



## Exodus

### GOD'S MIRACULOUS DEMONSTRATION OF POWER

### Exodus 10

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#### Signs and Plagues

God's deliverance of His people from bondage will include "signs" and "plagues" - all demonstrations of His power. The plagues are all evidence of God's preeminence over the various "gods" of the Egyptians. The plagues are also signs to God's people that will encourage them in their confidence in God.

#### Plague of Locusts

The eighth plague was the devastating plague of locusts. Here are some highlights from this plague that connect to the rest of this story:

- Pharaoh's Heart: Pharaoh was a hard-hearted man before his encounter with the LORD. In Exodus 1, we read of his humiliation and persecution of the Israelites. As the plagues began, his heart was already hardened against God and His people (Exodus 7:13, 22). God would use that hardness of heart in the overall accomplishment of His plan. He then bent Pharaoh's heart even further in the direction it was already aimed.
- Spiritual and Theological Heritage of Israel: We read in the opening of Exodus 10 (Exodus 10:1-2) that God intended for Israel to tell the story of His victory over Egypt to the next generations of Israelites. This story was to be connected to God's revelation of His statutes and laws for Israel (Deuteronomy 6:20-25).
- The plague of the locusts was devastating to the Egyptians! The plagues were intensifying in effect as time wore on. The tension in the story is building.

## Plague of Darkness

Again, the plagues are intensifying as time progresses. Darkness was debilitating in the ancient world. With limited artificial lighting available, darkness was viewed very differently in the ancient world than in the modern era. Here are some other thoughts to consider:

- Further, the Egyptians worshiped the sun god, and Pharaoh himself was purported to be a child of the sun god. Sustained darkness was frightening to the Egyptians, and it was a direct attack on their principal deity.
- Pharaoh continued to hold Israel hostage by refusing to allow their flocks and herds to accompany them upon their exit. Pharaoh's heart continued to darken.
- Pharaoh threatened Moses with the sentence of death. He put an end to any hope that he would ever humble himself before the LORD.
- The first nine plagues had a memorable and lasting effect upon both Egypt and the people of Israel. The stage had been set for the final showdown.