

The Exodus: The Plagues Continue

Read Exodus 9:8 – 10:29

The plagues continue and grow more severe:

6. Boils (9:8-12)

At God's word, Moses takes handfuls of soot from a furnace and tosses them into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. The soot becomes a fine dust over all the land of Egypt, which then becomes festering boils covering people and animals. The magicians can't even stand before Pharaoh because of their boils. But again, Pharaoh's heart is hardened.

7. Hail (9:13-35)

Through Moses, God warns Pharaoh that He is sending a very heavy hail on Egypt that will kill any person or livestock left outside. He warns him to have his people bring inside every living thing that they value. One God-fearing servant listens. Those who don't, suffer the consequences. The flax and barley crops are ruined. Only in Goshen, the land of the Israelites, is there no hail. Pharaoh confesses his sin and asks Moses to pray for his forgiveness. But when the hail is gone, Pharaoh returns to his old ways.

8. Locusts (10:1-20)

God warns Pharaoh that He is sending a plague of locust. They will not only be a nuisance blanketing everything, as had been the frogs, gnats, and swarms, but they will devour all the crops and trees that had escaped the hail. Pharaoh tries to bargain with Moses, allowing only the Israelite men to leave and return. But when Moses insists on taking everyone, including the children, Pharaoh refuses. The locusts come, and *"nothing green was left on tree or plant of the field through all the land of Egypt"* (10:15, NASB). Again, Pharaoh repents, but it doesn't last.

9. Darkness (10:21-29)

The penultimate plague is a thick darkness that prevented any Egyptian from leaving home for three days. Only the Israelites had light. Again, Pharaoh bargains, then refuses to let Israel go. His final exchange with Moses is terse:

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!" Moses said, "You are right; I shall never see your face again!" (10:28-29, NASB)

Believer, this is your God: a God of merciful compassion, and a God of fierce judgment; a God of great patience, and of sudden, decisive action; a God of light, and a God of impenetrable mystery; a God who is content to whisper His sovereign word quietly in the human heart, then One who thunders on the world stage, for all to hear and see.