, as well. You are seeing it here sort of in microcosm form, as God is going to comprehensively bring judgment over the land of Egypt.

These are instructions that God says to communicate through Moses to Pharaoh. Now God says, "Here is what you are to say to Aaron," who is working alongside Moses in this great work of redemption that we are reading about. Notice, if you will, Exodus 8:5, which says:

"Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Say to Aaron, "Stretch out your hand with your staff over the rivers, over the streams and over the pools, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt"" (Exodus 8:5).

Now notice this staff that Aaron is to exercise as he is obeying God's will. "Stretch out your hand with your staff." This is something Moses and Aaron have already been trained concerning the staff. Going back to Exodus 4:1-5 there was the handling of the

staff in the form of a miniature type of miracle. Now that same staff is to be used in the maximum sense of maximum judgment over Egypt.

I find it interesting that God trained Moses and Aaron in the basic arena, and with the basic tools that God would use later on. Why is that significant? Because many of us, many of you, myself included, find ourselves regularly in training circumstances, and we have a tendency to kind of look down on it. "I am not really being used the way I could be used." This is just preparation. This is just a time of training.

I would encourage you as Zechariah 4:10 says, not to despise the day of small beginnings. Whenever God uses someone in a very significant way, which is going to happen here and is happening with Moses and Aaron, they are trained in more of a smaller stage, a smaller scale well in advance. I would just encourage all of us to be faithful with whatever God has put in front of you. It may not seem like the biggest and it may not seem like the greatest, but to God the little things matter.

"He who is faithful with a very little thing is also faithful in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much" (Luke 16:10).

God is going to promote. God is going to advance. God is going to accelerate based on our willingness to comply with the will of God in something that we may look at as very small.

Now Moses and Aaron, having been faithful with that staff, have been moved to center stage, where they are being used as tools to bring forth a comprehensive judgment over the known political power of the time, the nation of Egypt. You will notice, after God instructs Moses, you have a description of Aaron's obedience. He does what he is told. Smart guy, by the way.

"So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt" (Exodus 8:6).

I sometimes wonder what would have happened if Aaron had disobeyed and done things his own way. This judgment may have never occurred. The blessing in the Christian life comes from not just knowing, but obeying.

"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22).

Jesus, in the Upper Room says:

"If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them" (John 13:17).

The blessing does not just come from knowing, it comes from acting on what is known.

"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves" (James 1:22).

As I have expressed before, some of the dangers of being in a church like this, that emphasizes Bible teaching, Bible exposition, Bible exegesis, and those kinds of things, is that people get the idea that they are learning a lot and that is the sum total of spirituality. The Bible knows of no such idea. Blessing in the Christian life does not come just from knowing. Knowing is important, but knowing was always intended by God never to be a last step. It is a first step. The blessings in the Christian life come from obeying what God has said.

Jesus' mother made a statement in John 2:5 concerning a crisis of not enough wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, not knowing how this crisis was going to be resolved:

"His mother said to the servants, 'Whatever He says to you, do it'" (John 2:5).

Those are pretty good instructions for us. Whatever Jesus tells us to do, do it.

There might be things in your life where you say to yourself, "I do not know everything there is to know about the Bible." I would say, "Who does?" I have been at the Bible for a while, and I certainly do not know everything there is to know in the Bible about God's revealed will, but I know this much, there are things I do understand that I am not doing.

If you ask the Lord to show you, He will surface things in your mind, things that you know to do that are right, but you are not doing. I would just challenge you as we move into this Christmas season to make good on those things that the Lord brings to your attention.

You find here, Aaron doing exactly what he is told to do, and the miracle happens. If you look at the rest of the verse, it says:

"...and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt" (Exodus 8:6).

It is interesting how prophecy is fulfilled. God said that was what was going to happen (Exodus 8:4), and now it happened. This is the pattern of prophecy. Everything that God predicts will happen exactly like He said.

