

Ethan Rountree

Ms. Mallory and I spent the week working on a new video project geared at teaching our Afro-centric viewers about the plagues of Egypt recorded in the Book of Exodus. The video's goal was to give viewers a thorough understanding of the plagues, their significance, and their impact on Egyptian society during Moses' time.

Ms. Mallory recorded a voiceover reading from the Book of Exodus, which functioned as the core premise I was tasked with finding and choosing photographs that would assist to visually represent each of the 10 plagues that happened during this time period.

We aligned the images to match the audio and ensured that each event was appropriately shown. We aimed to develop a visually captivating portrayal of the plagues that would effectively express the tragedy and severity of the Egyptians' condition. Although there is a huge lack of photographs available in the public domain, Ms. Mallory went to the Museum and took her own photos that we are able to use. She wanted to depict in particular the plagues of lice and the frogs since those were some of the most dramatic. The plague of frogs was one of the most visible and well-known plagues that she selected to focus on. She took particular interest to emphasize the scale of the frog infestation in this part of the video which was the second plague, mentioned in Exodus 8:1-15. The plague of frogs, according to the account in Exodus, had Aaron reach his hand over Egypt's rivers, and frogs sprang up and covered the country. The frogs were in every part of the home, including the bedrooms, stoves, and kneading basins. They even got into the Pharaoh's palace, bedchamber, and bed. The frogs' loudness and odor were intolerable, and the Egyptians were unable to escape them.

The frog plague was notable for various reasons. For starters, it revealed God's dominion over nature, as well as his capacity to manage and influence it. Second, it demonstrated the futility of Pharaoh's resistance and helplessness to protect his people from the plagues. Finally, it demonstrated that God was capable of attacking the Egyptians' most holy and adored creatures, which they held sacred, as well as humiliating their gods, who were unable to halt the epidemic. As mentioned before,

the lice was also something important that she wanted to focus on. In this context, the Hebrew term for "lice" is "kinim," which may also be translated as "gnats" or "mites." The sort of insects the lice were is unknown, but they were most likely little, biting insects that caused considerable itching and suffering. The lice infestation was noteworthy for various reasons. For starters, it proved God's omnipotence over nature and his capacity to manipulate it in order to chastise the Egyptians. It also demonstrated that the plagues were growing more intense and severe, and the Egyptians were becoming increasingly frantic to find a solution to their dilemma. It emphasized the personal dimension of the plagues since the Egyptians were immediately harmed by the lice and could not avoid their biting. Similar to the plague with the frogs, the lice or gnats attacking them proved to them that their gods were powerless against the God of Israel.

It seems that we have made great progress so far. For next week, Ms. Mallory seems particularly interested in exploring the plagues of hail and darkness, which I'm sure will make for a captivating segment of the video. It's great that Ms. Mallory is so passionate about educating viewers on the historical relevance of the plagues of Egypt. I really respect and admire the fact that she ties in theological concepts. I think she hopes to inspire viewers to delve deeper into the Bible and these stories that everyone seems to know in order to facilitate further individual research. Also, Ms. Mallory is finally sending out the hardware she promised. While it turns out to be just a hard drive, it's clear that it will play an important role in her non-profit organization and I am happy that it was nothing more serious like a microphone or a laptop. As I mentioned before in one of my previous essays, I genuinely had no idea what she could have meant when she said she would be sending me hardware. But she has entrusted me with the simple task of formatting the hard drive and creating folders labeled "student," "teacher," and "scholar." My guess is that she plans to organize videos and resources within these folders, which she can then package and sell to support her non-profit organization. She was also very accommodating to me this week, allowing me to reschedule days where I was working to another time

during the week despite how busy she was.