

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Bible Study Notes

7-22-20

Exodus 10

Another encounter between Moses and Pharaoh - Verses 1-11

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these signs of mine among them ²that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the LORD." ³So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, "This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, so that they may worship me. ⁴If you refuse to let them go, I will bring locusts into your country tomorrow. ⁵They will cover the face of the ground so that it cannot be seen. They will devour what little you have left after the hail, including every tree that is growing in your fields. ⁶They will fill your houses and those of all your officials and all the Egyptians—something neither your parents nor your ancestors have ever seen from the day they settled in this land till now.'" Then Moses turned and left Pharaoh. ⁷Pharaoh's officials said to him, "How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the people go, so that they may worship the LORD their God. Do you not yet realize that Egypt is ruined?" ⁸Then Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. "Go, worship the LORD your God," he said. "But tell me who will be going." ⁹Moses answered, "We will go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we are to celebrate a festival to the LORD." ¹⁰Pharaoh said, "The LORD be with you—if I let you go, along with your women and children! Clearly you are bent on evil. ¹¹No! Have only the men go and worship the LORD, since that's what you have been asking for." Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh's presence.

10:2 God told Moses that his miraculous experiences with Pharaoh should be retold to his descendants. What stories Moses had to tell! Living out one of the greatest dramas in biblical history, he witnessed events few people would ever see. It is important to tell our children about God's work in our past and to help them see what he is doing right now. What are the turning points in your life where God intervened? What is God doing for you now? Your stories will form the foundations of your children's belief in God.

10:3 Moses and Aaron had probably been at this for months and so far Pharaoh hadn't budged. Their patience could have been wearing thin. Yet we see that Moses and Aaron are bold. We can learn to persevere. Good things don't always come easily. God may allow us to go through a lot of obstacles or perhaps the same obstacle again and again. We might face failure many times over before we get success. We might face opposition from authorities such as boss, parents, or teacher. Yet we must remember that we answer to a higher authority. Whatever God asks us to do we must do diligently with all of our heart and persevere to the very end.

10:7-11 For the first time we see Pharaoh's advisers giving him good counsel and suggesting that he give in. Common sense showed them that God was winning and that the entire country was being destroyed by Pharaoh's reckless pride. In this case, God didn't harden their hearts so that they would be a word of wisdom in Pharaoh's ear.

10:7-11 Pharaoh appears to listen to his counselors. He takes a step of action to call in Moses and Aaron and appears willing to give in. However, his pride couldn't let it go at that. Pride will cause you to make bad choices.

The Plague of Locusts - Verses 12-20

¹² And the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over Egypt so that locusts swarm over the land and devour everything growing in the fields, everything left by the hail." ¹³ So Moses stretched out his staff over Egypt, and the LORD made an east wind blow across the land all that day and all that night. By morning the wind had brought the locusts; ¹⁴ they invaded all Egypt and settled down in every area of the country in great numbers. Never before had there been such a plague of locusts, nor will there ever be again. ¹⁵ They covered all the ground until it was black. They devoured all that was left after the hail—everything growing in the fields and the fruit on the trees. Nothing green remained on tree or plant in all the land of Egypt. ¹⁶ Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. ¹⁷ Now forgive my sin once more and pray to the LORD your God to take this deadly plague away from me." ¹⁸ Moses then left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD. ¹⁹ And the LORD changed the wind to a very strong west wind, which caught up the locusts and carried them into the Red Sea. Not a locust was left anywhere in Egypt. ²⁰ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go.

10:12 The locusts plague was severe. Pharaoh even referred to it as "death". Why? They ate up almost all the remaining food source of the Egyptians. God is a God of miracles. He uses many methods. Even today He will do mini-miracles in our lives by controlling our circumstances and through divine providence.

10:16 Pharaoh once again calls for Moses. This time he apologizes again and asks forgiveness. Moses kept his end of the bargain, but in verse 20 we see Pharaoh again didn't let the people go.

10:19-20 Once again we see God use natural forces to drive the locusts away, this time bringing a strong west wind to drive them into the Red Sea. This is another reminder not to complain about the weather because God controls it. Not a single locusts was left. God was faithful even when Pharaoh wasn't.

The Plague of Darkness - Verses 21-29

²¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness spreads over Egypt—darkness that can be felt." ²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. ²³ No one could see anyone else or move about for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived. ²⁴ Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the LORD. Even

your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind.”²⁵ But Moses said, “You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the LORD our God.”²⁶ Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind. We have to use some of them in worshipping the LORD our God, and until we get there we will not know what we are to use to worship the LORD.”²⁷ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go.²⁸ Pharaoh said to Moses, “Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die.”²⁹ “Just as you say,” Moses replied. “I will never appear before you again.”

10:21 The darkness lasted for three days and was so thick it could be felt. This again shows us the supernatural aspect of the plague. It wasn't just like night time. Nor was it even like pitch black. It must have caused terror. The sons of Israel had light in their dwellings.

10:21 This time there was no warning first. Out of His abundant mercy, God does generally give a warning to the wicked. However, He does not always do so nor does He promise always to do so. In this case Pharaoh had been warned many times already. God will not always make an announcement directly before He does something major. In our case, the Rapture could come at any time. Therefore we need to be always ready. Serve God faithfully all the time and you don't need to fear the unknown.

10:24 Pharaoh once again tries to negotiate and save face by offering to let the people go but keep the animals there. Step by step he is giving in to what God wants and we see again God does not compromise. When we stand on what is right, we should not compromise one inch either. The partial obedience Pharaoh was willing to give, was not acceptable.

10:28 Moses agrees that he will not see Pharaoh's face again either. In other words, negotiations have ceased and he would not take the initiative to go to the throne to negotiate or warn Pharaoh again. Taking place right before the tenth and most devastating plague, it was like saying “Your chance is over. The coming doom is on your own head.”