Think about that as we enter into this Christmas season. Christmas, the advent of Jesus into our world, was part of a script prepared hundreds and in some cases, thousands of years in advance. Where He would be born was predicted 700 years in advance by the prophet Micah—in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). That He would come from the Tribe of Judah is predicted all the way back in Genesis 49:10. Countless prophecies say that He would be despised and rejected by men.

We read that the Son of Man had no place to lay his head in Luke's gospel (Luke 9:58). Yet that rejection, no room in the inn for Jesus (Luke 2:7), is actually predicted in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. The fact that He would be born of a virgin was predicted in Isaiah 7:14. Every single one of those prophecies, although given far, far in advance, came to pass literally. They came to pass accurately. You are seeing that even with God's short-term prophecies. "Stretch out your staff and the Nile will teem with frogs" (Exodus 8:4), and sure enough, that is exactly what happened.

If you are watching the History Channel or A&E or Mysteries of the Bible, and they bring on somebody from Harvard, as I like to say, they will give you a naturalistic explanation of this. It is amazing to me how people work overtime to deny the miraculous content of the Bible.

One of the things that you will hear is that it was the silt and the red sediment in the Nile that caused the water to turn what looked like blood red. The frogs in that environment were kind of uncomfortable, so they jumped out of the Nile and they spread throughout Egypt.

Ed Hindson writes this concerning those that come up with sort of an anti-supernatural interpretation of this:

"Those who hold to the miraculous intensification of natural, of the natural events theory of the plagues suggest that the red sediment, algae, or fungus, coupled with the dead fish, had so polluted the Nile that the frogs abandoned the river and swarmed over the land and into the houses to seek moisture. This explanation, however, does not sufficiently address the text's presentation of the abundance of frogs or their swarming at Moses' precise signal."²

What you are going to see in this is that Moses, at a word, determines when the frogs will swarm. Moses said a word determines when the frogs will stop swarming. That cannot be explained through naturalistic causes; that obviously is something supernatural.

What is interesting is that when you get into this miracle, you discover that Pharaoh's magicians are able, to a certain extent, to imitate or duplicate this multiplication of the frogs. Look at that there in Exodus 8:7, which says:

"The magicians did the same with their secret arts, making frogs come up on the land of Egypt" (Exodus 8:7).

How in the world were they able to imitate the miracles of God, to a certain extent, when they had no relationship with God? The answer is that Satan works miracles too.

² Ibid.

These are biblical references to every example I could find in Scripture where a miracle is transpiring. Yet God has absolutely nothing to do with it. The Bible is a Book of miracles, most of which come from God, but there are miracles of a supernatural origin taking place in the Bible that God has nothing to do with.

Satanic/Demonic Miracles

1. Exod. 7-8		7. Acts 8:9; 16:16
2. Deut. 13:1-3		8. Gal. 1:6-9
3. Job 1:12-19; 2:7-8		9. 2 Thess. 2:9
4. 1 Sam. 28?		10. 2 Cor. 11:14
5. Matt. 7:21-23; 24:24		11. Rev. 13:3, 13, 15; 16:13-14
6. Luke 4:5		

At some point, you have to develop a worldview that says, "Just because a miracle happens, just because a sign or wonder takes place, just because a healing happens, you do not automatically believe that God caused it because only God works miracles." That is not what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches that Satan and the fallen demonic realm—as these magicians are working, being tapped into their secret arts in Egypt—were able to replicate or seemingly duplicate the very miracle that came forth from the hands of Moses and Aaron, as God gave them the power to perform this miracle.

What does that mean for us? It means you cannot determine truth by an experience. The Bible never says to determine truth by experience because the devil works the experiences, as well. Truth is determined by whether a teaching lines up with God's Word.

Paul, writing to the Galatians in Galatians 1:6-9, says:

"I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed"
(Galatians 1:6-9).

