

6/1/08

**The High Price of Rebellion**

**Ex. 10:1-11:10**

God has poured out seven plagues on Egypt.

1. The Nile River was turned to blood.
2. The land was plagued with frogs.
3. The land was plagued with lice.
4. The land was plagued with flies.
5. The land was plagued with disease.
6. The land was plagued with boils.
7. The land was plagued with hail.

God even separated the Hebrews, to be protected at the plague of flies and yet the heart of Pharaoh remained hardened. Ex. 8:23

The three remaining plagues that we want to focus our study on would bring Egypt to greater destruction, the tenth and final one would crush the Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

- I. The eighth plague of locust. Ex. 10:1-20
- II. The ninth plague of darkness. Ex. 10:21-29
- III. The tenth plague, the death of the firstborn. Ex. 11:1-10

**I. The eighth plague of locust. Ex. 10:1-20**

A. The commission of Moses to go to Pharaoh. vs. 1-7

1. Yahweh commanded Moses to present himself before Pharaoh. vs. 1
  - a. The prophet Moses was only the messenger of God, “Now the LORD said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh.” vs. 1a-b
  - b. The prophet Moses was reminded that Yahweh was in control. vs. 1c-d
    - 1) He had strengthened the Egyptians in their rebelliousness, “For I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his servants.” vs. 1c
      - a) This is the second time God hardened the heart of Pharaoh, the word is “kabad”, means heavy, dull, insensible.
      - b) The first time, God hardened “chazag” Pharaoh’s heart was in the sixth plague of boils, making firm, strong, honoring his choice. Ex. 9:12
    - 2) He gave Moses the reason for hardening their hearts, “that I may show these signs of Mine before him.” vs. 1c-d
  - c. The prophet Moses was told the reason, which was two-fold. vs. 2
    - 1) That the nation of Israel transmit the historical event of their

- miraculous redemption, “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.” vs. 2a-b
- 2) That the nation of Israel understand He was the covenant God, “That you may know that I am the LORD.” vs. 2c
2. The message of Yahweh delivered to Pharaoh was one of reproof. vs. 3
- a. For his arrogant pride, “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?’” vs. 3a-c
- \* This is the third time Pharaoh is reminded Yahweh is the “God of the Hebrews” but the fourth time it appears. Ex. 3:18, 5:3, 7:16, 9:1
- b. For refusing to free the people, “Let My people go, that they may serve Me.” vs. 3d
- \* The message had still not changed!
3. The message of Yahweh gave Pharaoh an ultimatum, a plague of locust. vs. 4-5
- a. The authority is Yahweh, “Or else, if you refuse to let My people go.” vs. 4a-b

- b. The declaration was certain, “Behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory.” vs. 4c
- \* Joel spoke of the locust judgment also and the book of Revelation, as they come out of the bottomless pit, the abusso! Joel 1-2, Rev. 9
4. The message of Yahweh described the extent of the destruction to the land. vs. 5
- a. Their number would be astonishing, “And they shall cover the face of the earth, so that no one will be able to see the earth.” vs. 5a-b
- b. Their destruction would be devastating, “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.” vs. 5c-e
- \* Their ability to wipe out crops is well known. Am. 4:9, Na. 3:15, 16
5. The message of Yahweh declares the extent of discomfort to the people. vs. 6
- a. In all the residences of the Egyptians, “They shall fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians.” vs. 6a-c
- b. In historical uniqueness, “Which neither your fathers nor your fathers’ fathers have seen, since the day that

they were on the earth to this day.” vs. 6d-e

- c. In having delivered the message, Moses dismissed himself, “And he turned and went out from Pharaoh.” vs. 6f

6. The message of Yahweh caused the servants of Pharaoh to plead with him to listen. vs. 7

- a. They had had enough of Moses, “Then Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long shall this man be a snare to us?” vs. 7-b
- b. They told him to release the people, “Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God.” vs. 7c-d
- c. They reproved Pharaoh, “Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?” vs. 7e

B. The summon of Moses and Aaron by Pharaoh. vs. 8-11

- 1. The compromise of Pharaoh was presented. vs. 8
  - a. The proclamation, “So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the LORD your God. “vs. 8a-c
  - b. The question, “Who are the ones that are going?” vs. 8d

