

In Exodus chapter 10, we see a powerful demonstration of the sovereignty of God and the tragic nature of a hardened heart. We aren't looking at "religious myths" or "ancient fables" here. We are looking at the literal, historical hand of God moving in time and space. When we treat the Bible as mere mythology, we lose the very foundation of our faith. If these things didn't actually happen, then how can we know that the Lord is truly Lord? But they *did* happen, and God tells us exactly why He recorded them.

The Purpose of the Plagues

Exodus 10:1-2

Notice what the Lord says to Moses in the first two verses:

"Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his servants, that I may show these signs of Mine before him, and that you may tell in the ears of your son and your son's son the things I have done in Egypt..."

God had a dual purpose here. First, He was showing Pharaoh who is truly in control. But second, and perhaps more importantly for us, He was creating a legacy. This history was to be rehearsed from generation to generation. God wants our children and our grandchildren to know that He is the Lord.

There is a sobering reality here: God honors the choices we make. Pharaoh repeatedly steeled his heart against God in the previous chapters, and eventually, God simply gave him over to that hardness. It's a reminder that while God is patient, we must not trifle with His grace.

The Plague of Locusts and the Trap of Compromise

Exodus 10:3-11

Moses and Aaron go back to Pharaoh with a stinging question: *"How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me?"* That is the question the Holy Spirit asks every heart that is resisting Him. Moses warns that a plague of locusts is coming—a swarm so thick it will cover the face of the earth and consume every green thing left after the hail.

Pharaoh's own servants are finally cracking. They tell him, *"Don't you know that Egypt is destroyed?"* So, Pharaoh tries to strike a deal. In verses 8 through 11, he offers a compromise: *"Go, serve the Lord... but who are the ones going?"* When Moses says everyone—young and old, sons and daughters, flocks and herds—Pharaoh scoffs. He says, *"Go now, you who are men, and serve the Lord."*

Do you see the enemy's tactic here? Satan says, *"Go ahead and be religious if you must. Make your commitment to God. But don't bring your children into it. Don't 'force' your faith on them. Let them stay back in 'Egypt' and enjoy the world."* It is an insidious trap. As parents, our greatest calling is to lead our children to the foot of the Cross. We don't leave them behind in the world; we take them with us into the service of the King.

The Thick Darkness

Exodus 10:12-23

The locusts come and strip the land bare. Pharaoh cries out, *"I have sinned,"* but it's a hollow confession. He wants the "death" removed, but he doesn't want the Lord. As soon as the locusts are gone, his heart remains hard.

Then comes the ninth plague: **Darkness**. Not just a cloudy day, but a darkness that could be *felt*. For three days, the Egyptians couldn't even see each other. But look at verse 23:

"...but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings."

What a beautiful picture of the believer's life! The world around us may be falling into gross spiritual darkness, but if you are walking with the Lord, there is light in your home. Jesus is the Light of the world, and in Him, there is no darkness at all.

Not a Hoof Left Behind

Exodus 10:24-29

Pharaoh tries one last compromise: *"Go, let your little ones go with you; only let your flocks and your herds be kept back."* Pharaoh is saying, *"Fine, take your family, but leave your bank account in Egypt. Don't give your possessions to God."* But Moses' response is a classic. He says in verse 26, *"Our livestock also shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind."* I love that! Moses understood that when we serve God, we go all in. We don't leave a "hoof" behind in the world. Our time, our talents, our families, and our resources all belong to Him. We don't even know what the Lord will ask of us until we get there, so we bring it all to the altar.

Practical Application & Challenge

Are there "hooves" you are leaving behind in Egypt? Are you trying to live a "compromised" Christian life—giving God your Sunday mornings but leaving your family or your finances under the influence of the world?

The Christian life isn't a series of negotiations with God. It's a total surrender. The Lord doesn't want a "piece" of your life; He wants the whole thing. My challenge to you this week is to examine your heart. Is there an area where you've said, *"Lord, you can have this, but not that"*? Surrender it today.

An Invitation to Life

Perhaps you are reading this and you feel like you're sitting in that "felt darkness" of Egypt. You've been trying to run your own life, and you're finding that the world is just stripping you bare, much like those locusts.

I want you to know that there is a God who loves you. He didn't just send plagues to judge; He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to save. Jesus went to the cross and shed His precious blood to pay the price

for your sins and mine. He died the death we deserved. But the story didn't end there! Three days later, He rose from the dead, declaring once and for all that He is God, Savior, and Lord.

If you want to come out of the darkness and into His marvelous light, you can do that right now. Simply turn from your sin, believe that Jesus died for you and rose again, and ask Him to be the Lord of your life.

“Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. I believe You shed Your blood for me and rose from the grave. I surrender my life to You today. Not a hoof left behind. Amen.”