

Through the Bible for Children: Exodus Lesson 11

LOCUSTS AND DARKNESS

Exodus 10: 1-29

The Lord said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh. I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, so that I might show my signs before him.. You will tell to your sons, and to your grandsons what great things that I did in Egypt, so that they will know that I am the Lord."

Then Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, "This is what the God of the Hebrews says, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go that they may serve me. If you refuse to let them go, I will bring locusts into your country. They will cover the face of the earth, so that no one will be able to see the ground. They will eat up anything that is left, anything that the hail did not destroy. They will fill the houses of all the Egyptians.'" Then Moses turned around and left the presence of Pharaoh.

Pharaoh's servants said to Pharaoh, "How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the men go and serve their Lord God. Don't you realize yet that Egypt is destroyed?"

Again Moses and Aaron were brought in before Pharaoh. He said to them, "Go, serve your God. But, who is it that will go?" Moses answered, "We will go with all of our families, and all of our animals. We must hold a feast to our God."

Pharaoh answered, " You will not all go, only the men may leave." Then he had Moses and Aaron driven out of his presence.

The Lord told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts. Then they will come up upon the land of Egypt and eat every green thing that the hail has left."

Moses stretched his rod out over the land and the locusts came. They came and came and came, until the whole land was covered with them. They were terrible. Never before had the land of Egypt seen such locusts, and they never would again. The locusts covered all the earth and the sky was dark because of them. They ate and ate and ate until there was not a green thing left in all the land of Egypt.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in a hurry. He said, "I have sinned against God, and against you. Please forgive my sin only this one time, and ask your God for me to take away this death."

As soon as Pharaoh had finished speaking, Moses left his presence. He went out and prayed to the Lord. Then the Lord sent a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and threw them into the Red sea. There was NOT ONE locust left in all the land of Egypt.

But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, so that he would not let the children of Israel go.

The Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt. A darkness that will be felt."

As soon as Moses had stretched his hand out, a thick darkness came over all the land of Egypt. It lasted for three long days. The Egyptians could not see each other. They did

not even get up off their beds for those three days. While the Egyptians sat in darkness, the Hebrews had light in their houses.

Again Pharaoh called Moses, he said, "Go, serve your God. You may all go, but leave your flocks and herds behind." Moses answered, "We need animals to sacrifice to our God. We must take them all with us, because we will not know which animals the Lord wants until we get there."

But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go.

Pharaoh said, "Get out of here, and be careful that I do not see your face again. If I see your face, you will die."

Moses answered, "What you say is true. I will not see your face again."

Pharaoh was never really planning to let the children of Israel go. He always made some provision when he said they could go, so that they would have to come back to Egypt. At first it was that they must leave their children and their animals behind, and then finally, as he got more desperate, he said that they could take their children but must leave all the animals behind. Pharaoh knew that the Hebrews would never flee from Egypt and leave their families and possessions behind.

When we read this passage, it seems like Pharaoh has control of the Israelites, but in reality God has control of Pharaoh. When we look around us, it may seem as though the wicked rule and they control of the people. But the truth is that it is God who rules, and it is He who turns the hearts of the kings in whatever direction He pleases. He wants all the world to know that He alone is ruler and king of the heavens and the earth.

Once again we see God showing His power over the false gods of Egypt. The god Serapis was powerless to protect Egypt from the locusts. The Egyptian sun god, Ra who was one of the chief gods of Egypt, was shown to be powerless as well. Ra certainly did not rule the sun, only God himself has that power.

LEARN: The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts.

Proverbs 21:1,2



1. Color background and draw clouds at sunset.
2. Color locusts, cut out and post on picture.
3. Use black crayon or marker to draw a man on his bed on black sheet.