2. The refusal of Moses to compromise. vs. 9

- a. The confident declaration, “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.” vs. 9a-d
- b. The confident commitment, “For we must hold a feast to the LORD.” vs. 9e

3. The arrogant warning of Pharaoh. vs. 10-11

- a. He attempted to intimidate Moses, “Then he said to them, “The LORD had better be with you when I let you and your little ones go!” vs. 10a-b
- b. He attempted to threaten Moses, “Beware, for evil is ahead of you.” vs. 10c-d
- c. He attempted to defy Yahweh again, “Not so! Go now, you who are men, and serve the LORD, for that is what you desired.” vs. 11a-d
- d. He attempted to present himself as the one in authority and control, “And they were driven out from Pharaoh’s presence.” vs. 22e

C. The execution of the plague by Moses. vs. 12-15

1. The command from Yahweh came to Moses. vs. 12
  - a. The manner Yahweh used was as other times, “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts.” vs. 12a-b
  - b. The purpose of Yahweh was to bring further judgment, “That they may come upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land--all that the hail has left.” vs. 12c-e
2. The method of Yahweh to bring in the locust is stated. vs. 13
  - a. Moses was the mere instrument, “So Moses stretched out his rod over the land of Egypt.” vs. 13a
  - b. Yahweh was the One executing the judgment, “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.” vs. 13b-d
    - \* Once again, this is a miraculous act of God, not natural phenomena!
3. The confirmation of the prediction is stated. vs. 14
  - a. The land of Egypt was completely affected, “And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested on all the territory of Egypt.” vs. 14a

- b. The uniqueness past or present in view of Egypt’s history, “They were very severe; previously there had been no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them.” vs. 14b-d
  - \* Egypt extends 520 miles N to S in the Delta and about 20 miles wide.
4. The complete devastation is stated. vs. 15
  - a. The intensity of the locust blocked out the sun, “For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened.” vs. 15a-b
  - b. The appetite of the locust devoured all that remained from the hail, “And they ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left.” vs. 15c
  - c. The fulfillment of the locust was confirmed, “So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.” vs. 15d
- D. The summons of Moses and Aaron by Pharaoh again. vs. 16-20
  1. The Pharaoh was desperate to obtain some relief from the locust. vs. 16
    - a. The Pharaoh was besides himself, “Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste.” vs. 16a

- \* The word hast “mahar” means to be anxious and in a hurry.
- b.** The Pharaoh’s confession once again was insincere and only remorseful not repentant, “And said, “I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you.” vs. 16b-c
  - \* But this is the first time he said he had sinned!
- 2.** The request of Pharaoh was insulting. vs. 17
  - a.** He first asked Moses for forgiveness, “Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once.” vs. 17a-b
    - \* He has sinned from the beginning!
  - b.** He asked Moses to make intercession for him, “And entreat the LORD your God, that He may take away from me this death only.” vs. 17c-d
    - \* He was concerned only with the immediate consequences!
- 3.** The gracious response of Moses. vs. 18-20
  - a.** Moses made intercession, knowing Pharaoh’s deceptiveness, “So he went out from Pharaoh and entreated the LORD.” vs. 18
  - b.** Yahweh intervened to give Pharaoh another opportunity to repent. vs. 19
    - 1)** He miraculously used the wind in the opposite direction, “And the

LORD turned a very strong west wind, which took the locusts away and blew them into the Red Sea.”

vs. 19a-b

\* The sun reflecting off the mountains of Edom give a reddish appearance to the ocean, that is why it is called the Red Sea.

**2)** He left not one locust, “There remained not one locust in all the territory of Egypt.” vs. 19c

**c.** Yahweh again respected the will of Pharaoh, “But the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go. vs. 20

\* This is the third time God hardened “Chezaq”, to make strong, rigid, firm, the heart of Pharaoh.

