



## The Fourth Plague: Flies

- The second time Pharaoh is confronted by Moses as he goes out to the water early in the morning.
- The command of Yahweh is given again to let His people go with the warning of the next plague if this command is not obeyed.
- Pharaoh is given a day to consider his response. (God is never eager to bring judgment).
- God now begins to make a distinction between the area in which the Israelites reside and the rest of Egypt in a further display of his power.

## The Fourth Plague: Flies

- This plague again elicits a plead from Pharaoh to stop the plague. He tries to negotiate by allowing them to go and sacrifice to God without leaving Egypt.
- Moses insists on going three days journey into the wilderness outside of Egypt based in part on the fact that sheep and goat sacrifices were not acceptable sacrifices in Egypt. (Genesis 46:34) (Possibly due to the former rule of a people called Hyksos.)
- Pharaoh conceded yet asked that they go no further than necessary.
- Pharaoh asked Moses to pray for him and Moses shows his skepticism of Pharaoh's sincerity by warning Pharaoh about keeping his word.
- At the prayer of Moses the flies leave but again Pharaoh hardens his heart and does not let the people go.

## The Fifth Plague: Egyptian Livestock Die

- Moses is again sent in to repeat Yahweh's command to let His people go with the warning that if not livestock of the Egyptians will die.
- A distinction will again be made between the Egyptians and Israelites with the Israelites suffering no loss.
- Pharaoh is again given a day to think about his choice.
- Most English translations have that "all" the Egyptian livestock died, the Hebrew word כֹּל "kol" is better translated "all sorts off", from all over" or "all over the place". This is significant since livestock are mentioned in two of the future plagues.
- Pharaoh does not issue the command to let the people go and the plague takes place. Even though he confirmed that the livestock of the Israelites were spared he again responded from his hard heart and did not let the people go.

## The Sixth Plague: Boils

- This plague immediately follows the death of the livestock with no warning to Pharaoh.
- Soot is thrown in to the air within sight of Pharaoh to begin the plague
- The unusual nature of this plague is that the Egyptians were so infested by these boils that they could not go about the normal routines of life as indicated by the magicians not able to appear before Moses. (The magicians have not been seen since the third plague and are never mentioned again.)

## The Seventh Plague: Hail

- In this confrontation with Pharaoh, Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, reveals that he will complete the series of plagues on Egypt according to His strategic plan:
  - So that Pharaoh and his people will know that there is none like Yahweh in all the earth.
  - Although God could have wiped out all the people of Egypt and thus set His people free, He has chosen to use this occasion to reveal Himself as the One true and living God to the world.
  - Yahweh was the One responsible for this man to be the Pharaoh of Egypt at this time to give God the occasion to reveal His power.
  - Pharaoh consistently responded by exalting himself rather than submitting to Yahweh.

## The Seventh Plague: Hail

- Again we see judgment tempered with mercy as the hail will not come until the next day. The people were urged to get their slaves and livestock under shelter before the storm.
- Some, having already seen that God brought about what He said He would do, heeded this warning. Others did not.
- The only plague that resulted in the loss of human life until the tenth plague.
- Pharaoh's response to the storms reveals the difference between admission and confession.
- The source of Pharaoh's inadequate response is his lack of "fear of the LORD". None of the gods of the Egyptian pantheon were viewed as all powerful. Pharaoh was banking on the idea that at some point this Yahweh would exhaust His power. He made the mistake that many have made. He interpreted the restraint of God as weakness.

## The Eighth Plague: Locusts

- After hardening his own heart seven times, God now hardens Pharaoh's heart in order to bring the remaining judgments which will result in the release of God's people and that God's people would know that He is Yahweh.
- Again God reveals what He is about to do and gives Pharaoh a day to think it over.
- Pharaoh's advisors how speak up that Pharaoh's resistance is devastating his kingdom.

## The Eighth Plague: Locusts

- Pharaoh chooses bargaining rather than obedience. He attempted to pressure Moses to compromise on the command they had received from God. Moses refused the offer and the plague begins as foretold
- Pharaoh again practices admission rather than confession as seen by his continued refusal to let the people go.

## The Ninth Plague: Darkness

- No warning or opportunity was given before this plague as was the case with the third (gnats) and sixth (boils).
- Lasted for 3 days.
- One of the principle gods of the Egyptian pantheon was Ra the sun god. Viewed as creator of the world and represented in every other god.
- Again Yahweh shows His complete power over the elements of the world by providing light among His people.
- Again Pharaoh seeks bargaining over obedience but Moses insists on going out as Yahweh has commanded.