

## ~GADFLY (54)

[Hebrew, *`a-rov*]

- There is some uncertainty as to the particular insect designated by the original **Hebrew** word appearing in the Scriptures with reference to the fourth plague upon Egypt, the first from which the Israelites in Goshen were spared.
- But if you are not sending my people away, here I am sending upon you and your servants and your people and into your houses the **gadfly**, and the houses of Egypt will simply be full of the gadfly, and also the ground upon which they are. (**Exodus 8:21**)
- And on that day I shall certainly make the land of Goshen upon which my people are standing distinct, that no **gadfly** may exist there. In order, that you may know that I am Yehowah in the midst of the earth. (**Exodus 8:22**)
- And Yehowah proceeded to do so, and heavy swarms of gadflies began to invade the house of Pharaoh and the houses of his servants and all the land of Egypt. The land came to ruin as a result of the gadflies. (**Exodus 8:24**)
- Then Moses said; Here I am going forth from you, and I shall indeed make entreaty to Yehowah, and the **gadflies** will certainly turn away from Pharaoh, his servants and his people tomorrow. Only let not Pharaoh trifle again in not sending the people away to sacrifice to Yehowah. (**Exodus 8:29**)
- So Yehowah did according to Moses word, and the **gadflies** turned away from Pharaoh, his servants and his people. Not one was left. (**Exodus 8:31**)
- He proceeded to send upon them **gadflies**, that these might eat them up, and frogs, that these might bring them to ruin. (**Psalms 78:45**)
- He said that the **gadflies** should come in, gnats in all their territories. (**Psalms 105:31**)

- `A-rov' has been variously rendered **gadfly**, JB, NW, Ro, beetle Yg, flies, AS, KJ, RS, gnats AT, and dog fly, LXX.
- The English designation **gadfly** includes the various kinds of horseflies and botflies. Female horseflies pierce the skin of animals as well as man and then suck their blood.
- In the larval stage botflies live as parasites in the bodies of animals and man, those that infest human's are found in the tropics. A plague of **gadflies** would, therefore, have brought great suffering to the Egyptians and their livestock and, in certain cases, even death.