

Moses—Exodus 10

Plagues of Locusts and Darkness

I. Additional Scriptures...

1. 10:1-2—Purpose of Hardening of Pharaoh’s heart... Ex 3:20, Ex 7:4, Ex 9:16, Ex 14:17, Ex 14:18, Ex 15:14, Ex 15:15; Josh 2:9-10; 4:23-24; 1Sa 4:8; Rom 9:17.
2. **Locusts:** The word arbeh, Locust, is derived from ravah, to multiply, be numerous, etc., because they are more prolific than any other insect, and because of the immense swarms of them by which different countries, especially the East, are infested. The locust, in entomology, belongs to a genus of insects known among naturalists by the name of Grylli; which includes three species, crickets, grasshoppers, and locusts. The common great brown locust is about three inches in length; has two antennae about an inch long, and two pair of wings. The head and horns are brown; the mouth and inside of the larger legs bluish; the upper side of the body and upper wings brown, the former spotted with black, and the latter with dusky spots. The back is defended by a shield of a greenish hue. the under wings are of a light brown, tintured with green, and nearly transparent. It has a large open mouth, in the two jaws of which it has four teeth, which traverse each other like scissors, being calculated, from their mechanism, to gripe or cut. The general appearance of the insect is that of the grasshopper. The Egyptians had gods in whom they trusted to deliver them from these terrible invaders; but by this judgment they were taught that it was impossible to stand before Moses, the servant of Jehovah. (Prov 30:27; Joel 1:4-7; 2:2-11, 25; Rev 9:3. [from TSK].
3. **East wind:** Ex 14:21; Gen 41:6; Psa 78:26; 107:25-28; 148:8; Jn 1:4; 4:8; Mat 8:27.
4. 10:21--**Darkness:** As the Egyptians not only worshipped the light and sun, but also paid the same veneration to night and darkness, nothing could be more terrible than this punishment of palpable and coercive darkness, such as their luminary Osiris could not dispel (Prov 4:19; Eccl 2:14; 2 Pet 2:17; [from TSK].
5. 10:28—Another prophet of God was treated in a similar way (Amos 7:13).

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Egyptian Bondage.**

III. Summary.

God sends Moses back to Pharaoh once again. We have another instance of God hardening the heart of Pharaoh and a very clear statement of the purpose of that hardening. It is being done so that this generation of the children of Israel may be able to tell the generations following about the SIGNS which God was doing in Egypt, with the ultimate purpose being that they would know that God is Lord. This time when Moses and Aaron come before Pharaoh they ask how long he will refuse to HUMBLE himself. This lack of humility before God is the major problem of mankind in every place and time and is Pharaoh’s problem as well. Pharaoh is warned about a coming plague of locusts is he does not humble himself. It would be such an invasion of locusts as had never been seen before. Pharaoh’s servants begin to question Pharaoh: “Knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?” (v. 7).

Pharaoh calls Moses and Aaron back to him and offers a compromise proposal. He will allow only the men to go to do sacrifice to their God. Moses was not willing to compromise because

he had a message from God and it could not be changed. His answer to Pharaoh was: “We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go...” (v. 9).

The plague of locusts came upon Egypt and the earth was darkened by the presence of so many locusts. The devastation they caused was to the extent that there was nothing green left in Egypt. As a result, Pharaoh calls for Moses and Aaron and says, “I have sinned” (v. 16). He asked to be forgiven and that God would take away the plague. Moses petitioned the Lord and the Lord caused a mighty west wind to take away the locusts to the point that there was not even one locust remaining within the borders of Egypt. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart and he refused to let the children of Israel go.

Next comes the plague of thick darkness over the land of Egypt. The Egyptians could not see one another and they did not rise from their place for three days, but all of the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. This caused another compromise proposal to be issued by Pharaoh. He said he would allow all of the people to go worship, but they must leave their flocks and herds behind. Moses’ response was: “There shall not an hoof be left behind” (v. 26). Still Pharaoh would not let the people go. Pharaoh tells Moses to leave and if he comes back again he will die.

IV. Outline.

1. The coming plague of the locusts is revealed to Pharaoh (Ex 10:1-6).
2. Pharaoh’s servants ask him to let the people go (Ex 10:7).
3. Pharaoh offers a compromise (Ex 10:8-11).
4. Locusts cover the land (Ex 10:12-15).
5. Pharaoh acknowledges sin and asks relief and relief is granted (Ex 10:16-20).
6. The plague of thick darkness in Egypt (Ex 10:21-23).
7. Pharaoh offers another compromise and it, too, is rejected (Ex 10:24-26).
8. Pharaoh’s heart is hardened, he warns Moses not to come to him again (Ex 10: 27-29).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ Moses receives a threat on his life in this chapter.
02. _____ God’s people are called HEBREWS in this chapter.
03. _____ The plague of darkness did not affect the children of Israel.
04. _____ It was with a west wind that the locusts were brought to plague the Egyptians.
05. _____ Pharaoh said, “I have sinned.”

