

## It's A God Thing

While studying theology at a Baptist university, the Biblical survey professor told our class one day that the plagues against Pharaoh in the Old Testament were not supernatural miracles of God, but can all be explained through natural means. I do not agree with the good professor, and I will tell you why in today's Templates of Truth.

Moses & Aaron followed the call of God in appealing to Pharaoh to release the people of Israel and allow them to leave the land of Egypt. Between chapters five and eleven of the book of Exodus, we read the account of ten plagues applied by God to Pharaoh and the Egyptians that included: blood, frogs, gnats, insects, pestilence, boils, hail, locusts, darkness and death. The communities of secular science and liberal theology insist that these events are not supernatural miracles. I believe they are, and I do so for a variety of reasons.

First of all, a miracle is what God Himself called these acts – *I will stretch out My hand, and strike Egypt with all My miracles* (Exodus 3:20). The Hebrew word translated *miracles* in this verse means to be surpassing or extraordinary. These demonstrations had to surpass normal, natural explanation. They had to be of a quality far above the ordinary.

When Moses & Aaron first stood before Pharaoh, his command to them was – *Work a miracle* (Exodus 7:9). Aaron did so by casting his staff to the floor and it became a snake. Pharaoh's magicians & sorcerers duplicated that miracle through black magic, but Aaron's snake consumed their snakes. The same staff was then used to turn all the water in Egypt into blood. The magicians did the same thing, only they couldn't turn it back. Pharaoh appealed to Moses to ask God to turn it back. Aaron lifted the staff once more and caused frogs to appear throughout the land. The magicians did the same, but after doing so, they could not make the frogs go away. Once again, Pharaoh had to appeal to God through Moses to rid the land of the frogs. Next, Aaron threw up a handful of dirt and it became trillions of gnats that invaded the land. The magicians tried but could never duplicate this miracle, so they finally resolved – *This is the finger of God* (Exodus 8:19). In each instance, they were challenged by an extraordinary demonstration of divine power that surpassed their own ability. From that point on, the magicians never attempted to replicate God. It was pointless!

Why did these events have to be so extraordinary and surpassing? So that they could affect their intended purpose – *I will send all My plagues on you and your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth* (Exodus 9:14). These demonstrations had to be the quality of such, that no other explanation was sufficient for them except one of absolute divine origination. They had to be above the definitions of science, physiology, biology, geology, meteorology, even demonology in order to be what they really were – simply, a God thing! That way, all the credit goes to one and only one source – God! No other explanation; not even a hint to anything natural *in all the earth*, to any degree. It was all God – totally and completely!

Only a supernatural miracle of God can explain how a stick can become a snake. Only a supernatural miracle of God can explain why all the water became blood, even the water already drawn and in storage. How can you explain a handful of dirt turning in millions of insects, or a handful of soot giving millions of people & livestock open, oozing boils? Natural events may happen, but not at the precise pronounced time God said they would, as was the case in several of these. And how can these things affect all the Egyptians, but have no effect whatsoever on God's people right in their midst? How can a donkey speak? How can an axe-head float? How can a woman become pregnant without ever having been with a man? How can a body that has lain dead for three days in a grave be raised back to life? Only one explanation; a supernatural miracle – it's a God thing!

You might insist that it can all be natural phenomenon orchestrated at just the right time and in just the right way by God to reach His intended purpose. That sounds reasonable enough without totally eliminating the divine element. But when the doctors walk into the room and tell you that they have done all they can do and no natural means at their disposal is any longer available or effective for your cure, you don't want anything less than a supernatural miracle of healing from God. You want something the doctors, the medicines, and the all treatments cannot accomplish. You want an extraordinary something that far surpasses all these natural means – you want and need a God thing.

That's today's Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide in Christ. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in the Lord Jesus.

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