### Illustration

A preacher was once asked to explain the doctrine of election. Sad he, “Brethren, it is this way: The Lord he is always voting for a man, an the Devil he is always voting against him; then the man himself votes, and that breaks the tie!” #5316

### Application

**1.** How important it is for us the believer to communicate to our children our deliverance from the world, Egypt.

- a. I am not talking about dumping all the gory details of our past life, we should use discretion and prudence, in view of their age.
  - b. But I am talking about letting them know in a very clear way that there was a point in time when each of us turned from a life of sin and rebellion against God by the gospel.
  - c. And the essential need of warning our children and not compromising with them but rather exhorting them to abide daily with Jesus, through the study of the word, prayer and fellowship in the church.
  - d. Emphasizing their need of being filled with the Spirit and the word to be victorious through the new nature.
    - \* “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deut. 6:7-9
2. We need to be bold to confront saints that have compromised or are compromising their faith.
- a. The motive is to be love for them.
  - b. The attitude is to be the spirit of meekness and the way I would like to be confronted.

- c. The goal is their restoration and growth in Christ.
    - \* “Open rebuke is better Than love carefully concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” Prov. 27:5-6
3. We need to not feel offended or pout when a brother or sister rejects us for confronting them.
- a. We are to continue to pray for them.
  - b. We are to continue to look for other open door to exhort them.
  - c. Especially those who have throne so much away by many years of compromise.
    - \* “So I will restore to you the years that the swarming **locust** has **eaten**, The crawling **locust**, The consuming **locust**, And the chewing **locust**, My great army which I sent among you.” Joel 2:25

*The eighth plague of locust did not cause the heart of Pharaoh to repent!*

## II. The ninth plague of darkness. Ex. 10:21-29

- A. The command to Moses to bring forth the plague. vs. 21-23
  - 1. The usual manner is used again. vs. 21
    - a. The instrument was Moses, “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven.” vs. 21a-b

- 1) The ninth plague comes without warning, due to the deliberate transgression of Pharaoh, having been warned, as other times.
  - 2) The symbolic gesture towards heavens, from where the judgment would be coming from!
- b.** The intent was to remove all light, “That there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt.” vs. 21c-d
- 1) The sun was one of the gods of the Egyptians “Ra”.
  - 2) The darkness was to be very intense, indicative of being describes as “felt”.
    - \* This darkness was very much a picture of the Pharaoh and the Egyptians spiritual blindness and evil heart!
2. The execution of the plague was described. vs. 22
    - a.** Moses obeyed Yahweh, “So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven.” vs. 22a
    - b.** Yahweh brought it forth, “And there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days.” vs. 22b
  3. The extent of the darkness. vs. 23
    - a.** No one was visible, “They did not see one another.” vs. 23a

- b.** No one moved, “Nor did anyone rise from his place for three days.” vs. 23b
  - c.** Not one of the Hebrews were affected by the darkness, “But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.” vs. 23
- B.** The summons of Moses by Pharaoh. vs. 24-29
1. The next compromise of Pharaoh was declared. vs. 24
    - a.** He gave his permission, “Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, “Go, serve the LORD.” vs. 24a-c
    - b.** He gave a different compromise, “Only let your flocks and your herds be kept back. vs. 24d
      - \* He knew this would guarantee their return!
    - c.** He gave permission for their children, “Let your little ones also go with you.” vs. 24e
  2. The uncompromising stand of Moses was proclaimed. vs. 25-26
    - a.** Moses told Pharaoh they needs provisions for sacrifice, “But Moses said, “You must also give us sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.” vs. 25

- b. Moses told Pharaoh they would take every person and possession. vs. 26
  - 1) Nothing would remain in Egypt, “Our livestock also shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind.” vs. 26a
  - 2) All was for the Lord’s service, “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.” vs. 26b-c
- 3. The Lord honored the rebellion of Pharaoh. vs. 27-29
  - a. Yahweh did not violate the will of Pharaoh, “But the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart.” vs. 27a
    - \* This is the fourth times God hardened “Chezaq”, to make strong, rigid, firm, the heart of Pharaoh.
  - b. Pharaoh became stronger in his disobedience and rebellion, “And he would not let them go. vs. 27b
  - c. Pharaoh manifested the increasing hardness of his heart. vs. 28
    - 1) He insulted Moses by commanding Moses to go out of his presence, “Then Pharaoh said to him, “Get away from me!” vs. 28a-b

