

Locusts And Darkness

Exodus 10

Faith Portal Church

ADULT

Unit 10 Lesson 9

Supplemental Texts

Exo 9

Focus Verse

“Now therefore forgive, I pray thee, my sin only this once, and intreat the Lord your God, that he may take away from me this death only.” – Exodus 10:17

Introduction

While the seventh plague was raging, Pharaoh realized how foolish he had behaved toward the Almighty God. In fact, he confessed that he and his people had sinned against the Lord, and he entreated Moses and Aaron to intercede on their behalf. Pharaoh assured them he would let them go if God stopped the plague (Exo 9:28). Moses, by experience, knew that Pharaoh and his officials would not fear God. Unsurprisingly for Moses, Pharaoh’s heart hardened as relief came.

Deeper Look

That You May Know That I Am The Lord – Exo 10:1-20

God said He had hardened the hearts of Pharaoh and his officials that He might perform His signs among them and to cause the Israelites and their generations to know the Lord. God asked that Pharaoh be humble, and let His people go; else, He would send the plague of locusts (Read Jas 4:6). When Pharaoh’s officials heard the devastation that would result because of the locusts, they implored Pharaoh to reconsider his stance, though their hearts had been hardened earlier (Exo 9:34). Pharaoh called back Moses and Aaron; but as Moses told him that all Israelites would go, he objected and stated only the men would go while the women and children stayed behind. Pharaoh’s pride would not let him submit fully to God even as God had revealed Himself to him. The plague of locusts was directed against the Egyptian god known to protect crops (v. 15). As before, Pharaoh uttered words of repentance (Exo 9:27-28), but his heart was far from God.

A Darkness That One Can Feel – Exo 10:21-29

A thick darkness all over Egypt, except in Goshen, was the next plague that came without warning. The thick darkness confined the Egyptians to a fixed location, meaning that their lamps could not give enough light. This plague was directed against the Egyptian sun god. Pharaoh called Moses and told him “Go ye, serve the LORD” but without your livestock. For Moses, there was no deal. We do not bargain with God; we surrender all. In anger, Pharaoh told Moses to get away from him and never to see his face again. Would Pharaoh be able to face what was next?

Questions

1. In His conversation with Moses, why did God mention “son” and “son’s son”? What would that have meant to you in your walk with God?
2. List all the concerns that Pharaoh should have had as Moses and Aaron delivered God’s message to him about the pending plague of locusts. Was any of these his concern? Why, or why not?
3. What indicated that Pharaoh’s officials were fretful about the plague of locusts? Why did Pharaoh change his mind to let the Israelites go after appearing to let them go? What alternative did he offer, and why?
4. What was the extent of the devastation caused by the locusts? What impact did the devastation have on Pharaoh? What effects would this type of devastation have in our nation today?
5. Describe the severity of the plague of darkness? Why were the Egyptian magicians not mentioned after the plague of boils? See Exo 9:11.
6. Why would Pharaoh disallow the livestock of the Israelites to go with them? How resolved was Moses when he responded to Pharaoh’s proposition? What can we learn from Moses’ stance?
7. What did Pharaoh’s anger toward Moses reflect? How can you deal with anger?

Personal Meditation

Moses was a very meek person; a role model indeed for each one of us. Besides, he was a man full of compassion toward the Egyptians. Though God used him as an instrument to inflict on the Egyptians unparalleled plagues, he was swift to intercede on behalf of the Egyptians before the Lord. Read Exo 8:9-13,29-31; 9:29,33; 10:17-19. Because Pharaoh maltreated the Israelites, it would have been the delight of Moses to see Egypt severely punished, but he took no delight as God's judgment came upon the Egyptians. We are not to rejoice when God punishes those who despise and persecute us (Prov 24:17-18). Even though God had placed Moses in the position of a god to Pharaoh, Moses was meek in dealing with Pharaoh despite his rude manner (vv. 11,28). And with all the power God bestowed on Moses, he could have been impatient with Pharaoh at some points, but he was never because he understood he must be in the center of God's will.

Is it difficult for you to exercise meekness and compassion? Do not fret; Jesus Christ has the answer. He will help you each day to live righteously before God and man.

DAILY STUDY

Monday	Exo 10:1-5
Tuesday	Exo 10:6-10
Wednesday	Exo 10:11-15
Thursday	Exo 10:16-20
Friday	Exo 10:21-24
Saturday	Exo 10:25-29



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