

## February 26

**Scriptures:** Read Exodus 10

**Key Verse:** “And Moses said, ‘We will go with our young and our old; with our sons and our daughters, with our flock and our herds we will go, for we must hold a feast to the Lord.’” (Exodus 10:9)

### Overview

The Lord continued to harden the already hard heart of Pharaoh so that further and greater judgments would come upon Egypt and so that the Israelites could pass on from generation to generation the story of the great and mighty signs and wonders that God, the One and only, did to the land which oppressed and enslaved them (10:2). Pharaoh was very proud and he exalted himself over the children of Israel (9:17) and now we hear from God Himself that he refused to humble himself before the Lord (10:3). The Lord will not share His glory with anyone. Pharaoh was like a god to his people, but he could never be this for the children of Israel. They knew better and this may have made him extremely jealous of a God who was unseen and yet who proved Himself to be almighty. Pharaoh was a sinner who thought he could challenge God. He was certainly proven wrong and he himself had to confess this.

Moses warned Pharaoh that the eighth plague of locusts would come the next day if he did not let his people go. Pharaoh’s servants must have been aware of the damage locusts could cause and they were bold in speaking up to Pharaoh, perhaps trying to get him to reconsider, saying, “Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?” Pharaoh must have known of the destruction thus far, but he was too proud, calloused, and insensitive to care about anyone but himself.

For the third time (10:11) Pharaoh tried to make Moses agree to a compromise (cf. 8:25, 28), suggesting that only the men go out (leaving the children and women to ensure the men’s return). No, this could not be accepted; the whole family must be together to worship the Lord and be included in the salvation of the Lord. Pharaoh,, angered by Moses’ answer, rudely has Aaron and himself “driven out” (10:11). Once again, Moses was refused his request and so came the east wind which blew for 24 hours, bringing from a distance with the current of the wind, the greatest locust plague the world has ever seen. Anything green that remained from the plague of hail was totally eaten up by the locusts (see Joel 1:4-12). Locusts are like an army, they keep advancing forward. In front of them is green, behind them is barren land. This plague was supernatural; the locusts came right when Moses predicted they would, there was a superabundance of them, and they stopped and were driven into the Red sea by a miraculous change of wind at the time when Moses prayed.

The plague of darkness came without warning, like the third and sixth plagues. When Moses obeyed God and stretched out his hands a miraculous thick darkness came suddenly upon the land where the Egyptians lived. Also miraculous was the fact that the land of Goshen (where the Israelites lived) had light, of what nature we are not told, but since the sun was darkened it may have been an unexplainable heavenly light. We always see that God uses people (event the weak and despised) as His instruments to accomplish His will. May the Lord use us as His instruments today to show forth the glory of the Lord. This plague lasting for three days, was a humiliation

and a direct blow to the highest and most important god of the Egyptians, the sun god Re. To see him defeated meant his power was blotted out over Egypt and the Israelite God was supreme.

With this, Pharaoh called Moses to try for the fourth time to get him to compromise by leaving behind all the livestock (10:24) as a guarantee of their return. How could they worship God without anything to sacrifice? No, there could be no compromise. God certainly requires all that we possess and Moses made this very clear to Pharaoh. Pharaoh had met his match with Moses, but Moses was to be the winner. When one is on God's side, he is the ultimate winner. Pharaoh, in a burst of anger, threatened that if he saw Moses' face again it would mean his death. Moses agreed that they would never see each other again. We read later that he too became angry, for Pharaoh had repeatedly refused the opportunities given him and now a more drastic and serious measure was to be taken.

### **Prayer**

O Lord, all that we have is Yours. Grant that we will worship You with our substance as well as our lives.