- 2) He warned Moses about coming before him again, “Take heed to yourself and see my face no more!” vs. 28c
- 3) He threatened the life of Moses, “For in the day you see my face you shall die!” vs. 28d
- c. Moses confirmed the will of Pharaoh, “And Moses said, “You have spoken well. I will never see your face again.” vs. 29

### Illustration

What shall I do, this side of the tomb, to be lost?  
The answer is NOTHING! #5393

### Application

\* We live in the world but not of the world. The boat belongs in the water but when the water gets in the boat, the boat gets in trouble!

- 1. “The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of **darkness**. Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not **darkness**.” Lk. 11:34-35
- 2. “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved **darkness** rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” Jn. 3:19



3. Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in **darkness**, but have the light of life.”

Jn. 8:12

4. “The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of **darkness**, and let us put on the armor of light.” Rom.13:1

5. “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with **darkness**?” 2Cor. 6:14

6. “For you were once **darkness**, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.” Eph 5:8

7. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of **darkness**, but rather expose them.” Eph 5:11

8. “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the **darkness** of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Eph 6:12

9. “He has delivered us from the power of **darkness** and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.” Col 1:13

10. “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no **darkness** at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in **darkness**, we lie and do not practice the truth.” 1Jn. 1:5-6

11. “Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the **darkness** is passing away, and the true light is already shining.” 1Jn. 2:8

*The ninth plague of darkness did not cause the heart of Pharaoh to repent!*

### III. The tenth plague, the death of the firstborn. Ex. 11:1-10

A. The proclamation of Yahweh to Moses prior to the last plague. vs. 1-3

1. The entire section is parenthetical about what God had told Moses previously. vs. 1-3

a. We must not think that Moses left the presence of Pharaoh in verse 29 of chapter 10, he doesn't leave until the end of verse eight of chapter eleven.

b. Moses still has one more message for Pharaoh, after the ninth plague of darkness, which is the tenth plague, the death of the first born. vs. 4-8

2. Yahweh had spoken this to Moses before he had been summoned by Pharaoh, regarding the ninth plague. vs. 1

a. The majority of scholars believe the better translation is “And the LORD **“had”** said to Moses. vs. 1a

- b. The message was the last one, “I will bring yet one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt.” vs. 1b  
\* God had told Moses He would slay the first born when He called Moses. Ex. 4:23
  - c. The outcome would be their exodus, being thrust out by Pharaoh himself, “Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets *you* go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether.” vs. 1c-e
3. Yahweh had considered the poverty of his people. vs. 2  
\* God had also told this to Moses at his commission. Ex. 3:21-22
- a. Yahweh would recompense them for back-wages, “Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her neighbor.” vs. 2a-b
    - 1) They had not been paid for their work.
    - 2) They were to ask, not as if they were borrowing but to keep them for their own.
  - b. Yahweh would bring them out wealthy, “Articles of silver and articles of gold.” vs. 2c
    - 1) They would need these commodities to buy from others.

- 2) Yahweh would require many of these articles for the building of the tabernacle,
4. Yahweh was the One responsible for the change of heart of the Egyptians. vs. 3
- a. He was gracious to the Hebrews, “And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians.” vs. 3a
  - b. He had caused Moses to be highly respected, “Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants and in the sight of the people.” vs. 3b
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- B. The proclamation of Moses to Pharaoh after the ninth plague. vs. 4-8
- 1. Moses delivered his last message to Pharaoh, announcing the death of the firstborn. vs. 4-5
    - a. The authority remains the same, Yahweh’s, “Then Moses said, “Thus says the LORD.” vs. 4a-b
    - b. The final blow would be on the firstborn, who belonged to the gods of Egypt, “About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die.” vs. 4c-5a
    - c. The extent would be of all living things, “From the firstborn of Pharaoh

