

A Bug's Life: The Prequel

Long Beach Alliance Church • March 20th, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may perform these signs of Mine among them, and that you may tell in the hearing of your son, and of your grandson, how I made a mockery of the Egyptians and how I performed My signs among them, that you may know that I am the LORD."

~Exodus 10:1-2 (NASB)

1) Not Interested In Negotiating

- A) Once again, God hardens the hearts of Egypt (Exodus 10:1). But this time, God reveals that His purposes are not just to humble Egypt and free Israel, but also to provide future generations an important lesson of God's power (10:2).
- B) Moses and Aaron obediently deliver God's message to Pharaoh (10:3), along with a foreboding warning of an unprecedented locust plague (10:4-6).
- C) Just as soon as Moses is gone, the court of Pharaoh (his servants) appeal to Pharaoh to release the Israelite men, in light of how punishing the plagues have been against Egypt (10:7).

- D) Moses and Aaron are brought back to Pharaoh and told to finally "Go!" to serve the Lord (10:8). However, upon further inquiry, Pharaoh realizes that the Israelites intend on leaving altogether (10:9), and responds with rage, throwing Moses and Aaron out of the palace forcefully (10:10-11).

2) God vs. Pharaoh ~ Round #8

- A) The agricultural situation in Egypt was already dire because of the brutal hail plague (#7). The threat of locusts would have been terrifying for Egypt's beleaguered farmers.
- B) So feared was the locust, that most farmers and field workers prayed regularly in ancient Egypt to a locust god for protection.
- C) Locust swarms usually contain 100 million to 200 million flying locust per square mile, while covering areas up to 400 square miles! Locusts eat their own body weight daily, and can keep flying (non-stop) for seventeen hours a day!

3) Plague #8 ~ Lots 'O Hungry Flying Buggers

- A) God brings the locusts on the wind the next day (10:12-13), just as Moses had warned Pharaoh (10:14-15).
- B) Desperately, Pharaoh meets with Moses and Aaron with more insincere confessions (10:16), appealing for God's mercy, and for forgiveness "this once" (10:17).
- C) Of course, God mercifully relents, but as expected, Pharaoh does not let God's people go (10:18-20).

For further discussion with your family, spouse, or small group study... How does the story of the plagues apply to your own life? Is the same power which God showed to the Israelites in Egypt at work in your experience? What is the one thing you would like to see God powerfully change in your life? If God needed to strip your life of some things, what would get "eaten up?" Can you voluntarily choose to strip your life of these things? Why/Why Not?