What Paul is saying is that if an angel materializes at your bedside tonight and he happens to be a very beautiful, attractive angel, and that angel gives you a very real dream, vision, or experience, you are not to carte blanche accept everything that comes

from that angel, because it could be an angel of light. Satan masquerades himself as an angel of light.

Shahram Hadian, who was here last week may have talked about this. That is how Islam started. Islam started through a manifestation of the angel. They pronounce it as Jibril, but what they are talking about is Gabriel giving to Muhammad certain doctrines. All of those doctrines, right down to the crucifixion of Jesus—Islam denies that Jesus was crucified on a cross—go directly against the Word of God. Yet I am here to tell you that I believe that Muhammad had a very real experience. That in and of itself demonstrates that truth is determined by whether it lines up with God's Word, rather than whether someone who has had such and such an experience.

"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they [the Bereans] received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

We are to be testers of experiences, knowing that God gives experiences, but the fallen angelic realm gives experiences as well.

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

This concept of perpetually testing things by the Word of God, why do we do that? Because God has given us in this book His revealed word—66 books, a finite revelation—and God can never say something on Monday and contradict Himself on Tuesday. That is completely impossible for God to do because it is impossible for God to lie.

Therefore, any experience that a person has must line up with what God has already said in His Word, and the better you know His Word, the better you understand and have the wherewithal to test everything that you hear. You do not think things are true by the size of the crowd, by whether someone is popular, by whether they have runaway sellers on their Amazon list, or how many subscribers they have on YouTube. You do not determine if something is true by how they make you feel. You do not determine something is true by any other type of emotion or experience. You determine something is true by asking, "Does it align with God's Word?"

We are to be testers. I am here to tell you folks that this concept of testing is not being taught today in most churches, and this is why I think our world, to a large extent, is a sitting duck for the Antichrist. When the Antichrist comes—the Bible is very clear about this—he will come with lying signs and wonders. He will do miracles on par, it would seem from a human perspective, with God Himself.

People who are not testers will fall under his prey. They will fall under his deception. We have this ongoing need to test all things by the Word of God. I understand that we are

pretribulational here and we will not see the Antichrist. But the truth of the matter is, the Bible says that before the Antichrist comes, there will be many prefigures of the Antichrist.

John tells us that Antichrist is coming, but before the Antichrist comes, he will be preceded by many, shall we call them little antichrists, baby antichrists (1 John 4:2-3). Many people will follow something or someone based on a sign or a wonder, how they feel, how popular they are, or how they communicate their ideas. If that is the way you think, then you are a sitting duck for an antichrist, because an antichrist preceding the Antichrist will give you all of those lying signs and wonders, as well.

You will notice that as these magicians of Egypt, tapping into their secret arts, could imitate a lot of the things that came from the hands of Moses and Aaron. Do you notice that they could not stop the judgment of the frogs? They could multiply it, but they could not say, "Nope. U-turn. We are not going to have frogs." These magicians have a lot of power, but they do not have as much power as God.

Dr. Ed Hindson writes:

"Again, the text records the Egyptian magicians (v.7) supernaturally duplicating the miracle. As with their duplication of the first plague, the question must be raised as to why they would enact such a counterproductive measure. As the land teemed with a deluge of frogs, Pharaoh's priests increased the number of frogs. As noted with the previous plague, a demonstration of true supernatural power would have been to undo the plague of frogs. This power, however, the magicians did not possess."³

Does Satan work miracles? Yes, he does, but he does not work miracles on par with God. If he worked miracles on par with God, Pharaoh's magicians could have halted the multiplication of the frogs; they could have undone the judgment there on the Nile that we saw last time, but they were unable to do that. One of the things to understand about Satan is he has tremendous power, but he does not have as much power as God because he is a created being.

