

Exodus 10 - Thursday, September 25th, 2008.

- We left off with the plague of hailstones coming down upon the Egyptians, and now will see the next plague of the Locusts.
- It's interesting to note that at this juncture, the Lord is going to sort of give Moses the "why" to the "what" He is doing as we'll see next.

10:1 Now the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his servants, that I may show these signs of Mine before him,² and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and your son's son the mighty things I have done in Egypt, and My signs which I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD."

- Once again we have the Lord telling Moses that He has hardened Pharaoh's heart, and now even the heart of his servants.
- It's important to understand that God isn't being unfair to Pharaoh, rather, it's that God harden's those who harden themselves.
- This is where God tells Moses one of the reasons "why" He's doing this. It's so he will tell the next generations of His mighty deeds.

3 So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. **4** Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory.⁵ And they shall cover the face of the earth, so that no one will be able to see the earth; and they shall eat the residue of what is left, which remains to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field. **6** They shall fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians -- which neither your fathers nor your fathers' fathers have seen, since the day that they were on the earth to this day.'" And he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

- This is quite intense! God is getting right to the heart of the matter, Pharaoh's unwillingness to humble himself because of his pride.
- The Lord is making it very clear, if Pharaoh refuses to let God's people go, these Locusts will be worse than anything ever seen before.
- The damage that these Locusts will do will be unthinkable and unimaginable, all because of Pharaoh's hard hearted and sinful pride.

7 Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?"

- It's interesting; Pharaoh's servants are trying, though in vain, to get through to Pharaoh because of all the destruction and devastation.
- They then question Pharaoh as to whether or not he knows how badly Egypt has been destroyed, implying that he's turning a blind eye.
- It could be said that Pharaoh is bringing all of this on himself and all of Egypt as well. He himself holds the key to stop the plagues.

8 So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to them, "Go, serve the LORD your God. Who are the ones that are going?" **9** And Moses said, "We will go with our young and our old; with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds we will go, for we must hold a feast to the LORD." **10** Then he said to them, "The LORD had better be with you when I let you and your little ones go! Beware, for evil is ahead of you. **11** Not so! Go now, you who are men, and serve the LORD, for that is what you desired." And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

- Once again, Pharaoh wants Moses to compromise by telling him that only the men can go, but not the women and children.
- Notice how Pharaoh couches the compromise in fear and even threats about the evil ahead should the little ones go with them.
- It doesn't seem that Moses and Aaron were able to respond even if they wanted to, because they're driven out of Pharaoh's presence.

- It's also important to note here, how that Pharaoh would once again even offer this compromise. Why won't he just finally acquiesce?
- I think the answer was given to us at Moses and Aaron's first meeting with Pharaoh when they first arrived in Egypt from Midian.
- Pharaoh made the fatal mistake of telling them that he didn't know who their God was. Perhaps he still doesn't know who God is.

As one commentator stated: "Even though the Lord God has made it clear that He is greater than the god *Khnum* (the guardian of the Nile), greater than the god *Hapi* (the spirit of the Nile), greater than the god *Osiris* (who had the Nile as his bloodstream), greater than the goddess *Heqt* (the frog-goddess of fertility), greater than the goddess *Hathor*, (a cow-like mother goddess), greater than the god *Imhotep*, (the god of medicine), greater than *Nut* (the sky goddess), and able to stop the whole worship of the Egyptian gods with loathsome lice and swarms of insects. Yet Pharaoh shows he still does not know the Lord God. Very well, God will show him more!"

12 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land -- all that the hail has left." **13** So Moses stretched out his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind on the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. **14** And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested on all the territory of Egypt. They were very severe; previously there had been no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. **15** For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.

- Whatever was left, they ate, and there were so many of them, that it actually brought darkness from the sun in the middle of the day.
- Just the sound of that many locusts would have been terrifying, and to think that this really happened after all that's already happened.

Locust swarms devastate crops and cause major agricultural damage and attendant human misery—famine and starvation. The desert locust is notorious. Found in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, they inhabit some 60 countries and can cover one-fifth of Earth's land surface. Desert locust plagues may threaten the economic livelihood of one-tenth of the world's humans. A desert locust swarm can be 460 square miles in size and pack between 40 and 80 million locusts into less than half a square mile. Each locust can eat its weight in plants each day, so a swarm of such size would eat 423 million pounds of plants every day. Like the individual animals within them, locust swarms are typically in motion and can cover vast distances. In 1954, a swarm flew from northwest Africa to Great Britain. In 1988, another made the lengthy trek from West Africa to the Caribbean.

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/bugs/locust.html>

“Locusts literally eat up every green thing, and there is no preserving anything from them. God has many ways of punishing men. In this case we wonder at the hardness of heart of those who stood out against such humbling judgment’s he who can with a word bring up countless hosts of devourers is not a God to be trifled with.”

Charles Spurgeon

- It’s also important to know that, once again, this is a blow to another of Egypt’s many gods. The god “Set,” protector of the crops. Oops!

One source says that; “Set was viewed as immensely powerful, and was regarded consequently as the chief god. One of the more common epithets was that he was great of strength, and in one of the Pyramid Texts it states that the king's strength is that of Set. As chief god, he was patron of Lower Egypt, where he was worshipped, most notably at Ombos.”

16 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. 17 Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the LORD your God, that He may take away from me this death only." 18 So he went out from Pharaoh and entreated the LORD. 19 And the LORD turned a very strong west wind, which took the locusts away and blew them into the Red Sea. There remained not one locust in all the territory of Egypt. 20 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go.

