

## The Plague of Flies

Sometimes it's hard to imagine just how bad some of the plagues may have been, especially ones like flies (Exodus 8:20-24). I mean, come on, how bad could a few flies really be?

Once per year in Wisconsin, flies emerge from the upper Mississippi River. We aren't talking about a few flies here; we are talking about millions upon millions of flies. In fact, the number of flies is so astronomical that the swarm showed up on the local weather radar. They covered everything in the area. A couple of years ago when this occurred, the area had to use snowplows to get all the bugs off the roads.

In Exodus 8:21, God said to Pharaoh, "For if you do not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and on your servants and on your people and into your houses; and the houses of the Egyptians will be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they dwell..." Here was the result, "Then the LORD did so. And there came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and the houses of his servants and the land was laid waste because of the swarms of flies in all the land of Egypt" (24).

If the plague of flies in Egypt was anything like Wisconsin (and it was likely even worse), then this would have been a horrible and sickening plague to endure. It's annoying enough walking through a small swarm of gnats, much less millions of flies. Let's put ourselves back in Egypt during this time. There would be a constant audible and irritating buzz. The flies would have flown into our eyes, ears, noses, and people probably would have swallowed a few of them. They would be all over the food. The water sources likely would have had a dead layer of flies floating on the surface. The flies would have been incessantly annoying. To make matters worse, these flies might have even been the biting kind. Let's make no mistake; the plague of flies would have been horrendous.

What was the entire point of the plague of the flies? Exodus 8:22-23 gives the answer, "But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people are living, so that no swarms of flies will be there, in order that you may know that I, the LORD, am in the midst of the land. I will put a division between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign will occur."

God has always made a distinction between those who obey Him and those who do not. In the New Testament, He identifies them as sheep and goats (Matthew 25:31-33), those on the right and those on the left (34-46), and other similar distinctions (Matthew 5:13-14; 24-27, etc.). We all fall into one of these two categories based upon our obedience to God's commands.

The plague of the flies would have been a terrible one, but a punishment is coming that is far worse than any plague. One day those who have not followed God's commands will be sent away into eternal punishment in hell, and those who have obeyed God will receive the reward of heaven (Matthew 25:46). Let's always make sure we find ourselves among those who follow God.

## Things you should know about!

We would like to send donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. If you want to contribute, mark it as "DRF" or give the money to Jason.

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jason Bang 8/19 Jason Hughes 8/23  
Michelle Gasper 8/30

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### Happy Anniversary

George & Rhonda Gaynor 8/27

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### The Great Darke County Fair Outreach

Evening services NEXT Sunday, August 21st will be held at the fairgrounds, so plan to join us in the Spiritual Life Building. We will be there at 2:00 and will spend the afternoon reaching out to people as they stop in and give out bottles of water.

We are asking for donations of bottled water and to borrow coolers.

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This month's potluck will be today! Please stay and join us.

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### Serving today and next Sunday:

Sunday AM Rotation	August 14, 2022	August 21, 2022
Announcements	Jerry Thompson	Tom Muter
Song Leading	Duane Kemp	Owen Whittington
Opening Prayer/Greeter/Usher	(L)	Tim Bang
Lord's Supper Comments		Duane Kemp
Scripture Reading	Owen Whittington	Chris McGiffin
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer/Usher	Chris McGiffin ®	Jerry Thompson

**Bible Verse of the Week**

The hypocrite with *his* mouth destroys his neighbor, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered. Proverbs 11:9

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**Lord's Supper Reflection**

Jesus put the Father's Mission above His Own needs  
 "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" John 19:28

**Offering Meditation**

Our gifts to God will not compare to the Gifts God Gives us  
 "Now consider how great this man *was*, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils. ...Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he *receives them*, of whom it is witnessed that he lives." Hebrews 7:4-8

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**Remember in Prayer:**

- \*Our Country & leaders
- \*Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement
- \*Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- \*Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- \*Larry Bey - asked for prayers for his Parkinson's
- \*Friend of Jerry Thompson's that has fallen away
- \*Bob Peters (friend of Tim Bang) recovering from a heart attack and surgery to put in a pace maker
- \*Linda Blackburn (friend of the Kemp's) - had a stroke and is recovering
- \*Caroline (from Oakley Place) has COVID and will be having a biopsy/testing soon

- \*Tom & Patsy Muter and Jason & Stephanie Bang and girls are travelling this week
- \*For our teachers and kids going back to school

**How can we be praying for YOU?**

Please call John or email him at [jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com](mailto:jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you may have for the congregation.

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**Attendance and Contribution Record**

<b>Sunday, August 7</b>	<b>Wednesday, August 10</b>
Bible Classes 41	Bible Classes 25
AM Attendance 47	
PM Attendance 25	Contribution \$2,053.00

# Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



## August 14, 2022

**Worship Times:**

- Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am
- Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am
- Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd  
Greenville, OH 45331

[www.greenvillecoc.org](http://www.greenvillecoc.org)

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us today!  
 If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.