

## Exodus Ch. 10

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Plagues thus far: River turned to **blood**, plague of **frogs**, plague of **lice**, plague of **flies**, plague upon the **cattle**, plague of **boils**, and the plague of **hail fire** – 7 plagues in all – **3 left to go** before Pharaoh humbles himself before God.

V: 1 *“Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart...”*

- We’ve seen up to this point where Pharaoh has “hardened” his heart: “kabad” (willful, disobedient, hard hearted).
- And where God “hardened” / “confirmed” Pharaoh’s heart: “chazaq” after Pharaoh had already hardened his heart.
- From this point forward, God “firms” / “stiffens” / “confirms” Pharaoh’s heart – his heart is set against God, and against God’s people.
- Just before Pharaoh takes his chariot for a cruise to the bottom of the Red Sea, his heart was “confirmed” for one last time, then Pharaoh is no more in this world.
- Kind of like the prince of this world, he is never our friend, he never wants us to draw close to God, and he is always looking for a way to steal, murder, or destroy.

**Acts 13:9-10** <sup>9</sup>Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, <sup>10</sup>And said, O full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?” Not until he’s cast into the lake of fire...

*“... and the heart of his servants...”* – Pharaoh was a leader, a spiritual leader – and his attitudes and beliefs were passed onto those in his sphere of influence.

**3 Purposes for all of this:**

V: 1b First: *“... that I might shew these My signs before him:”* (Pharaoh)

Pharaoh asked the question “who is the Lord that I should listen to His voice or obey Him?” – God is more than amply answering that question.

V: 2 Secondly: That you / we may testify to our children and grandchildren about the great things that the Lord has done!

Speaking of God’s wonderful works:

**Psalms 78:4-8** <sup>4</sup>“We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength, and His wonderful works that He hath done. <sup>5</sup>For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: <sup>6</sup>That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who

should arise and declare them to their children: <sup>7</sup>That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments: <sup>8</sup>And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.”

**Joel 1:3** “Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.”

**John 20:30-31** <sup>30</sup>And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name.”

1. Throughout the history of Israel we see differing periods of spiritual awareness and strength, followed by periods of apostasy and spiritual weakness.
  2. The times of seeming spiritual strength and awareness, obedience to God’s word were usually followed by national strength as well, God’s protection and blessing, material prosperity.
  3. Then a reliance on that prosperity, an increase in materialism, and a loss of focus on the Lord leading to a general disobedience and apostasy, spiritual decline, with that a weakening of the nation, weakness before their enemies, defeat, and ultimately bondage.
  4. From bondage, poverty, and oppression would rise up a call to God, seeking the Lord, and a spiritual awakening – and a repeat of the cycle.
- Again this reminder to teach our children the ways of God, to share the testimonies of God and the great things He has done.
  - That testimony needn’t be just with our lips, but with our actions, that our lives would bear that testimony.
  - **Thirdly:** (still speaking of purpose) *“That you may know how that I am the Lord.”*
  - There are times when we can learn about God as we see him work in other people’s lives; like when the Egyptians cattle were smitten, or when hail turned to fire amongst only the Egyptians, or the plague of flies upon the Egyptians.
  - There are times when the only way for us to learn more about God is through personal experience; hence even the Hebrews had to deal with the frogs, the lice, and the locusts

V: 3 Obedience – Moses & Aaron simply did what God said, they were obedient to His word.

**1 Samuel 15:22** “And Samuel said, hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”

- Have you noted or seen the progression in Moses since chapters 2 & 3?
- No more questions, no more excuses, no more sniveling – just obedience.
- Literally, ambassadors for Christ – speaking for God, as opposed to for themselves.
- At this point, if Moses isn’t speaking for God, he’s not speaking.
- Sometimes as an ambassador we have to speak hard or difficult things; it still needs to be done in the love of the King, but spoken none the less in addressing difficult and sometimes painful circumstances.

**Jeremiah 1:7-9** “<sup>7</sup>But the Lord said unto me, say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. <sup>8</sup>Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. <sup>9</sup>then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.”

*“Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews...”* – God speaking, not Moses or Aaron.

*“How long will you refuse to humble thyself before Me?”* – this is a question that many of us in the church should be asking themselves.

- Pharaoh’s refusals are based on pride, his unwillingness to humble himself before God.

**Proverbs 16:18** “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

- This seems fairly prophetic.
- As Pharaoh will demonstrate, partial obedience is not the answer to this question.