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ Moses told Pharaoh that not one of these would be left behind: (a) camel; (b) hoof; (c) person.
07. _____ This is what Moses told Pharaoh the locusts would eat: (a) the residue; (b) the corn; (c) the dead animals.
08. _____ A unique feature of the plague of darkness is that it was darkness which could be: (a) enlightening; (b) devouring; (c) felt.
09. _____ “How long shall this man be a snare...” was said by: (a) Pharaoh; (b) Aaron; (c) Pharaoh’s servants.
10. _____ Pharaoh told Moses, “...in that day thou seest my face thou shalt surely _____”:
(a) be saddened; (b) die; (c) regret it.

Fill in the Blanks

11. Locusts covered the face of the land of Egypt until the land was _____.
12. Through Moses and Aaron, God said unto Pharaoh: “How long wilt thou refuse to _____ thyself before me?”
13. God used a _____ wind to remove the plague of the locusts.
14. “Knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?” was said by _____.
15. “And that thou mayest _____ in the _____ of thy son, and of thy son’s son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; that ye may _____ how that I am the _____.”

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

ANSWERS to Lesson 01-56 ... [01—False, Ex 8:28; 02—True, Ex 8:3; 03—False, Ex 8:22; 04—False, Ex 8:7; 05—False, Ex 8:18; 06—Pharaoh, Ex 8:25; 07—frogs, Ex 8:3; 08—Pharaoh’s magicians, Ex 8:19; 09—Moses, Ex 8:10; 10—Aaron, Ex 8:17; 11—three, sacrifice, Ex 8:27; 12—sever, Ex 8:22; 13—gods, Egypt, judgment, 12, 12; 14—none, interpret, Genesis; 15—respite, hardened, heart, Ex 8:15.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **that ye may know how that I am the Lord** (Ex 10:2). Here is another affirmation of the reason for the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart. It would pile evidence upon evidence of the POWER of God as these plagues continue to humble the mighty king of Egypt. This would be something that the children of Israel would tell and re-tell to their offspring as an encouragement toward faithfulness to the Lord. At the very beginning of the development of the nation of Israel, it is important for the people to know and understand the lordship of Jehovah!
2. **let the men go that they may serve the Lord their God...** (Ex 10:7). Apparently, the people of Egypt are quicker to understand their position in fighting against God than is their king. We are often amazed at people who have heard over and over appeals for them to obey the gospel and who continue to refuse, even having heard many sermons which clearly taught them the plan of salvation. This is an extremely dangerous position to occupy because of the principle of 1 Timothy 4:2. A person can rebel so long that the conscience become seared.
3. **Not so, go now ye that are men...** (Ex 10:11). And now for a third time (cf., Ex 9:25; 9:28), and later in the same chapter, a fourth (Ex 10:24), Pharaoh seeks to get Moses and Aaron to strike up a compromise. Such could not, should not, and would not take place (Ex 10:26)! It is never wise to begin compromising with evil. Today we have the Bible as our guide and we have no authority to change any part of it by compromise (Deut 4:2; Prov 30:6; Rev 22:18-19). Moses serves as a great example to us in refusing to compromise.
4. **...I have sinned against the Lord your God...** (Ex 10:16). Anytime we have refused to do that which the Lord has commanded, we ought to make this confession!
5. **...even darkness which may be felt** (Ex 10:21). This refers to a literal darkness, but the Bible often pictures the condition of being lost with the figure of darkness. The wonderful good news that we have to proclaim to others is that Jesus is the Light (Mat 4:16), and as His disciples we are to reflect that light to a world lost in the DARKNESS of sin (Mat 5:14-16).

6. ...Thou hast spoken well... (Ex 10:29). For once, Pharaoh had actually spoken the truth and what he said would match reality.

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

Q A Z X S O V E R T H E L A N D W E D C
V F R T I E D C V F R T G B N H Y U J M
K I U Y S H N B G T R F V C D E W Q A Z
X C V B R N M L K J H G F D S A Q S W E
R F V H A D L I G H T B N M Y H T E G R
F V E C E D E W S X Z A Q W S X C S D E
R F V S L B G T Y H N M J U I K L O O I
K M J U O Y H H N B G W T R S F V M C D
E D C X S R W Q A Z O X S W Y E D C V F
R F V T B G R T G T Y H N M A Q A Z X S
D W E H D C V E R F V B G T D G B N H Y
U A J I M K U J H T G B V F E R E D C X
S W R C Q A Z X S T W E D C E V F R T G
B N H K Y U J N D V I C D E R R F V B G
T Y H N N M A Z X C V E B N H M N B V C
C Z A Q F E L T W S A W N O T S X C D E
R F V B G T S Y H N M J U I K L T G B V
F E D C X S W S X C V B N M K J H G F D
S D F G H J U Y T R E W Q A E G Y P T Z
C V B N M J U Y H G F D E R T B V C X S

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

Exodus 10:21-23... And the LORD said unto Moses, **Stretch** out thine hand **toward heaven**, that there may be **darkness over the land** of **Egypt**, even darkness *which* may be **felt**. ²²And **Moses** stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a **thick** darkness in all the land of Egypt **three days**: ²³They **saw not** one another, **neither rose** any from his place for three days: but all the children of **Israel had light** in their dwellings.