- Notice that this time, because of the devastating locusts, Pharaoh moves a little quicker, and probably says he’s sinned a little louder.
- The only problem with him saying this is that, he really doesn’t mean it, and once again God gives him over to his already hard heart.
- It’s interesting that Pharaoh would ask for forgiveness of this one sin this one time, and to have this death only taken away. Amazing!

21 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt." 22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. 23 They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

- This is, as the ninth plague in a set of three, the one without any warning. It would stand to reason that they would see a pattern here.
- This plague is peculiar in the sense that this darkness was no ordinary darkness because it was so dark that it could actually be felt.
- What makes this interesting is that not only is this not natural but supernatural, but it’s also possible that God removed His presence.

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. NIV

- It’s important that we not miss how that it was likely for this very reason that “all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.”
- Even though Egypt was in complete darkness because God had seemingly removed His presence, He never forsook the Israelites.

- Also, notice that this darkness was over the land of Egypt for three days and no one could “rise from his place for those three days,”
- It is very possible, as one suggested in typology, that this could be for us a picture of Christ’s crucifixion and subsequent resurrection.
- In addition to this, the plague of darkness once again deals a heavy blow to another one of Egypt’s many gods, the sun god “Ra.”

“Ra (pronounced Rah) and sometimes as, Rê, is an ancient Egyptian sun god. By the fifth dynasty he became a major deity in ancient Egyptian religion, identified primarily with the mid-day sun, with other deities representing other positions of the sun.”

24 Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, "Go, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be kept back. Let your little ones also go with you." 25 But Moses said, "You must also give us sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God. 26 Our livestock also shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind. For we must take some of them to serve the LORD our God, and even we do not know with what we must serve the LORD until we arrive there."

- It’s almost as if Pharaoh is making his final offer to Moses by telling him to go but that they’ll have to leave the flocks and herds behind.
- One thought is that Pharaoh wants Moses to leave the flocks and herds because all of Egypt’s livestock has been totally destroyed.
- Notice Moses’ response; he’s not asking Pharaoh, he’s telling Pharaoh that all the livestock will go too. This is nonnegotiable.
- One has to wonder how it is even possible that Pharaoh would continue in his obstinacy after all the horror that has happened to him.

27 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. 28 Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! For in the day you see my face you shall die!" 29 So Moses said, "You have spoken well. I will never see your face again."

- Once again, the Lord hardens Pharaoh's already pride hardened heart and he refuses to let the Israelites go with all their livestock.
- What happens now is chilling; Pharaoh tells Moses to get away from him and threatens him that if he sees his face again he will kill him.
- Moses, knowing that God will now strike Egypt's firstborn, tells him that he's actually spoken correctly; he will never see his face again.

Lessons I can learn from Exodus chapter ten:

1. Like with Moses, sometimes God may tell us why He is doing what He is doing, however, we need to be ok with it, when He doesn't.
2. Like with Moses, often times, God will do things in a mighty and majestic way so that we will pass it on and teach the next generations.
3. Like with Pharaoh's hard hearted pride, his ultimate fall will come. So too when we harbor pride in our hearts, we will absolutely fall.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. NIV

4. Like with Pharaoh turning a blind eye to his servants pleading with him, so too are we prone to be blinded by our own pride.

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. NIV

5. Like with Pharaoh offering Moses another compromise; we'll only refuse as Moses did when we know God, because we won't have to.
6. Like with the god "set" not being strong enough to protect the Egyptians; so too will nothing or no one be able to stand against God.
7. Like with Pharaoh asking for forgiveness for just one sin only, often times we too are guilty of confessing only some of our sins.
8. Like with the Egyptians experiencing a thick darkness that could be felt, so too might one feel this darkness when distant from God.
9. Like with the Israelites having light while Egypt was in darkness, so too will the Lord never leave us or forsake us and be with us.
10. Like with Moses telling not asking Pharaoh, we too, in the power of the Holy Spirit, need to stand our ground when it's nonnegotiable.
11. Like with Pharaoh continuing on in his obstinacy after all that's happened, so too can one be so deceived that they never surrender.
12. Like with Pharaoh correctly telling Moses he will never see his face again, there comes a time when God will just bring it to an end.
13. Like with God's message to Pharaoh never changing; God's message to mankind never changes, though the methods may change.
14. Like with God giving Pharaoh many chances, so too does God give us undeserved chances because of His love for Pharaoh's.

What is the reason that God had this many plagues come in this way?

1. It was in order to make Himself known by giving an answer to Pharaoh who said; "Who is the Lord?" (Exodus 5:2).
2. It was so that He could show Himself greater than any one of the many powerless and false gods of Egyptians.
3. It was to show His power and majesty in and through Moses as well as for and to Moses (Exodus 9:16).
4. It was to give a testimony to the children of Israel so they would pass it on to the future generations (Exodus 10:2).
5. It was to judge Egypt's false gods, who were really demons in the Satanic realm (Exodus 12:12, Numbers 33:4).
6. It was to warn other nations many years later, that this is the Lord God of Israel who plagued the Egyptians (1 Samuel 4:8).
7. It was for all generations a great and grand testimony of the goodness of God to Israel (Exodus 15:11, Deuteronomy 4:34).

PHARAOH OFFERS MOSES A COMPROMISE	SATAN OFFERS US A COMPROMISE
1. Go worship the Lord but don't leave Egypt (Exodus 8:25)	1. Go worship the Lord but don't leave the world.
2. Go worship the Lord in the desert but not too far (Exodus 8:28)	2. Go worship the Lord but don't go to the extreme
3. Go worship the Lord but leave the family behind (Exodus 10:8-11)	3. Go worship the Lord but leave the family behind
4. Go worship the Lord but without your money and possessions (Exodus 10:24)	4. Go worship the Lord but not with your money