THE PLAGUE OF LOCUST

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**TEXT: Exodus 10:1-20**

**INTRODUCTION**

We now come to the 8th Plaguebrought against Egypt by God

The plagues against Egypt serve a number of purposes beyond merely releasing the Hebrews from captivity

-- They display God’s strength for unbelievers to see

-- They provide the entire world with evidence that the God of the Hebrews is the Lord of the earth

-- They would supply the Hebrews with stories of God’s miracles that could be shared with their children and grandchildren

-- And most importantly, they convince the Hebrews that this God is worth serving

The Israelites are not merely being freed from serving Pharaoh in Egypt; they are being freed so they could serve the living God

Pharaoh will not humble himself even though his nation is being humiliated by the plagues

God will humiliate him again, showing this king that he has no power, his gods are powerless, and he is not a god

Does the Lord have to humiliate someone to get their …

… attention or to get them to obey Him?

The Lord in this section will again show us that He has a way of using the weak, small things to confound the mighty

Again, the Lord will use a bug to make a fool out of a man

Just has He used flies, beetles, gnats, now He will use locust

Let stand and read **vs. 1-20** together and look at …

***“The Plague of the Locust”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, let’s look at …

**I. THE COMMAND, CONFRONTATION AND CAUTION**

… Found in **vs. 1-6**

These are the 3 thoughts found in these first 6 verses of chapter 10

**A. God’s ‘Command’ to Moses - vs. 1, 2 …**

God again instructs Moses to go to the Pharaoh as before,

Warning Moses that the king's heart is getting harder

The Question is always … Who Hardened Pharaoh’s Heart? God or Pharaoh?

The Bible tells us that Pharaoh Hardened his own heart

**Exodus 8:15 – *“But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said”***

And that also … God Hardened his Heart

**v. 1 - *“And the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart,”***

So, which is it? What is going on with Pharaoh?

First, let me tell you what it doesn’t mean...

-- That God doomed Pharaoh to hell

-- That God interfered with Pharaoh's choices

-- That God over ruled Pharaoh's will, his ability to choose

-- That God kept Pharaoh from living a righteous life

Pharaoh's heart became hard because of the decisions Pharaoh made

Time and again he had made the decision to go against God

And the more Pharaoh chose to do this, the easier it was to do it again

He found it easier and easier to reject God Commands and to do things his own way

This is the Law of Sowing and Reaping

Thus, it can be said that God made Pharaoh's heart hard

**Galatians 6:7 – *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”***

Pharaoh made his own heart hard by choosing to go against the Truth

He conditioned himself, in his mind, to do his own thing, and go his own way

His conscience became hard

**Romans 1:19-25 …**

Thus, Scripture declares that God hardened Pharaoh's heart

Not only has the king gotten harder, but some of his servants have become hard-hearted as well

***“and the heart of his servants”***

Again, we never know to what extant we influence others

This showdown of wills, provides another demonstration of God's power for the purpose of establishing two things

**1.** To show His power before Pharaoh who thought that he was a god

He was most likely the most powerful man on earth at the time

And God says - ***“that I might shew these My signs before him:”***

That I might show him, who’s Boss!

The phrase ***“what I have wrought”*** means *to make a fool or a mockery of someone; to deal with severely*

God made a mockery or made fools of the Egyptians because of their defiance and rebellion

They thought they were smart, ignoring God's warnings and embracing their own reasoning

Their worldly wisdom however, was false and destructive

**2.** God intended His power to be told to Moses’ descendants (Israel) that *they* might …

***“know how that I am the LORD”***

Keep in mind at this point in Israel’s life there is no Law established

God is just beginning to make Himself real to these people

These people have been enslaved for 400 years

And exposed to every form of False worship imaginable

There has been very little exposure to Jehovah

Only a few have remembered what was told them by Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph

These signs would be object lessons to develop Faith and Fear in the LORD

Some of the Egyptians got the message as well

Trouble wakes some people up to the Truth

**Psalm 119:71 – “*It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn Thy statutes”***

I think about the testimony of Rahab in …

[**Joshua 2:9-11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+2%3A9-11) **– “*... And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you” “For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed” “And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath”***

As a parent or grandparent, let me urge you to share with your children the stories of God's Provision and Power in your life

They will be blessed

**B. The ‘Confrontation’ with Pharaoh – v. 3 …**

The Confrontation begins with a question of rebuke from the LORD

***“How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before Me? let My people go, that they may serve Me”***

This Confrontation is typical of the Conflict that each person faces with God before they are saved

Notice God’s question to Pharaoh

***“How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself”***

Will we Humble ourselves or be Stubborn and Proud Against Him?

