

Exodus 10

6-4-17

Sunday Morning

1. There are 4000 years of human history before Christ's day.
2. A lot of things happened in 4000 years, but certain things are recorded.
1 Corinthians 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Review: God is showing Egypt, Israel & the world that the gods of Egypt are worthless!

1. The first plague turned **Nile river & water reserves** into blood
2. Then there was the **plague of frogs** that entered houses & kitchens, ovens, kitchen cabinets, utensils, bathtubs, closets, bedrooms, beds
3. Then the plague of **gnats** that "covered" animals & people
4. Then the unidentified **swarms** that moved as one thru the land (Scarab beetle)
 - a. Pharaoh now tries to compromise w/ Moses – "stay in the land & worship God"
 - i. Satan says to us, "Don't be a fanatic – worship God but keep it to yourself."
 - b. Pharaoh offers to let the people go if they won't go very far away
 - i. That is similar to someone saying that they have a relationship w/ God but don't take it into the workplace
5. Then God sent a disease that killed the cattle of Egypt that were in the field
 - a. This crippled the wealth of Egypt
 - i. Pharaoh shows no wisdom in dealing w/ Israelites – b/c he has no fear of God at this point
Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
6. Then God sent the plague of boils on all the Egyptians & their animals
 - a. They couldn't even stand before Moses & Aaron b/c of the boils
 - b. They couldn't worship their gods b/c of boils
7. Then God sent hail mixed w/ lightening & fire & thunder
 - a. The hail destroyed every man & animal caught out in the fields
 - b. Pharaoh confessed – "I have sinned this time"

- c. Pharaoh repented – he was truly sorry – that all this had happened
 - i. We saw that Scripture divides sorrow for sin & repentance into 2 categories
 - ii. Best seen in **2 Cor.7:10**
2 Corinthians 7:10 For the sorrow that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.
 - iii. There is a sorrow/repentance that draws you closer to God
 - iv. There is a sorrow/repentance that leads to death – (Judas Iscariot)
8. We saw last week that Moses was learning something that comes w/ maturity – **go backwards w/ God** (it happens in short term only)
9. A description of the devastation after the hail storm is given to us **V.25**

Ex.9:25 And the hail struck all that was in the field through all the land of Egypt, both man and beast; the hail also struck every plant of the field and shattered every tree of the field.

26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the sons of Israel were, there was no hail.

V.31 (Now the flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud.

V.32 But the wheat and the spelt were not ruined, for they ripen late.)

1. “the flax &...barley were ruined...the wheat &...spelt were not ruined”
 - a. “Spelt” is a wild wheat which is inferior domestic wheat
 - i. It was planted around the perimeter of domestic wheat to retard weeds from growing into their wheat crop
 - b. This tells us that the hailstorm was in either January or February

V.33 So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread out his hands to the LORD; and the thunder and the hail ceased, and rain no longer poured on the earth.

V.34 But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he and his servants.

V.35 And Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not let the sons of Israel

go, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses.

1. "he sinned again & hardened his heart...Pharaoh's heart was hardened"
 - a. Depending on how you count them 13 times Scripture mentions that Pharaoh's heart was hardened
 - b. Some of those it is hard to tell if God did it or Pharaoh did it
 - c. But the question begs an answer – did God make Pharaoh sin?
 - i. Paul makes a statement that is hard to understand until you let Scripture explain Scripture

Romans 9:15(ESV) For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will (no one wills it) or exertion (no one has the strength), **but on God, who has mercy.**

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up (made him Pharaoh), that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

¹⁸ **So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.**

- ii. Did God make Pharaoh sin? No!

d. **Four** things Scripture says about God & sin

- i. **#1.** God doesn't make anyone sin

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

- ii. **#2.** But God doesn't allow a man to sin w/out a price

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. (someone has to pay for sin)

#3. (NP)

- iii. **#3.** God will go for a long time w/out judging sin but

judgment is sure

Ecclesiastes 8:11 Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.

