

Exodus 10

Verses 1- 2

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, ²and 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.”

8th PLAGUE – locusts

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,

When God says these signs he means plagues 8 thru 10.

Beginning here the king and his servants will temporarily lose their free will.

God will harden their hearts and they will not relent

² 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.”

Why did God harden the hearts of the king and his servant's?

So this generation of slaves would know that “He was the Lord” and they could pass this story on to their sons and grandsons

About 500 years later, this story was written as songs

See Psalm 78:44 - 53

Psalms 105:26 - 36

Verses 3 – 11

³ Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, “Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. ⁴ For if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory. ⁵ They shall cover the surface of the land, so that no one will be able to see the land. They will also eat the rest of what has escaped—what is left to you from the hail—and they will eat every tree which sprouts for you out of the field. ⁶ Then your houses shall be filled and the houses of all your servants and the houses of all the Egyptians, *something* which neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen, from the day that they came upon the earth until this day.’” And he turned and went out from Pharaoh. ⁷ Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God. Do you not realize that Egypt is destroyed?” ⁸ So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the Lord your God! Who are the ones that are going?” ⁹ Moses said, “We shall go with our young and our old; with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds we shall go, for we must hold a feast to the Lord.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Thus may the Lord be with you, if ever I let you and your little ones go! Take heed, for evil is in your mind. ¹¹ Not so! Go now, the men *among you*, and serve the Lord, for that is what you desire.” So they were driven out from Pharaoh’s presence.

How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me?

The king had hardened his heart during 6 of the first 7 plagues

We don’t know for sure how long it was in terms of weeks and months but the king was given enough proof to realize that these signs were from God

If God had hardened the heart of the king through all the plagues this question would have made God look like a hypocrite and an ogre

Tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory

They shall cover the land, so that no one will be able to see the land

There are historical instances of locusts covering areas of 1,600 to 1800 square miles, the size of Rhode Island, to a depth of four to five inches

They have been known to obscure the sun in their flight

Something which neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen, from the day that they came upon the earth until this day

In verse 14 we learn that this goes all the way back to the beginning of Egyptian history.

Egypt was populated by the tribe of Ham after the flood

See Psalm 105:23

See Pic 1005



⁷ Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God. Do you not realize that Egypt is destroyed?

The king's servants attempted an intervention because it was not clear to them if the king realized or understood that Egypt was nearly destroyed

So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the Lord your God! Who are the ones that are going?”

The king wanted to make a compromise concerning who would leave but Moses affirmed that it had to be everyone plus the flocks and herds

Then he said to them, “Thus may the Lord be with you, if ever I let you and your little ones go!”

The king rejected Moses offer and gave him a different option

Go now, the men *among you*, and serve the Lord

By keeping the women and children the king knew that the men would return

Verses 12-15

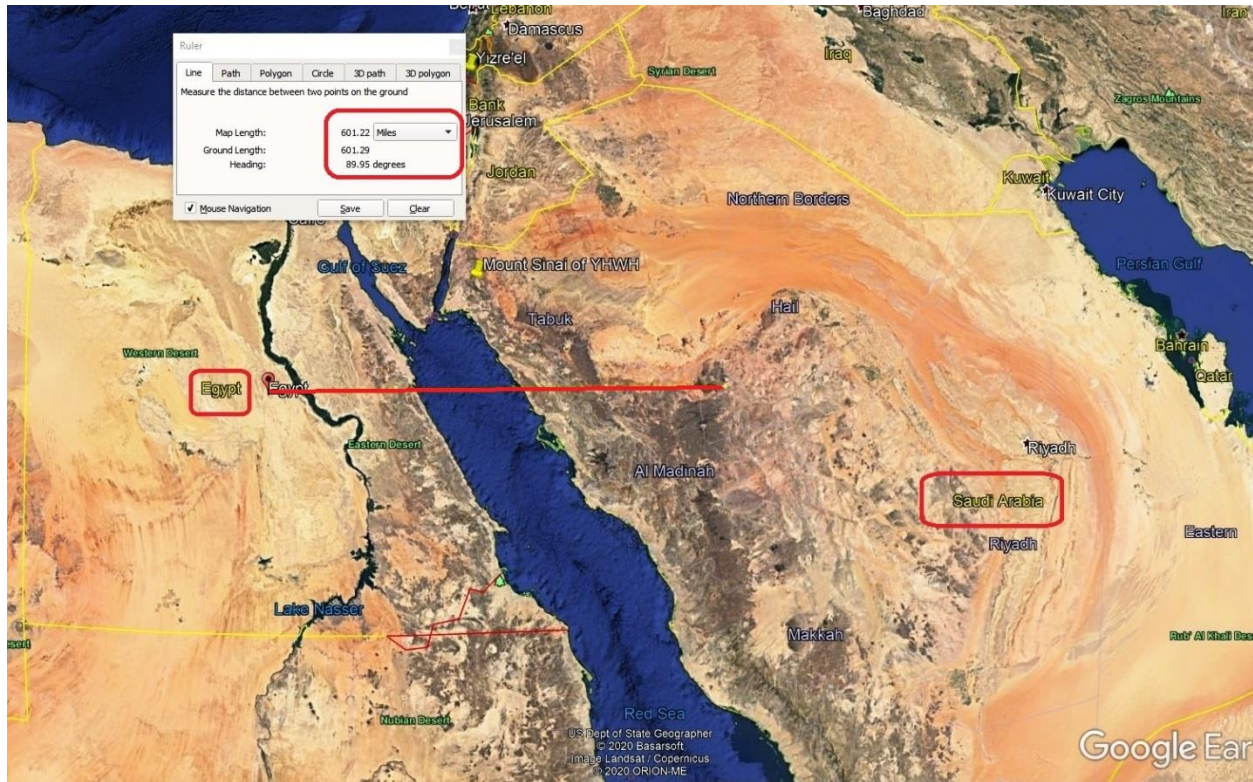
¹² Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up on the land of Egypt and eat every plant of the land, *even* all that the hail has left.” ¹³ So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the Lord directed an east wind on the land all that day and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. ¹⁴ The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled in all the territory of Egypt; *they were* very numerous. There had never been so *many* locusts, nor would there be so *many* again. ¹⁵ For they covered the surface of the whole land, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every plant of the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Thus nothing green was left on tree or plant of the field through all the land of Egypt.