*"On the day you were created
They were prepared" (Ezekiel 28:13).*

*"You were blameless in your ways
From the day you were created
Until unrighteousness was found in you" (Ezekiel 28:15).*

The moment the prophet Ezekiel says of Satan, "You are a created being," you know it is game over. He is not omniscient. He is not omnipotent. He is not omnipresent. He is

³ Ibid., 91-92.

not all knowing. He is not everywhere at the same time. He is not all powerful, because he is a created being. Yes, let us talk about the power of Satan, but let us not overdo it.

One of the things I have tried to explain is that a lot of people get their theology from the movie Rocky, where you have Apollo and Rocky in the boxing ring together. They are pretty much equally matched. There is a slight edge for Apollo, by the way, because he was the reigning heavyweight champ. A lot of people think it is like this with God and Satan, that they are both equally matched. We will give God a slight edge, and we are not quite sure who is going to pull this off.

But you see, the moment God said of Satan, "In the day you were created," is the moment you learn that this is game over. This is not even a match because a created being lacking omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence is no contest for God.

Genesis 1:1, if we believed it, would save us from a lot of false teaching.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

That is the greatest miracle that God has done. If you believe that, and if we believe that, think of all the things our world would reject. We would reject atheism, because it says God created. We would reject pantheism, which is the idea that God is in creation, because here God is transcendent over creation. We would reject polytheism, the idea that there are many gods, because here it says God singular created.

We would reject materialism. Is that not a god competing with the hearts and minds of people as we move into the Christmas season? Just take a trip over to the local mall and you will see it running rampant. Materialism—I have to get this thing, whatever it is, and it is going to make me happy—worshiping something instead of God. We would reject materialism, because matter began only when God allowed it to begin.

We would reject humanism, the idea that man is the center of all things because God, in Genesis 1:1, is doing His greatest miracle, and man is not even on the scene yet. Man does not come into existence until day six. Man is not even there as a consultant. It is God working His greatest miracle without man there. We would reject naturalism, the idea that there are no miracles, because there it says that God created.

We would reject dualism. Dualism is the idea that God has a rival in the universe, that there is this contest, a boxing contest, a wrestling match, and we are not totally sure who is going to win, just like the movie Rocky. When in reality, God has no rival. The devil, God's closest rival, only exists because God brought him into existence as Lucifer, a high ranking angel.

Yes, let us talk about the reality of the fallen angelic realm. Let us talk about the role of demons. Let us talk about testing all things, holding fast to that which is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Let us talk about how Satan has the ability to perform miracles quite obviously there in Exodus 8:7. But let us not go too far with it. There is a vast

reservoir of miracle-working powers within the realm of the fallen, angelic, satanic, demonic realm, but it is no rival to God Himself.

- VII. Pharaoh's Condition (8-11)
 - A. Pharaoh's Request (8)
 - B. Question of Timing (9)
 - C. Pharaoh's Answer (10a)
 - D. Moses' Promise (10b-11)

Then you move into Exodus 8:8-11. Let us see if we can get through these before we wrap it up. Pharaoh is allowed to set a condition as to when this judgment is going to stop, this multiplication of frogs. We have Pharaoh's request (Exodus 8:8); a question of timing (Exodus 8:9); Pharaoh's answer (Exodus 8:10); and then Moses' promise (Exodus 8:10-11).

Notice Pharaoh's request. This is very interesting:

"Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, 'Entreat the Lord that He remove the frogs from me and from my people'" (Exodus 8:8).

Is it not interesting that Pharaoh rejects God? He has no ambition or desire to submit to God, and yet he instinctively knows where these plagues are coming from. These things are obviously happening through the power of God. Here is God's enemy, Pharaoh, recognizing the existence of God and also recognizing that God is working through two preeminent servants during this time, Moses and Aaron. This is exactly how it is going to be in the last days.

In Revelation 6, when these judgments, these seal judgments, will come upon the earth, it says:

"And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb'" (Revelation 6:16).

They hate God. They are experiencing the judgment of God. They have no intention to submit to God, and yet they instinctively know where these judgments are coming from, and consequently, they will not repent.