¹² Although a sinner does evil a hundred *times* and may lengthen his *life*, **still** I know that it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly.

¹³ **But** it will not be well for the evil man and he will not lengthen his days like a shadow, **because** he does **not** fear God.

iv. **#4.** God is patient b/c He wants all to turn to Him

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Psalm 86:15 But Thou, O Lord, art a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

Romans 2:4 (NLT) Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

1 Timothy 2:3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Ezekiel 18:23 (NIV) Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD.

Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?

10:1 (NP)

Ex.10:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may perform these signs of Mine among them,

1. "I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants"
 - a. We know that Pharaoh and his servants have had ample opportunity to trust God but have refused – so God is hardening their hearts
2. "I may perform these signs"
 - a. Nothing is **so big** or **so bad** that God can't use it for His good

V.2 and that you may tell in the hearing of your son, and of your grandson, how I made a mockery of the Egyptians and how I performed My signs among them, that you may know that I am the LORD."

V.3 Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

V.4 'For if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory.

V.5 'They shall cover the surface of the land, so that no one will be able to see the land. *They will also eat the rest of what has escaped—what is left to you from the hail*—and they will eat every tree which sprouts for you out of the field.

1. "They will also eat...what is left to you from the hail"
 - a. We don't know how long between the hail & the locusts

V.6 'Then *your houses shall be filled and the houses of all your servants and the houses of all the Egyptians*, something which neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen, from the day that they came upon the earth until this day.'" And he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

1. "your houses...filled...houses of...servants...houses...all...Egyptians"
 - a. A locust swarm in Kenya in 1954 was estimated to cover more than 77 square miles.
 - i. The swarm blocked out the sun & turned the day to night
 - b. A 40-square-mile swarm of the migratory grasshoppers is considered moderate size, but swarms 10 times that size have been reported in previous infestations. By Brader's reckoning, a sun-blackening 60-square-mile swarm of locusts weighs 10,000 tons, a biological mass equivalent to the weight of a good-sized ocean freighter.
 - c. In a "desert locust" plague in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia that lasted from 1966 to 1969, the area covered 1,900 sq mi
 - d. In 1988, another plague went all the way from West Africa to the

Caribbean. These swarms are so vast they can literally block out the sunlight, and those caught within them may have trouble breathing.

- i. This is how it was reported by Los Angeles Times: April 24, 1988
 "Already, 25,000 square miles--about the size of West Virginia--have been invaded by the winged desert locusts, who consume their weight in vegetation each day--200 tons per square mile."

- e. This plague would have made those plagues look like a walk in the park
 - i. There wouldn't have been anything left to eat but locust themselves
- f. God is giving Pharaoh plenty of warning
 - i. Pharaoh is w/out excuse

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

V.8 So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh, and he said to them, "Go, serve the LORD your God! Who are the ones that are going?"

V.9 Moses said, "We shall go with our young and our old; with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds we shall go, for we must hold a feast to the LORD."

V.10 Then he said to them, "Thus may the LORD be with you, if ever I let you and your little ones go! Take heed, for evil is in your mind.

V.11 "Not so! Go now, the men among you, and serve the LORD, for that is what you desire." So they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

- 1. "Go now, **the men** among you, and serve the LORD"
 - a. What Pharaoh said was that the men could go but not their children
 - b. That is exactly what has happened to our society
 - c. Look at our institutes of higher learning – what are they teaching?
 - i. I think the day will come when you will really have to consider if you want your children to go to a university or not
 - ii. It should be a no brainer – but it isn't