The Lord directed an east wind on the land all that day and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts

God probably brought the locust into Egypt from Saudi Arabia

If the east wind was at 25 mph they could cover a distance of 600 miles in 24 hours

See Map 1010 below The red line is 600 miles



There had never been so *many* locusts, nor would there be so *many* again.

This is a prophecy that has held true for 3,400 years

They ate every plant of the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left.

God was using an overwhelming force that was very destructive

Verses 16-20

16 Then Pharaoh hurriedly called for Moses and Aaron, and he said, “I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. 17 Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and make supplication to the Lord your God, that He would only remove this death from me.” 18 He went out from Pharaoh and made supplication to the Lord. 19 So the Lord shifted *the wind* to a very strong west wind which took up the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea; not one locust was left in all the territory of Egypt. 20 But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the sons of Israel go.

Then Pharaoh hurriedly called for Moses and Aaron

Because the plague was so severe the king wasted no time calling for Moses

Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once

The king said the same thing during the 7th plague

See Exodus 9:27

Perhaps 1 is equal to 2 using Egyptian mathematics. 😊

So the Lord shifted *the wind* to a very strong west wind which took up the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea

See Map 1015



The east wind that brought the locusts across the Red Sea into Egypt was not near as strong as the west wind that drove them into the Red Sea on the return flight

But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the sons of Israel go.

Obviously, the king was ready to give up but The Lord was not finished with His judgment on Egypt.

Verses 21-24

²¹ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even a darkness which may be felt."

²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. ²³ They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the sons of Israel had light in their dwellings. ²⁴ Then Pharaoh called to Moses, and said, "Go, serve the Lord; only let your flocks and your herds be detained. Even your little ones may go with you."

9th Plague - Darkness

Stretch out your hand, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt

This ninth plague came without warning, as did plagues 3 and 6

They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the sons of Israel had light in their dwellings

While attending college in New Mexico some of us visited Carlsbad Caverns. As part of the tour we were brought to a huge cave and we all asked to sit down. When they turned out the lights we experienced that kind of darkness. This kind of Darkness is amazing.

The fact that Israel had light while Egypt experienced this kind of darkness can only be explained by a miracle

Only let your flocks and your herds be detained

This final compromise offered by the king was foolish

However, the king did not have the ability to agree with Moses at this point

God had hardened his heart

Verses 25-29

²⁵ But Moses said, “You must also let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice *them* to the Lord our God. ²⁶ Therefore, our livestock too shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind, for we shall take some of them to serve the Lord our God. And until we arrive there, we ourselves do not know with what we shall serve the Lord.” ²⁷ But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he was not willing to let them go. ²⁸ Then Pharaoh said to him, “Get away from me! Beware, do not see my face again, for in the day you see my face you shall die!” ²⁹ Moses said, “You are right; I shall never see your face again!”

Therefore, our livestock too shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind

And until we arrive there, we ourselves do not know with what we shall serve the Lord

This was not a ruse; Moses himself did not know what animals would be needed

But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he was not willing to let them go.

See pic 1020

Plague	Verse	Who hardened the kings heart	King	Lord
Blood	7:22	Pharaoh’s heart was hardened	x	
Frogs	8:15	He hardened his heart	x	
Gnats	8:19	But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened	x	
Flies	8:32	But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also	x	
Livestock	9:7	But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened	x	
Boils	9:12	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart		x
Hail	9:34	he sinned again and hardened his heart	x	
Locust	10:20	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart		x
Darkness	10:27	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart		x

As the punishments got more severe, the Lord had to harden the king’s heart in order for the judgment to continue

Then the king said to him, in the day you see my face you shall die

Moses said, “You are right; I shall never see your face again!”

The king and Moses were both wrong in what they said.

See Exodus 12:31