[Saul / Amalekites – partial obedience.](#)

**1 Samuel 15:2-3** “<sup>2</sup>Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. <sup>3</sup>Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.”

**1 Samuel 15:7-11** “<sup>7</sup>and Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. <sup>8</sup>And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. <sup>9</sup>But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly. <sup>10</sup>Then came the word of the Lord unto Samuel, saying, <sup>11</sup>It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following Me, and hath not performed My commandments...”

- God doesn't say that Saul did most of what I said, or that he didn't do in part, He says that Saul turned away from Him by not doing all that he was commanded.
- Later, there is that ironic twist, that it would be an Amalekite that would strike the final blow to slay Saul.

V: 4-6 If you don't humble yourself before the Lord God of the Hebrews, here is what will happen: The plague of locusts.

1. Locusts will cover the earth.
  2. Locusts will eat everything that was left from the previous plagues.
  3. Locusts will fill your houses and those of your servants.
  4. This will be something like neither you nor your fathers have ever seen.
- Moses delivers the message and walks out.

V: 7 Unusual: Pharaoh's servants make a strong appeal, they are convinced, they've had enough.

- Pharaoh's counselors weren't allowed to speak unless Pharaoh addressed them, unless he asked for their counsel – otherwise they could be put to death – but their lives are already on the line and they know it.
- They also bring to Pharaoh's attention that the nation is wrecked already, in essence asking how much more must they endure?
- Egypt wasn't just the most powerful nation, and the richest – they were also the most fruitful.
- In Genesis where did everybody go when there was a famine? How did the nation of Israel get there in the first place? Abundance!

**Psalm 107:33-34** “<sup>33</sup>He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the water springs into dry ground. <sup>34</sup>A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein.”

Jesus said:

**Luke 12:47** “And that servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.”

V: 8 Moses and Aaron are brought back into Pharaoh’s court.

- Pharaoh says: “*Go serve the Lord your God, but who are you taking with you?*”

V: 9 Moses responds with what had previously instructed: everybody and all our stuff.

V: 10 “The Lord had better be with you, and your little ones” – “beware evil is ahead of you...”

- Pharaoh’s getting chicken chested – he’s trying to play the part of being large and in charge – “don’t cross this line” – “don’t come any closer” – “or else....”
- Pharaoh is trying to establish or setting the terms to which Moses shall comply, trying to determine how they would worship God.
- The ACLU has been trying to do that for years, you can’t worship God here in this place, or that place. You can’t pray in the name of Jesus, don’t you dare bring your Bible into this location.
- By the way, when you are at your own place – don’t teach on Leviticus chapter 18, delete Romans chapter 1, and 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians Chapter 6 is offensive also.
- Check with us, we’ll let you know what is acceptable and what is not...

V: 11 Pharaoh says “*Not so*” – meaning, no way Jose, that’s not how it’s going to be.

- Compromise: You can take the men – everybody else, and your stuff – they stay here.
- And he kicked Moses out of his court – in other words they weren’t nice about it.

V: 12 God’s response indicates two things:

1. He’s not into compromise.
  2. He wants the whole family, not just the men.
- Next of course is the big surprise: the Lord then does exactly what He said He would do!

**Joshua 24:14** “And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.”

- What we see here God’s response to partial obedience.

V: 13-15 The Lord brings an East wind, meaning a wind from the East; which brings the locusts.

- This is a demonstration of God’s power. None of us can change the wind.

**Psalm 105:34-35** <sup>34</sup>He spake, and the locust came, and caterpillars, and that without number, <sup>35</sup>and did eat up all the herbs in their land, and devoured the fruit of their ground.”

- Later when God uses a West wind to drive the locusts out, they are driven into the Red Sea.
- To me that means that when God used the East wind, they then either came over the Red Sea towards Egypt from some other location or they were created miraculously from over the Red Sea and brought to Egypt.
- In either event, they get there and they do what locusts do, they consume everything in sight, leaving nothing behind.
- This is once again a direct challenge to their pagan gods. They worshipped “Isis” & “Seth” the gods of agriculture – and it’s their entire agricultural system that is being wiped out by Jehovah, the Lord God of the Hebrews.

V: 16-18 Pharaoh calls for Moses and Aaron in haste – Pharaoh may be hoping to be able to salvage something before the locust’s consume everything.

- Pharaoh says that he’s sinned against God and against Moses. True on both counts; but is he making a sincere confession?

