

Date: 1 August 2021

Speaker: Rev Clement Chew

Topic: Studies in Exodus - Growing in Courage (I)

Text: Exodus 8:20-32

1. Courage was something necessary in the conquest of the Promised Land. When Moses first started out, he was courageous but not in the right way, which led to him killing an Egyptian. So God had to humble him through the 40 years in the wilderness. Later, Moses grew in courage and was able to speak directly to Pharaoh. His courage stems from his trust in God and God's precious Word. **There are times that we also must stand alone, and that's where we need to find courage in God.**
2. The flies in this plague are a kind of insect that the Egyptians regarded as gods in their land. This plague is not random as it will only affect the Egyptians and not the Hebrews in Goshen. God did this to prove that He is the God of the entire universe. Pharaoh relented and tried to make a compromise that the Israelites sacrifice only in the land. But Moses did not agree and said that they will go a 3 day journey into the wilderness according to the command of the Lord. **The principle of a Christian is that we must stand firm and only do what God has called us to do.**
3. Moses did not want to be deceived by Pharaoh anymore. He wanted to believe that Pharaoh will be truly sincere and stick to his words. If not, then the future plagues to come will be the consequences of Pharaoh going back on his word. **Wisdom and courage should come hand in hand when we are handling adversities in life.**