**1.** The Enemy of Humility is Pride

Humility develops a lowly attitude, Pride develops a lofty one

Humility abases self while Pride admires and applauds self

Humility reduces self; Pride raises or elevates self

**Quote:** Someone said that pride is *“a most peculiar disease, It makes everyone sick except for the person who has it”*

It is said that …

**2.** Humility …

-- Hinders Hostility

-- Triples Tranquility

-- Thickens Timidity

-- Cultivates Civility

-- Stretches Stability

-- Nurtures Nobility

**3.** How do we Know if we are Humble?

*Humility is a strange thing, because …*

*It’s lost the moment we think we have it*

Many people have demonstrated Humility, but few have mastered it

A person with Humility is willing and does the following

-- He apologizes or admits when he has been wrong

-- He starts over again and keeps on trying if he has failed

-- He takes advice and avoids mistakes

-- He is unselfish, makes the most of a little, and is content

-- He is considerate, charitable, and respects others

-- He endures success and is not cocky

-- He forgives, forgets, and is patient with the faults of others

-- He shoulders deserved blame and has a serving spirit

-- Always deflects the glory to God

**4.** Humility is necessary in our service for God

**Micah 6:8 – *“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, …***

***… but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”***

**5.** We are to be *Clothed* in humility

**Colossians 3:12 – *“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, … bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;”***

**I Peter 5:5 – *“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble”***

**6.** We are to *Walk* in Humility

**Ephesians 4:1, 2 – *“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,” “With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;”***

*When a man starts singing his own praises, it’s pretty sure to be a solo*

**7.** What are the *Consequences* of Being truly Humble

-- You will be *Regarded* by God

**Isaiah 66:2 – *“but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My Word”***

-- You will be *Heard* by God

**Psalm 9:12 – *“… He remembereth them: He forgetteth not the cry of the humble”*   
  
Psalm 10:17 – *“LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: Thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause Thine ear to hear:”***

-- You will be *Delivered* by the Lord

**Job 22:29 – *“When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and He shall save the humble person”***

-- God will *Exalt* you

**Luke 14:11 – *“For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted”***

**James 4:10 – *“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up”***

-- We will *Receive* God’s Grace

**James 4:6 – *“But He giveth more grace. Wherefore He saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble”***

**Proverbs 3:34 – *“Surely He scorneth the scorners: but He giveth grace unto the lowly”***

-- We will find *Forgiveness* from God

**II Chronicles 7:14 – *“If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land”***

**Moses ‘Confrontation’ with Pharaoh**

**C. The ‘Caution’ from Moses – vs. 4-6 …**

Moses cautions Pharaoh to stop and consider his next move

**v. 4 – *“Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to morrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast:”***

People need to stop and consider what it is that they are doing – ***Or Else***

This phrase introduces the second of two alternatives

The first, was to Let His People Go!

Or Else … Tomorrow, Judgment will come

Pharaoh is again been showed the Grace of God

Given an opportunity to change his mind

If Pharaoh refuses, the locusts will come

They will cover the earth, consume the vegetation, and crowd the houses

These locusts will cover the ground completely

This is typical of a swarm

The king has not seen anything like this before

Notice that Moses delivers the message,

But does not wait for an answer before leaving

End of **v. 6 – *“And he (Moses) turned himself, and went out from Pharaoh”***

God warned Moses that the king's heart would be hard

Moses' job, however, was to deliver the message

My job as a Pastor, is to Deliver the Message

You job as a Child of God is to Deliver the Message

We are to deliver His message and say – ***“Thus saith the Lord!”***

Don't be intimidated by the scoffers

Let the Lord take care of them

**THE COMMAND, CONFRONTATION AND CAUTION**

Next, let’s look at …

**II. THE COUNSEL, CONCERN, AND COMPROMISE**

There is a second set of 3 thoughts found in **vs. 7-11**

First …

**A. The ‘Counsel’ of the Servants – v. 7 …**

Rulers can often be blinded by their Pride, Passion, Prejudice

These servants knew their king well and they still spoke up

At the risk of their lives, they offer counsel to the king

You just didn’t do that in those days, not if you regarded your life!

There are 3 things that Pharaoh’s Servants Advised

**1.** To Remember

***“How long shall this man be a snare unto us?”***

This word ***“snare”*** means *peril or source of danger*

They have gone through one catastrophe after another

Pharaoh has an amazing knack for not learning from his mistakes

His pride hindered him in this area and it will do the same thing to us, if we are not careful

**2.** To Release

***“let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God:”***

The king's servants said - *Let them go Pharaoh*

And I’m sure they said it with urgency!

**3.** To Realize

***“knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?”***

We are as good as dead Pharaoh

Haven’t you realized that Egypt is being destroyed?

