## EXODUS Lesson 10

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*Memory verses for this week:* Ecc 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the wholematter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. Ecc 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

**Introduction:** In last week's lesson, we studied about the fifth, sixth, and seventh plagues. As you recall, the fifth plague was the murrain on the livestock, the sixth was the boils on man and beast, and the seventh was the grievous hail. This week in chapter 10, we cover the eighth and ninth plagues beginning with the plague of the locusts.

### I. The Eighth Plague - Locusts

- **Exo 10:1** And the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I might shew these my signs before him:
- *Exo 10:2* And that thou mayest tell in the ears 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 know how that I am the LORD.
- Exo 10:3 And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.

Moses and Aaron go again before Pharaoh. God warns Moses that he had hardened both Pharaoh and his servants hearts. Moses was instructed to go and we see his immediate obedience. All of this was in the perfect plan of God for the nation of Israel and for Egypt also.

In verse 2, God tells Moses that Pharaoh will ultimately know that God is the Lord. He then explains His purpose for Moses' offspring. They will know all the things God wrought in Egypt and the signs which were done. (See 12:26-27; 13:8, 14, 15 for more explanation.) Pharaoh is informed of God's unchanging purpose there in verse 3. Pharaoh needed to learn humility, but this was hard for him.

*Exo* 10:4 *Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to morrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast:* 

*Exo 10:5* And they shall cover the face of the earth, that one cannot be able to see the earth: and they shall eat the residue of that which is escaped, which remaineth unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which groweth for you out of the field:

- Exo 10:6 And they shall fill thy houses, and the houses of all thy servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians; which neither thy fathers, nor thy fathers' fathers have seen, since the day that they were upon the earth unto this day. And he turned himself, and went out from Pharaoh.
- Exo 10:7 And Pharaoh's servants said unto him, How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?

God warns Pharaoh that if he refused to let the Hebrew children go, there would be repercussions. The promise of the plague of locusts is given there in verses 4-6. According to verse 5, they would completely cover the ground. Eat up anything left after the hail plague, and fill up their houses.

After stating his words, verse 6 records the departure of Moses. After he leaves, the servants of Pharaoh plead with him that he might let the Hebrews leave. They say "How long will this man be a snare unto us?" They say to let them go before Egypt is destroyed.

*Exo* 10:8 And Moses and Aaron were brought again unto Pharaoh: and he said unto them, Go, serve the LORD your God: but who are they that shall go?

- Exo 10:9 And Moses said, 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; for we must hold a feast unto the LORD.
- *Exo 10:10* And he said unto them, Let the LORD be so with you, as I will let you go, and your little ones: look to it; for evil is before you.
- *Exo 10:11* Not so: go now ye that are men, and serve the LORD; for that ye did desire. And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

Moses and Aaron brought back to Pharaoh and a third compromise is offered. It starts out with Pharaoh's selfish question of "who are they that shall go?" He had been told who was going, but he was still hoping for a compromise. God wanted them all, and Moses gave an uncompromising answer.

Pharaoh's compromise was to only let the men go. In verse 11, he says "ye that are men, and serve the Lord." He wanted to keep the women, children and possessions so that the men would have to return. That is still what the devil wants to do to families today.

Lessons from this proposal for compromise.

a. The devil would have Christian parents to leave their children and families behind in Christian service.

b. The devil would tell us not to force religion on our children.

c. God's message is plain.

*Prov. 22:6, Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* 

Eph. 6:4, And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Deut. 6:6-7, And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Moses and Aaron were driven out from the presence of Pharaoh.

# II. The Plague Executed

- Exo 10:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, even all that the hail hath left.
- *Exo 10:13* And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts.

God's command was given, and Moses stretched out his hand over Egypt and the plague began. Locusts (we know them as grasshoppers) blew in by the east wind. This was not just a few, but an abnormal amount of locusts. If you have a garden, you know that just a few grasshoppers are destructive. The prophets likened the locusts to an invading army.

Amos 7:1-2, Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me; and, behold, he formed grasshoppers in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth; and, lo, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings. And it came to pass, that when they had made an end of eating the grass of the land, then I said, O Lord GOD, forgive, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small.

Judges 6:5, For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it.

- Exo 10:14 And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such.
- Exo 10:15 For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt.

Their number was enormous, and their work was devastating. There are many recorded plagues of locusts, but none like this one. Grasshoppers were so great in our own land in the 30s, until the crops were stripped of every leaf and the shucks eaten off the ears of corn. Highways became so slick with crushed

grasshoppers that traffic was dangerous. The railroad tracks became so slick that the driving wheels of, the train would simply spin on the rails. Probably this was not one third of what they faced there in Egypt this day. It says there remained not any green thing in the trees or any herb in the field.

*Psa.* 105:34-35, He spake, and the locusts came, and caterpillers, and that without number, And did eat up all the herbs in their land, and devoured the fruit of their ground.

This plague was a blow against their god "Serapis," who was supposed to protect them from locusts.

Exo 10:16 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste; and he said, I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you.

Exo 10:17 Now therefore forgive, I pray thee, my sin only this once, and intreat the LORD your God, that he may take away from me this death only.
Exo 10:18 And he went out from Pharaoh, and intreated the LORD.

