

Exodus 10

Verses 1- 2

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.”

8th PLAGUE – locusts

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,

When God says these signs He means the next 3 plagues (8 thru 10). Beginning here the king and his servants will temporarily lose their free will because God will harden their hearts after plagues 8 & 9 and they will not let the people go.

See chart 1005

Plague	Verse	Who hardened the kings heart	King	Lord
Blood	7:22	Pharaoh's heart was hardened	x	
Frogs	8:15	He hardened his heart	x	
Gnats	8:19	But Pharaoh's heart was hardened	x	
Flies	8:32	But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also	x	
Livestock	9:7	But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened	x	
Boils	9:12	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart		x
Hail	9:34	he sinned again and hardened his heart	x	
Locust	10:20	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart		x
Darkness	10:27	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart		x

² 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.”

God harden the hearts of the king and his servant's so this generation of slaves would know that “He was the Lord” and they could pass this story on to their sons and grandsons.

About 500 years later, this story was written as songs that the people could sing.

1. See Psalm 78:43 - 51

**⁴³ When He performed His signs in Egypt
And His marvels in the field of Zoan,
⁴⁴ And turned their rivers to blood,
And their streams, *so that* they could not drink.
⁴⁵ He sent swarms of flies among them that devoured them,
And frogs that destroyed them.
⁴⁶ He also gave their crops to the grasshopper
And the product of their labor to the locust.
⁴⁷ He destroyed their vines with hailstones
And their sycamore trees with frost.
⁴⁸ He also turned their cattle over to the hailstones,
And their herds to bolts of lightning.
⁴⁹ He sent His burning anger upon them,
Fury and indignation and trouble,
A band of destroying angels.
⁵⁰ He leveled a path for His anger;
He did not spare their souls from death,
But turned their lives over to the plague,
⁵¹ And struck all the firstborn in Egypt,
The first and best of their vigor in the tents of Ham.**

See Psalms 105:26 – 36

**²⁶ He sent His servant Moses,
And Aaron, whom He had chosen.
²⁷ They performed His wondrous acts among them,
And miracles in the land of Ham.
²⁸ He sent darkness and made *it* dark;
And they did not rebel against His words.**

²⁹ He turned their waters into blood,
And caused their fish to die.
³⁰ Their land swarmed with frogs
Even in the chambers of their kings.
³¹ He spoke, and a swarm of flies
And gnats invaded all their territory.
³² He gave them hail for rain,
And flaming fire in their land.
³³ He also struck their vines and their fig trees,
And smashed the trees of their territory.
³⁴ He spoke, and locusts came,
And creeping locusts, beyond number,
³⁵ And they ate all the vegetation in their land,
And ate the fruit of their ground.
³⁶ He also fatally struck all the firstborn in their land,
The first fruits of all their vigor.

Verses 3 – 11

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

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.**

If God had hardened the heart of the king through all the plagues His question to the king, “**How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me**”, would have made God look like a hypocrite or an ogre.

We don’t know for sure how long it took for the first 7 plagues to play out but it had to be a number of months and there had been plenty of time and evidence for the king to realize that he was in the wrong and that he needed to repent of his pride.

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.**

There are historical records of locusts covering areas of 1,600 to 1800 square miles, the size of Rhode Island, to a depth of four to five inches.

They have even been known to obscure the sun in their flight.

Whatever was left in Egypt for food was about to disappear. One can only imagine what the trees must have looked like after the locusts left. It was probably like our trees during the dead of winter.

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.**

We learn here that nothing like this had ever been seen in Egypt. Egypt was first populated by the tribe of Ham after the flood.

See Psalm 105:23

²³ **Israel also came into Egypt;
So Jacob lived in the land of Ham.**

See Pic 1010



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?

The king's servants attempted an intervention because it was clear to them that the king could not see the forest for the trees.

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?"

The king wanted to make a compromise concerning who would leave but Moses affirmed that it had to be everyone plus the flocks and herds.

The king rejected Moses offer and gave him a different option. The king would allow the men to go. By keeping the women and children the king knew that the men would return.

Verses 12 - 15

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.” 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. 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. 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.

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.

God probably brought the locust into Egypt from Saudi Arabia.

See Map 1015 below The red line is 600 miles



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.

This is a prophecy that has held true for 3,500 years.

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.

There was no food left in Egypt except for any food that might have been stored underground or in their houses.

Verses 16 - 20

¹⁶ Then Pharaoh hurriedly called for Moses and Aaron, and he said, “I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. 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.” ¹⁸ He went out from Pharaoh and made supplication to the Lord. 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. ²⁰ But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the sons of Israel go.

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.”

The king said the same thing during the 7th plague

See Exodus 9:27

²⁷ Then Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “I have sinned this time; the Lord is the righteous one, and I and my people are the wicked ones.

He was not the first or the last politician to misrepresent the truth. ☺

On a more serious note the king had hardened his heart after 6 of the plagues. He watched as Egypt was being destroyed and had no empathy for the suffering of his people.

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.

See Map 1015



The east wind that brought the locusts across the Red Sea into Egypt was not near as strong as the west wind that drove them into the Red Sea on the return flight.

But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the sons of Israel go.

Obviously, the king was ready to give up but he couldn't relent because The Lord had hardened the king's heart. See chart 1005 above

Verses 21 - 24

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."

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

9th Plague – Darkness

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.”

This ninth plague came without warning, as did plagues 3 and 6.

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.

While attending college in New Mexico some of us visited Carlsbad Caverns. As part of the tour we were brought to a huge cave and we all asked to sit down. When they turned out the lights we experienced that kind of darkness. This kind of Darkness is hard to explain because we are so accustomed to some background light in our homes.

We are not told what kind of light the Israelites had in their dwellings, be it natural or supernatural, but since the Egyptians were not able to use fire or candles (if candles existed at that time) to produce some light tells us this was a miracle.

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.”

This final compromise offered by the king was foolish. However, the king did not have the ability to agree with Moses at this point because God had hardened his heart.

Verses 25-29

²⁵ But Moses said, “You must also let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice *them* to the Lord our God. 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.” ²⁷ But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he was not willing to let them go. 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!” ²⁹ Moses said, “You are right; I shall never see your face again!”

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.”

This was not a ruse; Moses himself did not know what animals would be needed.

²⁷ But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he was not willing to let them go.

As the punishments got more severe, the Lord had to harden the king’s heart in order for the judgment to continue.

See chart 1005 above

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!” ²⁹ Moses said, “You are right; I shall never see your face again!”

It seems the king and Moses were both wrong in what they said.

See Exodus 12:31

³¹ Then he called for Moses and Aaron at night and said, “Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of Israel; and go, worship the Lord, as you have said.