### Exodus

## Chapter 10

[Plague #8 – Locusts]  
  
1Then the Lord spoke to Moses and said:  
  
 ‘Go to PharaOh [again], because I’ve hardened the hearts of him and his servants so I could bring these signs upon them.  
  
 2‘[I did this] so you could tell your children and your children’s children of the many ways that I’ve mocked the Egyptians through the wonders I’ve brought upon them, and so that they’ll know that I am the Lord.’  
  
3Then Moses and Aaron went before PharaOh and said to him:  
  
 ‘This is what Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, says:  
  
 ‘How much longer will you refuse to respect Me?  
  
 ‘Send My people away, so they can serve Me!  
  
 4‘But if you won’t send My people away... {Look!} at this same time tomorrow, I’ll bring huge amounts of locusts to all your borders. 5They’ll cover the entire land, so that you won’t be able to see the ground. They’ll eat everything that the hail has left for you, and chew up every tree that you still have growing in the land.  
  
 6‘Your houses, the houses of your servants, and all the houses throughout the land of Egypt will be filled with them. It’ll be something that neither your fathers nor their ancestors have seen from their time until this day.’  
  
Then Moses turned and left PharaOh. 7And PharaOh’s servants said to him:  
  
 ‘How much longer are you going to allow them to be a snare to us?  
  
 ‘Send those people away so they can serve their God!  
  
 ‘Don’t you realize that Egypt is [being] destroyed?’  
  
8So they went and brought Moses and Aaron back to PharaOh, and he said to them:  
  
 ‘You may go and serve Jehovah your God… But, who will be going with you?’  
  
9And Moses replied:  
  
 ‘We’ll be taking the young and the old, along with our sons, daughters, sheep, and bulls, because this is a feast of Jehovah.’  
  
10Then [PharaOh] said to them:  
  
 ‘May Jehovah be with you. But if I send you away, must I also [send away] all that you own?  
  
 ‘You have an evil [plan], 11so [I’m] not going to [allow that]! I’ll just allow the men to go and serve your God, because that’s all you really wanted.  
  
 ‘Now, throw them out from before the presence of PharaOh!’  
  
12Then the Lord told Moses:  
  
 ‘Raise your hands over the land of Egypt and let the locusts come to the land. They’ll eat every plant on the ground and all the fruit that wasn’t damaged by the hail on the trees!’  
  
13So Moses raised his walking stick to the sky, and Jehovah sent a south wind [that blew] all day and all night long... Then the next morning, the south wind brought the locusts, 14sending them throughout the land of Egypt. And there they sat in huge numbers throughout all the borders of Egypt.  
  
Never had such locusts been seen before or since! 15They covered the entire ground and they devastated the land. They ate all the plants off the ground and any fruit in the trees that hadn’t been damaged by the hail… Nothing green was left on the trees or in the fields anywhere in the land of Egypt!  
  
16Then PharaOh hastily called Moses and Aaron, and said:  
  
 ‘I have sinned before Jehovah your God and against you.  
  
 17‘[Please] pardon my sin one more time and pray to Jehovah your God… Ask Him to take away this death!’  
  
18So Moses left PharaOh and prayed to God; 19then Jehovah sent a strong wind from the sea that blew in the opposite direction, picking up the locusts and throwing them into the Red Sea… And there wasn’t a single locust left anywhere in the land of Egypt.  
  
20But Jehovah continued to harden PharaOh’s heart, so he didn’t send the children of IsraEl away.  
  
  
[Plague #9 – Darkness]  
  
21Then the Lord told Moses:  
  
 ‘Now lift your hands towards the sky and bring darkness to the land of Egypt… A darkness that can be felt.’  
  
22So Moses raised his hands to the sky, and it stormed throughout the land of Egypt for three days… And the sky became totally black!  
  
23Well, for the next three days, nobody could see anyone else, so no one even got out of bed. However, all the children of IsraEl had light where they were.  
  
24Then PharaOh called Moses and Aaron, and said:  
  
 ‘Now, go and serve your God Jehovah… But you must leave your sheep, your cattle, and your belongings here!’  
  
25However, Moses said:  
  
 ‘No! You must allow us the burnt offerings and sacrifices that we’re going to offer to our God Jehovah… 26Our cattle will be going with us!  
  
 ‘We won’t leave a hoof behind, because we’re going to take them to serve Jehovah our God, and we won’t know how we’re supposed to serve Him until we get there.’  
  
27But Jehovah kept hardening PharaOh’s heart and he wouldn’t let them go.  
  
28So PharaOh said:  
  
 ‘Get away from me, and be careful not to see my face again, because the next time you appear before me, you’re going to die!’  
  
29And Moses replied:  
  
 ‘That’s what you’ve said, so I won’t appear in your presence again!’