- who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals.” vs. 5b-d
2. Moses described the great grief over the death of the firstborn. vs. 6-7
    - a. It would be one of a kind, “Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again.” vs. 6
    - b. It would not touch the Hebrews, “But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast.” vs. 7a-b
    - c. It would be for instructing the Egyptians, “That you may know that the LORD does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.” vs. 7c
  3. Moses declared to Pharaoh the exodus of the Hebrews. vs. 8
    - a. The Egyptians would do obeisance to Moses, “And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me.” vs. 8a
    - b. The Egyptians would beg Moses to leave Egypt, “Saying, ‘Get out, and all the people who follow you! After that I will go out.’” vs. 8b-e

- c. The prophet Moses made his exit enraged, “Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.” vs. 8f
    - 1) Due to the arrogant pride of Pharaoh.
    - 2) Moses was affirming the declaration of Pharaoh that he would not see his face again, he would have to prepare to meet Yahweh! Ex. 10:29
- C. The proclamation of Yahweh to Moses about the last plague. vs. 9-10
1. The Pharaoh would not obey. vs. 9
    - a. Yahweh knew Pharaoh’s heart, “But the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not heed you.” vs. 9a-b
    - b. Yahweh gave the reason, “So that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.” vs. 9c
      - \* This does not mean that God forced or violated Pharaoh’s will but only that He used the ongoing rebellion of Pharaoh, to glorify Himself!
  2. The summary statement of two brothers were the instruments of Yahweh . vs. 10
    - a. The instruments of Yahweh, “So Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh.” vs. 10a
    - b. The unceasing rebellion of Pharaoh before Yahweh, “And the LORD

hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go out of his land." vs. 10b-c

- 1) This is the fifth time stated that God hardened the heart of Pharaoh. vs. 10b
  - a) Three times "chazaq", to strengthen or make firm, honoring his choice. Ex. 9:12, 10:20, 27
  - b) One time "kabad" meaning heavy, dull, insensible. Ex. 10:1
- 2) The word "chezeq" appears in relation to Pharaoh eleven times, meaning firm, rigid, strong, some times by his own doing and at other times by God, respecting his obstinate and rebellious position. Ex. 4:21, 7:13, 22, 8:19, 9:12, 35, 10:20, 27, 11:10, 14:4, 8
  - \* The context will reveal one or the other.

### Illustration

He who provides for this life, but takes no care for eternity, is wise for a moment, but a fool forever."

**Tellotson #5393**

### Application

1. The Bible gives a strong warning, as God disciplined some Christians for their carnal life-style and partaking the Lord's supper. 1Cor. 11:30

- a. He has struck some with illness. vs. 30a
  - b. Other He struck dead. vs. 30b
2. John warns about sin that is unto death.
- \* "If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to **death**, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to **death**. There is sin leading to **death**. I do not say that he should pray about that. 1Jn. 5:16
- a. The resulting consequences is repeated for emphasis "not leading to death" and "leading to death".
  - b. The context is spiritual death, not physical, it is written against the Gnostics and those deceived.
  - c. The text describes the very same person and action all three time, calling him a brother.
  - d. The repetition is to insure that there is no mistake as to the person and the manner of sin being discussed.
  - c. This is not some particular sin or trespass nor backsliding but a crossing of the line, in which prayer will not avail at all.
  - d. The reference is to spiritual death, which is eternal death, the second death. Rev. 21:8
  - e. This then must regard a believer, even as Yahweh told Jeremiah three times not to pray for the people of God any longer. Jer. 7:16, 11:14, 14:11
3. The non-believer is under the wrath of God, being separated by his sin.

- a. For the **wages** of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Rom. 6:23
- b. “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the **wrath** of God abides on him.” Jn. 3:36
- c. “Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. “Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. But if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.”  
Lk. 12:43-48

### **Conclusion**

These are the last three plagues Yahweh brought on Pharaoh and Egypt to no avail.

- I. The eighth plague of locust did not cause the heart of Pharaoh to repent!
- II. The ninth plague of darkness did not cause the heart of Pharaoh to repent!
- III. The tenth plague, the death of the firstborn did not cause the heart of Pharaoh to repent!

*The tenth plague, the death of the firstborn did not cause the heart of Pharaoh to repent!*