"The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as to not worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts" (Revelation 9:20-21).

There is an internal recognition that God is causing these things, yet in spite of that recognition, they will not repent. This is, in essence, what the natural man does with God.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:18-20).

You take the most staunch atheist that maybe has ever existed in human history, think of somebody like Madalyn Murray O'Hair, who was instrumental in removing Bible and prayer out of the American public school system; or you take someone like the late Christopher Hitchens, people that denied the existence of God. Today they are called the New Atheists. They deny the existence of God. On the Day of Judgment, when God reveals Himself to them, they are not able to say, "Well, God, I never knew You were there. I just had no idea."

The Bible says that humans are instinctively aware of God, and the reason they continue on in ignorance is not because of a lack of disclosure; it is because they took the disclosure of God, and, as it says in Romans 1:18, they suppressed it. They held it down. Think of these atheists on the Day of Judgment, as God is manifesting Himself to them, they are not going to say to themselves, "I just was clueless that You were there." "No, you knew I was there. You knew what I was all about, but you would not submit. You took what I had revealed to you and suppressed it."

This is exactly what Pharaoh is doing right here. He calls Moses and Aaron and says, *"Entreat the Lord that He remove the frogs from me and from my people"* (Exodus 8:8). Pharaoh knows exactly what is going on. The problem with Pharaoh is not a lack of knowledge. It is a lack of humility. It is a lack of submission. What does Pharaoh say here?

"Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, 'Entreat the Lord that He remove the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the Lord'" (Exodus 8:8).

This is hinting at what is coming at Mount Sinai, when God is going to take the nation of Israel and bring them to Mount Sinai. When He brings them to Mount Sinai, He is going to put them under a legal system called the Mosaic Law, which will include the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle involves specific instructions related to a sacrificial system that is to be implemented and exercised for God's glory.

First John 1:9 says this, concerning the Church Age believer:

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Why is 1 John 1:9 in our Bible, when we have already been forgiven of our sins? Why do we have to go through 1 John 1:9? It is the same reason God put the nation of Israel under the sacrificial system. The sacrificial system was never there to justify them. They already had justification. This generation that received this system is listed in the Hall of Faith. They passed through the parted waters of the Red sea by faith (Hebrews 11:29). They were already believers. They were already heaven bound.

Then why in the world do people that are heaven bound need a sacrificial system? The answer is to maintain fellowship with God. How does God maintain His fellowship with His people when His people sin? How does that happen? The answer is the sacrificial system. It is the same issue with us. How does God maintain His fellowship with us—our enjoyment of Him, our intimacy with Him? Why and how does that happen when I am already blood bought and on my way to heaven? The answer is 1 John 1:9:

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

I do not exercise 1 John 1:9 in my life because somehow I think I need to do it to make sure I am going to heaven. I already know I am going to heaven. I do it so that I can maintain regular enjoyment of God, fellowship with God. It is like a marriage. I can offend my wife. In fact, if you looked at my record, I am actually pretty good at doing that. I could offend my wife, but when I offend my wife, it does not mean we are not married now. She might wish we were not married, but we are still married. I am legally, positionally married, but what has happened through my sin against her is not the dissolving of the marriage, but my moment-by-moment enjoyment of her is now short-circuited because there is now a barrier until I apologize for my conduct.

That is how 1 John 1:9 works in your life. This is how the sacrificial system, which is coming at Mount Sinai, works for the nation of Israel. The sacrificial system was never given to redeem a nation. The nation of Israel already had redemption. It was rather given to a redeemed nation, allowing the fellowship of God to continue in spite of the sins of the people.

I thought we could make it through Exodus 8:11 today, but we did not quite make it. We will pick it up there beginning in Exodus 8:9 next time, where Moses is going to tell Pharaoh, "All right, you can go ahead and name the time that you want the frogs to stop," just to prove that God is who He says He is.