- iii. What young people are taught more & more in secular universities & many denominational schools is a slanted look at social issues.
 - iv. There has never been a time in history such as the last 50 years
 - v. We have lived in a state of opulence like humanity has never seen
 - vi. We are insulated from the hardships of life – even the temperature (our environment) remains constant
 - vii. Creature comforts have overtaken those of the modern world until the young, born in this time frame, have no idea what sacrificing is.
 - viii. Many of them leave school w/ no skills to contribute to humanity
 - ix. Many of them see no value in our jurisprudence (system of & science of law) b/c of a slanted, illogical look at things
 - x. Many have no respect for authority – the reason for riots on campuses
 - xi. Very few know any world history
 - xii. Do you ever wonder why?
 - 1. Their parents took a timeout from raising kids b/c the world called out to the parents & said that it would watch out for the children, you go make a living.
 - xiii. Parents quit raising their children & left it to the professionals
 - xiv. When you let your garden grow up w/out care you get weeds –
 - 1. When you assume that your kids will learn on their own you get monsters!
- d. We have been charged w/ raising our own children –
 - i. This is a big deal to God – look back at the verses we just read

Ex.10:1 (NP)

Exodus 10:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may perform these signs of Mine among them,

² and that you may tell in the hearing of your

son, and of your grandson, how I made a mockery of the Egyptians and how I performed My signs among them, that you may know that I am the LORD."

- ii. How many dads have forfeited being the spiritual leader God called them to be!
- iii. There is an accountability for every husband & father for the job done as spiritual leader
 - 1. Men are to teach their children to be not just men & women but spiritual men & women!
- iv. If it is too late for you to have the impact you should have – you can still pray!

V.12 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up on the land of Egypt and eat every plant of the land, even all that the hail has left."

V.13 So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the LORD directed an east wind on the land all that day and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts.

V.14 The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled in all the territory of Egypt; they were very numerous. There had never been so many locusts, nor would there be so many again.

V.15 For they covered the surface of the whole land, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every plant of the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Thus nothing green was left on tree or plant of the field through all the land of Egypt.

V.16 Then Pharaoh hurriedly called for Moses and Aaron, and he said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you.

V.17 "Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and make supplication to the LORD your God, that He would only remove this death from me."

V.18 (NP)

V.18 He went out from Pharaoh and made supplication to the LORD.

V.19 So the LORD shifted the wind to a very strong west wind which took up the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea; not one locust was left in all the territory of Egypt.

V.20 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the sons of

Israel go.

1. "the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart"
 - a. There is nothing more terrible, more fearful, more hopeless than for God to become your Enemy
 - b. When He does become a man's Enemy **V.21** describes what happens

V.21 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even a darkness which may be felt."

V.22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days.

1. "there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt"
 - a. There is a thick darkness in our land also
 - b. If the daylight is darkness – it is really dark in the night
 - i. That is where we are b/c of our leadership as a nation
Psalm 82:2(NLT) "How long will you hand down unjust decisions by favoring the wicked?
³ "Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute.
⁴ Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people.
⁵ But these oppressors know nothing; they are so ignorant! They wander about in darkness, while the whole world is shaken to the core.

- c. This was a supernatural darkness **V.23**

V.23 They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the sons of Israel had light in their dwellings.

V.24 Then Pharaoh called to Moses, and said, "Go, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be detained. Even your little ones may go with you."

1. "Go, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be detained"
 - a. The world will tell you it is OK to be sort of religious – just don't invest in the future w/ your material goods
 - b. You need to make all you can – that is the American way!
 - i. God's way is always different than the world's thinking
 - ii. Where are you laying up treasure?

iii. It is one of two places

Matthew 6:19 " Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

²⁰ "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

²¹ for where your treasure is, **there** will your heart be also.

V.25 But Moses said, "You must also let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice them to the LORD our God.

V.26 "Therefore, our livestock too shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind, for we shall take some of them to serve the LORD our God. And until we arrive there, we ourselves do not know with what we shall serve the LORD."

V.27 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go.

V.28 Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Beware, do not see my face again, for in the day you see my face you shall die!"

V.29 Moses said, "You are right; I shall never see your face again!"

