

**Exodus**  
**May 6, 2007**  
**Chapter 10**

**I. Importance of the Plagues**

**Ex 10:1-2**

**10:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them 2 that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the LORD." NIV**

Basically, the plague signs are for the Israelites not for the Egyptians. Even though the Egyptians see them, they do not understand them. God could have delivered the Israelites much easier and more directly. However, He chose to do it this way in order to show His power. The deliverance from Egypt is recounted numerous times in the Bible.

**II. Forecast of Plague #8: Locusts**

**Ex 10:3-6**

**3 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, "This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, so that they may worship me. 4 If you refuse to let them go, I will bring locusts into your country tomorrow. 5 They will cover the face of the ground so that it cannot be seen. They will devour what little you have left after the hail, including every tree that is growing in your fields. 6 They will fill your houses and those of all your officials and all the Egyptians — something neither your fathers nor your forefathers have ever seen from the day they settled in this land till now.'" Then Moses turned and left Pharaoh. NIV**

Verse 4      Locust swarms were the most dreaded plague in the ancient world. They could cover hundreds of square miles, and this one was the biggest swarm ever. One locust could eat its weight in food every day.

Verse 4      Notice that Pharaoh refuses to be humbled.

Verse 5      Remember the hail had destroyed some crops, but not others. The rest of their crops will be wiped out by this plague.

Verse 5      "Face of the ground" is literally the "eye of the earth."

Verse 6      This is the first of two times that we see Moses turning his back on Pharaoh. Perhaps previously, Pharaoh dismissed him. This is another indication that Moses is winning the battle.

### **III. Bickering (or Let's Watch Pharaoh Falling Apart!)**

**Ex 10:7-12**

**7 Pharaoh's officials said to him, "How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the people go, so that they may worship the LORD their God. Do you not yet realize that Egypt is ruined?"**

**8 Then Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. "Go, worship the LORD your God," he said. "But just who will be going?"**

**9 Moses answered, "We will go with our young and old, with our sons and daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we are to celebrate a festival to the LORD."**

**10 Pharaoh said, "The LORD be with you — if I let you go, along with your women and children! Clearly you are bent on evil. 11 No! Have only the men go; and worship the LORD, since that's what you have been asking for." Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh's presence.**

**12 And the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over Egypt so that locusts will swarm over the land and devour everything growing in the fields, everything left by the hail." NIV**

- Verse 7      The officials continue to weaken. The fact that the Egyptians worshipped many gods would have allowed them to include the LORD as a god. Given that the god-man had not been able to take control, some of them had to be thinking about Pharaoh's weakness relative to the other gods and especially to the LORD.
- Verse 11     The plagues are making an impact. For the first time, Pharaoh gives in to his officials and to Moses, at least a little. Of course, he is unwilling to let all the people go. Why does not he let the women and children go?
- Verse 11     Notice that Pharaoh does not let Moses turn his back on him a second time!

This section shows how Pharaoh's position is deteriorating. It also shows what a petty man that he is. He is proud and refuses to be humbled.

### **IV. Plague #8**

**Ex 10:13-20**

**13 So Moses stretched out his staff over Egypt, and the LORD made an east wind blow across the land all that day and all that night. By morning the wind had brought the locusts; 14 they invaded all Egypt and settled down in every area of the country in great numbers. Never before had there been such a plague of locusts, nor will there ever be again. 15 They covered all the ground until it was black. They devoured all that was left after the hail — everything growing in the fields and the fruit on the trees. Nothing green remained on tree or plant in all the land of Egypt.**

**16 Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. 17 Now forgive my sin once more and pray to the LORD your God to take this deadly plague away from me."**

**18 Moses then left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD. 19 And the LORD changed the wind to a very strong west wind, which caught up the locusts and carried them into the Red Sea. Not a locust was left anywhere in Egypt. 20 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go. NIV**

Verse 13 Moses only stretches his staff over a small portion of Egypt, but this is symbolic that all of Egypt will be affected. We do not know if the locusts attacked Goshen, but even if the Israelites had their crops destroyed, they were leaving shortly anyway.

Verse 16 Do you think that Pharaoh is really repentant this time? Why?

Verse 17 "Deadly plague" shows that Pharaoh sees Egypt dying before his very eyes.

Verse 18 Apparently Moses prayed for the plague to stop and for Pharaoh. Given the omniscience of God, why does the LORD wait for Moses to pray to Him to end the plague?

## **V. Plague #9: Darkness**

**Ex 10:21-27**

**21 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness will spread over Egypt — darkness that can be felt." 22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. 23 No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.**

**24 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the LORD. Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind."**

**25 But Moses said, "You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the LORD our God. 26 Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind. We have to use some of them in worshiping the LORD our God, and until we get there we will not know what we are to use to worship the LORD."**

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

Verse 21 "Darkness" was what the ancients dreaded the most. Think about how many Bible verses talk about light and darkness where darkness is symbolic for evil. Other religions of the ancient world tended to emulate the wisdom of the Bible in regards to light and darkness.

Verse 21 Since darkness could not be felt, this probably meant that one had to feel in the darkness to get around because it was so widespread. In total darkness, there is no light.

- Verse 24 Pharaoh relents again. Who could possibly believe that he is sincere?
- Verse 24 Pharaoh is clearly still concerned that he will lose the Israelites altogether. With all the problems in Egypt, Pharaoh was probably worrying he would be overthrown. If he loses the Israelite along with all the food that had already been destroyed, he probably felt that he would lose his kingdom.
- Verse 26 Moses' explanation probably sounded like a lie, but as odd as the explanation was, it is not a lie. The specifics of the sacrificial system were reviewed in the wilderness. They would not need all the animals, but they did not know which ones that they would need.

## **VI. More Bickering**

**Ex 10:28-29**

**28 Pharaoh said to Moses, "Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die."**

**29 "Just as you say," Moses replied, "I will never appear before you again." NIV**

- Verse 28 Given that Pharaoh's heart is hardening yet once again, the light has probably returned. Otherwise, he would probably still be begging Moses to end the darkness.
- Verse 28 Pharaoh has had enough of Moses. Can anyone doubt that Pharaoh would kill Moses? Surprisingly, Pharaoh has not already killed him.
- Verse 29 However, Moses does not leave Pharaoh's presence immediately as they are still bickering in the next chapter.