**2 Corinthians 7:10** “For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

- His subsequent actions invalidate his confession.
- Pharaoh again asks Moses to entreat for him, asking Moses to pray to God not that the plague of locusts would be removed; but “*this death only*”.
- Pharaoh now realizes the gravity of his situation, this will truly devastate his country. Many thousands, perhaps millions of people are going to starve, there will be great famine in the land and many will die.
- Egypt is truly being destroyed.

V: 19 The Lord “turns” the wind, He brings a mighty strong West wind that takes all the locusts away.

- Not one was left in all the land.

V: 20 Again the Lord “confirms” Pharaoh’s heart, which is already hardened by Pharaoh.

V: 21-23 The plague of “darkness”

- An un-solicited plague, darkness that can be felt for 3 days.
- A darkness that could be felt: Arizona caverns, unable to see hands etc.
- They were immobilized, disoriented; they couldn’t move.

**Psalm 105:28** “He sent darkness, and made it dark; and they rebelled not against His word.”

- The children of Israel are not affected in the same way. It was dark, but they had light in their dwelling places – just as we do in our earthly tabernacles.

Jesus said:

**John 8:12** “... I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

**Matthew 6:22-23** “<sup>22</sup>The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. <sup>23</sup>But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”

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

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**Ecclesiastes 2:14** “The wise man’s eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all.”

- After all the things that had happened in Egypt, now this darkness that can be felt has come upon them – they didn’t know it was only going to last 3 days.
- What do you suppose was going through their minds?
- One of the things going through their minds might have been that the God of the Hebrews, Jehovah had conquered or killed their god “Ra” – the sun god. Their god was dead and that was why there was no more light – and they were doomed!

- They might also have been thinking the whole time about Pharaoh's decisions, about getting the Hebrews out, wondering if this was ever going to end.
- It's no wonder that when the lights finally came back on, that they were very glad to see the Hebrews leave – and oh yes take whatever you want, take the treasure please just go!

V: 24 Again Pharaoh seeks to dictate the terms as before: 4<sup>th</sup> compromise.

1<sup>st</sup> compromise: Pharaoh says sacrifice to the Lord here in this land.  
(Exodus 8:25)

2<sup>nd</sup> compromise: Pharaoh says go sacrifice in the wilderness, but not 3 days away, stay close by. (Exodus 8:28)

3<sup>rd</sup> compromise: Just the men can go and worship, women, children, and flocks stay behind. (Exodus 10:11)

- If you want to sacrifice and serve the Lord, that's one thing – but don't drag your family into it.
- Don't force your kids to be different: let them listen to that music, don't deprive them, don't make them oddballs amongst their friends, let them go to those movies, let them stay out late – don't make them go to church.
- How would any of us feel, knowing that we were going to heaven and our kids weren't?
- **Reject the counsel of the enemy: the world says "let them find their own way" – that's wrong: God's word tells us that we're to guide and instruct our kids in righteousness.**

**Proverbs 29:15** "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

4<sup>th</sup> compromise: All the people can go, but the flocks and the herds must stay behind.

- Don't leave the world, don't get too far away from the world, don't drag your family into it:
- Now approach God empty handed – give nothing to God – in other words: don't really worship Him on His terms.

Jesus said:

**Matthew 6:21** "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

- Go ahead and go if you must, but don't give Him your heart, don't give Him your treasure...



- Had Moses left the livelihood of his people in Egypt, their hearts would have remained there as well – this would be un-acceptable to God.

**Proverbs 3:9** “Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase.”

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Deeper issues:

**1 John 2:15-16** “<sup>15</sup>Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, then the love of the father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the father, but is of the world.”

**John 4:23-24** “<sup>23</sup>But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup>God is Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.”

V: 25-26 Moses states essentially that we need to worship God on His terms, not yours.

V: 27 Pharaoh had hardened his heart, now once again God confirms it – once again Pharaoh refuses to let the children of Israel go.

V: 28 Pharaoh tells Moses to leave him, and to be very careful.

- Pharaoh threatens Moses saying that the next time they meet, Moses will die.

**Psalms 105:15** “Saying, touch not mine anointed, and do My prophets no harm.”

V: 29 Moses, screams like a little girl and does the Gumby run..... not.

- Moses was cool as a cucumber; he had the peace of God in his heart.

Speaking of Moses:

**Hebrews 11:27** “By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing Him who is invisible.”

**Philippians 3:13-14** “<sup>13</sup>Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, <sup>14</sup>I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

**Matthew 10:28** “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

- Moses just kind of says “amen” – knowing somehow that Pharaoh had spoken prophetically, and that he would not see his face again.