

Exodus 8-10

June 5, 2011

Introduction:

Moses is in Egypt, trying to talk Pharaoh into letting the people go to worship. God has been working miracles in order to break Pharaoh. In **chapter 7 Aaron's staff became a snake and ate the magicians' snakes. He also struck the Nile and turned the water of Egypt into blood.**

8:1-15: What happens in chapter 8 verses 1 to 15?

- The next miracle God works is to cover Egypt with frogs. God continues to protect the land of Goshen (*Go-shun*), where the Jews live, from the plagues. The magicians duplicate this miracle in a small way. Pharaoh then tells Moses that he will let the people go worship if Moses will remove the frogs. The frogs die throughout the land at the precise time given by Moses. Pharaoh then hardens his heart and refuses to let the people go to worship.

8:16-19: What takes place in verses 16 to 19?

- The next miracle is an infestation of **gnats**. The magicians are unable to reproduce this miracle and tell Pharaoh that this is a work of God. Pharaoh still refuses to allow Israel to leave for worship.

8:20-25: What occurs in verses 20 to 25?

- Egypt is then filled with **flies**. Pharaoh says he will allow them to go to worship at a closer location. Moses says that they must go three days from where they were. Pharaoh says he will allow it when the flies are gone. Moses reminds Pharaoh that he had broken prior promises to let the people go. Moses removes the flies, but Pharaoh again breaks his promise and will not let the people go.

9:1-7: What happens in chapter 9 verses 1 to 7?

- God then kills the livestock of Egypt, but God again protects the livestock in the land of Goshen. Pharaoh still refuses to let the people go into the wilderness to worship God.

9:8-12: What takes place in verses 8 to 12?

- God then sends **boils** upon all of the people of Egypt. Pharaoh still refuses to let the people go worship.

9:13-17: In verses 13 to 17 Moses tells Pharaoh that the plagues will continue. Moses tells him that God could have already killed the people of Egypt with disease (*pestilence*) and that God will continue to act to reveal that He is the true God.

9:18-35: What occurs in verses 18 to 35?

- Moses now brings hail upon all of Egypt except for the land of Goshen. Any animals or people outside during the storm would die. Pharaoh claims to acknowledge God, asks Moses to stop the hail, and again promises to let the people go into the wilderness to worship. Once the hail stops, Pharaoh again refuses to let Israel go.

We have read over and over that God hardened Pharaoh's heart (7:13,22; 8:19; 9:12) and that Pharaoh hardened his own heart (8:15; 9:32). Which do you think happened first and why?

- God, being eternal and all knowing, knew beforehand all that would take place. He told Moses in **4:21** that He would be a part of the hardening of Pharaoh's heart. Most likely, Pharaoh hardened his own heart first and then God "gave him over" to an even harder heart. It is **unlike** God to make us do things against our will; God will not save us unless we want to be saved, for example. It is **like** God to give us over to what we want (**Romans 1:24,26,28**). For example, if we don't want the Lord in our lives, He will allow us to spend forever without Him...in hell. He doesn't send us to hell; He gives us over to what we choose. The order is given to us in **9:34-35** – Pharaoh hardened his own heart and then his heart was hardened (even more). **See Psalm 81:11-12.**

10:1-20 what takes place in **chapter 10 verses 1 to 20?**

- God reminds Moses and Aaron that He is going to make His name known through His dealings with Egypt. They again tell Pharaoh to let the people go or a plague of locusts will cover Egypt. Pharaoh's servants urge him to let them go since Egypt has been devastated by the plagues. Pharaoh tells Moses that he is willing to let the men go, but he is unwilling to allow them to take their wives, children, and livestock. So Moses summons the locusts that cover the land and devour all of the remaining vegetation. Pharaoh then seems repentant and tells them they can go. Moses prays, the Lord removes the locusts, and once again Pharaoh is hard-hearted and refuses to let the people go.

What does the phrase "cut your losses" mean and how does it apply to this story?

- To "cut your losses" is to face the fact that you've lost something but to take some action now so that you do not lose even more. Egypt had clearly been devastated by the plagues. Their livestock was gone and all of their crops ruined. God was surely punishing Egypt; it could get worse...and it will. Had Pharaoh let the people go at this point, the nation would have avoided further ruin, included the death of all of Egypt's firstborn.

Let's say that you invest money into a business that continues to fail to make a profit. Do you get out of the business and minimize your financial loss *or* do you can keep throwing "good money after bad" and lose even more money trying to rescue the business?

Let's say that you have been giving money to help someone who is in need. They keep taking your money but continue to make bad financial choices that leave them in the same condition. Do you keep giving them money?

- You eventually learn that the person's lack of money is a symptom of the problem, *not* the problem, and that more money will not fix their behavior or situation.

Let's say that a woman dates a man for years who keeps saying that he will marry her one-day. **Five years later they are unmarried. She has invested **five years** in this relationship. Should she "cut her losses" or keep dating in hopes that he will propose?**

- This woman would be wise to move on. You can't find the "right" guy when you're pursuing the "wrong" guy.

10:21-29 what takes place in **verses 21 to 29?**

- God brings a darkness over all of Egypt that could be "felt". The Egyptians were unable to even light a fire. They had no light at all during a three-day period. Pharaoh then tells Moses that he can go, take the wives, and take the children; but they could not take their livestock. Moses tells him that they must take the livestock, too. Pharaoh is hard-hearted again and tells Moses that Moses will die if he ever appears before Pharaoh again. Moses tells Pharaoh that he, indeed, will never see the Pharaoh's face again.

Is there another time in Scripture where there was an unusual darkness?

- Yes: at the cross. See **Matthew 27:45**. It was completely dark in the middle of the day. The **sixth hour** is **noon**; it was pitch dark from **noon** until **3:00 p.m.** Secular historians confirm this darkness in their writings. The crucifixion began at the **third hour** (9:00 a.m. – **Mark 15:25**). All of the trials that Jesus faced were illegally conducted during the night.

Why do we think that this time of darkness is when Jesus paid for our sin?

- It is after this time that Jesus says, “Why have you forsaken Me?” See **Matthew 27:46**. It was after this time of darkness that Jesus declares that his work is “finished”. See **Matthew 27:50 & John 19:30**.

As we think about light and darkness, what miraculous thing took place at the birth of Jesus?

- In **Luke 2:9** an angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and the glory of the Lord (**light**) surrounded them.

What do we learn about Jesus from **John 1:4-9?**

- Jesus is the *light of men*. He shined in darkness. He gives **“light”** to every man. He gives the **light** of “conscience” and the **light of “creation”** to every man. See **Romans 1:18-22**. See **John 8:12 & 12:35-36**.

Darkness came when “the Light of the world” suffered for our sin. See **2 Corinthians 5:21 ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin,* so that we could be made right with God through Christ. & **1 Peter 3:18: 18** Christ suffered* for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.*.**