The king is standing alone more and more

The Bible says …

**Proverbs 11:14 – *“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety”***

We need to learn to take advice from those who love us

**Proverbs 27:6 –*“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful”***

Next, we see …

**B. The ‘Concern’ of Pharaoh – vs. 8-10 …**

Pharaoh responds for the first time to the threat of Judgment

He calls Moses and Aaron back – **v. 8**

He says - *Go ahead and serve your God, but who is going?*

Moses tells the king - *We are taking everyone* – **v. 9**

This shouldn’t have been considered an unreasonable request

Why? Because it was also the custom of the Egyptians in their religious assemblies to do the same

Men, women, and children attended, often to the amount of several hundred thousand

Pharaoh however, is worried and *resistant* when he hears that Moses planned on taking everyone

He is also being *inconsistent* because the Egyptians worshiped the same way

Pharaoh responses with a sarcastic question

**v. 10 a - *“Let the LORD be so with you, as I will let you go, and your little ones:”***

Though Pharaoh was starting to bend a little,

He sarcastically rejected their demand for all of them to depart

Warning that they were about to get into further

Trouble

**v. 10 b - *“look to it; (out) for evil is before you”***

Obviously showing that he still hasn’t learned

**C. The ‘Compromise’ of the King – v. 11 …**

He then informed them that only their men would be

allowed to go

**v. 11 – *“Not so: go now ye that are men, and serve the LORD; for that ye did desire”***

Moses and Aaron are then ***“driven out from***

***Pharaoh’s presence”***

He is contradicting exactly what the Egyptians did, but that’s the world's philosophy

Secular society is consistently *inconsistent* in their beliefs

We are seeing this in American society today

Pharaoh says …

-- Go, Worship (go to church)

-- Go, but not far (Don’t go over board)

-- Go, but leave the kids and women in Egypt

Such is the trap of the world today

Parents are leaving their kids in Egypt

They don't … teach them about the Lord, take them to church, discipline them and make them mind, teach them manners and respect, nor how to work

**Quote:** John R. Rice said, *“The best way to get rid of criminals is to stop raising them”*

Here’s some of the Common Deceptions of today

Don't force religion on your kids

Let them choose what church they want to go to when they are older

If you do that, they will never go

Another lie is - If you bring them up in church, it will turn them off to God

If you don't bring them up in church, they will never go later, either

[**Proverbs 22:6**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+22%3A6) **– “*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”***

Someone said - *Children are like canoes. They behave better if they are paddled from the rear*

The Farmer's Almanac says - *In the old days, a naughty child was straightened up by being bent over*

Thank God if our parents … tried to teach us about God, took us to church, and disciplined us

If someone chooses to get out of church when they are older,

They can’t blame their parents, pastor, or the people of the church

They are responsible

They are making their choices and they will bear the consequences

If they ruin their life because of sin, it’s their fault

**THE COMMAND, CONFRONTATION AND CAUTION**

**THE COUNSEL, CONCERN, AND COMPROMISE**

And, lastly, let’s look at …

**III. THE COMMENCING, CONFESSION, AND CLEAN UP**

There are 3 last thoughts in **vs. 12-20** in regards to this 9th Plague

Let’s look at them

First, there is …

**A. The ‘Commencing’ of the Plague – vs. 12-15 …**

God directs Moses to stretch forth his hand over Egypt

When he did this, the locusts rode into Egypt upon an

east wind that blew all that day and the following night

They infested every part of Egyptian territory

The plague was so severe ***“that the land was darkened”***

They ate every bit of vegetation and stripped everything bare

The land and the sky were literally filled with locusts to such a degree, that both the ground and the sun could not be seen

People continue to Disregard the Truths given in the Bible

And just because someone doesn’t believe it, doesn’t mean Judgment isn’t coming

Pharaoh has seen God bring about 8 Plagues so far

Yet, he and many other’s in Egypt would still not believe

What’s it going to take to change their minds?

**B. The ‘Confession’ of the King – vs. 16, 17 …**

Seeing the over whelming locusts, the king gets a reality check

Every minute counts

So, in haste, he calls for Moses and Aaron and says

***“I have sinned”***

Does this sound familiar?

He continues –

***“Forgive me this one time and pray for me”***

What was Pharaoh doing?

He was trying to get out of Trouble

Don’t think for one minute he was truly repenting

We see this by hind-sight

We understand the situation only after it has happened or developed

And that’s how we will be able to determine whether someone’s Profession of Faith is Genuine

Give it time, the Bible tells us that there is a change that begins to take place in a person life after salvation

**II Corinthians 5:17 – *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”***

If there is no noticeable change in a person’s life over a period of time

Then, there is the real possibility that the profession of Faith is False

This goes on all the time

**C. The ‘Clean Up’ of Egypt – vs. 18-20 …**

In mercy, God removes the locusts …

… and casts them into the Red Sea

One day, the Egyptian army will be here too

The test of repentance is the fruit yielded by it

Pharaoh is not Sorry for his sin, just the Results of it

He continues to get harder toward God

The same thing will happen to someone if they are not truly repentant

May we learn from Pharaoh's mistakes, lest we suffer for our indifference

**I. THE COMMAND, CONFRONTATION AND CAUTION**

**II. THE COUNSEL, CONCERN, AND COMPROMISE**

**III. THE COMMENCING, CONFESSION, AND CLEAN UP**