The result of this plague is that Pharaoh confesses his sin. For the first time, he asks for forgiveness. However, once again he did not repent. This is like some today who want forgiveness, but do not want to repent or really change. Moses intreats the Lord on Pharaoh's behalf.

- *Exo 10:19* And the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt.
- *Exo 10:20* But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go.

We serve a wonderful God. He is so merciful and goes that extra mile to work with man, but one day this longsuffering is going to end. A strong west wind comes and it removes all of the locusts. Verse 19 says they were cast into the Red Sea, where the Egyptian army would soon be destroyed.

You would think that Pharaoh would get a clue, but the bible says that Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he would not let the people go. These events foreshadow what is going to happen in the Tribulation.

Rev. 9:3-11, And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. 6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

#### III. The Ninth Plague - Darkness

Exo 10:21 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.

Exo 10:22 And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days:

*Exo 10:23* They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

The ninth plague is executed, and the darkness was sent. The children of darkness have darkness. The Egyptians worshiped the false sun god "Ra," but their god failed. Egypt was abandoned by God. When God withdraws the light, only the darkness is left. Note that while there was darkness all through Egypt, there was light in the dwellings of Israel. Darkness explains the way of a lost man.

*Prov.* 4:19, The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

Eph. 2:12, That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.

Theses three days of darkness remind us of the 3 hours of darkness at the cross.

Matt. 27:45-46, Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

II Cor. 5:21, For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Hab. 1:13, Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?

The unrepentant sinner will be cast into outer darkness.

Matt. 8:12, But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Jude 13, Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

Thank the Lord that the children of light have light.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.
- Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- Joh 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
- *Joh 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

John 3:19-21, And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

I John 1:5-7, This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto 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 the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. Egypt had a darkness they could light up. Israel had a light which could not be put out.

Eph. 5:8, For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.

II Cor. 4:6, For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

*Exo* 10:24 And Pharaoh called unto Moses, and said, Go ye, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be stayed: let your little ones also go with you.

- *Exo 10:25* And Moses said, Thou must give us also sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice unto the LORD our God.
- *Exo 10:26* Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not an hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the LORD our God; and we know not with what we must serve the LORD, until we come thither.

*Exo* 10:27 *But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go.* 

*Exo 10:28* And Pharaoh said unto him, Get thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in that day thou seest my face thou shalt die.

*Exo* 10:29 *And Moses said, Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more.* 

Never to be short on ideas, Pharaoh comes up with his fourth compromise offering. The proposal this time is to let all the people to go, but to leave their flocks and herds. He first sought to keep them IN, then to keep them NEAR the land, and then to keep PART of themselves in the land.

Now he wants them to go without any ability to serve the Lord. The devil wants our possessions, and he sure wants to destroy our testimony. It takes a lifetime to build confidence in a person, and just a few minutes to destroy it if we fall for the tricks of Satan.

This is an attempt to get them to try to make the best of two worlds, and this simply does not work.

II Tim. 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Matt. 6:21, For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

To leave the flocks behind would involve disobedience in stewardship. They had to bring a blood sacrifice in their offerings.

Mal.3:8, Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Moses' reply was that someone had to provide the sacrifices. If they could not take their own cattle, then Pharaoh must furnish the sacrifices. Moses says that not one hoof could be left behind. Again we see Pharaoh's continued hardness. The longer a person resists the truth of God, the harder their heart will get. If the Lord is dealing with you about salvation, you should never wait another day. Today is the day of salvation.

Pharaoh tells Moses to leave and never come back. This effectively delivered Pharaoh to Judgment. Pharaoh's harsh final statement was that if he ever saw his face again, Moses would die. This is a threat that he would never be able to carry out. I think Moses was fed up with dealing with the man, and we see Moses' ready acceptance.

### **Study Questions:**

1. What was the eighth plague brought upon Egypt?

Locusts

2. What was the purpose of Moses telling his sons and his son's sons about the signs and plagues?

# that ye may know how that I am the LORD.

3. What was the third compromise offered to Moses concerning Israel going into the wilderness to worship the lord?

It starts out with Pharaoh's selfish question of "who are they that shall go?" He had been told who was going, but he was still hoping for a compromise. God wanted them all, and Moses gave an uncompromising answer. Pharaoh's compromise was to only let the men go.

4. How did God bring this eighth plague upon the land?

Moses stretched forth his hand and the rod across the land.

5. How did God rid the land of this plague?

He brought a strong west wind and blew them out into the Red Sea.

6. What was the ninth plague upon Egypt?

Darkness

7. What is so significant about this darkness?

It was so intense that it said you could feel the darkness. The children of darkness have darkness. The Egyptians worshiped the false sun god "Ra," but their god failed. When God withdraws the light, only the darkness is left. Egypt was abandoned by God. Darkness explains the way of a lost man.

8. How long did the darkness last?

3 days

9. How does this compare with the darkness surrounding the cross?

3 hours

10. What was the fourth compromise offered to Moses concerning Israel going into the wilderness to worship the Lord?

The proposal this time is to let all the people to go, but to leave their flocks and herds.

11. How did Pharaoh threaten Moses?

He tells him he will die if he comes back in his presence again.

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*Prov 4:18* But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.