

Exodus 10

Read Exodus 10:1-20: God has patterns and so does Satan. We see the same messages echoing from Genesis to Revelation. God does not change his message. God's ways work well. Everything else is in vain; and is a painful detour. God provides the basic message; and he even uses easily recognizable messengers. Biblical interpretation should generally include the idea of *expositional constancy*. That means that representations do not really change. For example, when God shows up in a storm or a whirlwind it is not going to be a pleasant message. A storm is generally viewed as something ominous coming. It is not associated with rainbows and new beginnings.

The ancient world wanted to discover and cultivate things leading to: survival, health, prosperity and happiness. They drew correlations to things associated with rain and sun and food and fertility. They ascribed these attributes to various creatures, planets, statues and natural events; since they did not know the real creator, God. God is showing them here that these random icons of their imagination were bringing curses, not blessings. Their pursuits were having an opposite effect.

Moses tells Pharaoh in advance what will happen and how it will happen, and why it is happening. It is amazing how people will ascribe attributes to the dumbest things while rejecting a clear description of who God is. Today is no different. We see cognitive dissidences with antisemitism, Trump Derangement Syndrome, transgender issues, idealizing Islam, etc...

The Exodus plagues were about: killing their imaginary gods for life, abundance and fertility. How do you communicate with a mind that has lost its moorings with truth? God meets us where we are in ways that we do understand. God is speaking in Egypt's language and belief system. He is using their own gods to show them that they are in serious trouble; and that they are going the wrong way.

It is very logical that locusts would follow the plague of hail. The Egyptian idol of chaos, *Seth* was thought to bring storms, locust invasions, and unwelcomed foreigners. Locusts were seen as destroyers of that agricultural society. These things were also seen as omens. Yes, the locusts were bad news, but they were also harbingers of worse things coming. Centuries later, the Jews had famine, plagues and curses leading up to their Babylonian captivity. God does not send plagues to kill us; but to ultimately bring repentance and restoration.

“So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you. (Joel 2)

History tends to repeat itself. These plagues will repeat themselves in the coming tribulation. There will be locusts, but also much more. Locusts are associated with darkness like a cloud that obscures the sun. Locusts are associated with invading armies. Locusts are associated with a scorched earth result. Their noise sounds like invading cavalry. There will be comparisons and amplifications in the future of past plagues.

Blow the trumpet in Zion And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand: ²A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations. ³A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them. ⁴Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run. ⁵With a noise like chariots Over mountaintops they leap, Like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble, Like a strong people set in battle array. ⁶Before them the people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of color. ⁷They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like men of war; Every one marches in formation, And they do not break ranks. ⁸They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column. Though they lunge between the weapons, They are not cut down. ⁹They run to and fro in the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter at the windows like a thief. ¹⁰The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness. ¹¹The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it? (Joel 2)

Plagues are associated with the curses of disobedience to God's laws. Moses and Elijah will come back during the tribulation to a fallen society enslaved to agencies of their making and imaginary virtues. The idea of apologetics and reason is gone. Moses and Elijah will again be agents of God to communicate tough love and pain with depraved and lost minds. There is a common denominator for all people throughout time. It is pain.

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 11)

Not only will the future locust plagues be physical; but also, there will be a spiritual or demonic aspect to it.

Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. ² And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. ³ Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴ They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. ⁶ In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. ⁷ The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. ⁸ They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. ⁹ And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. ¹⁰ They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. ¹¹ And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. ¹² One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things. (Revelation 9)

Our current exodus event echoes into the future. The message is very similar and repeated. Someone was telling the people of Egypt were going the wrong way; and things were getting even worse. Apparently, the Egyptian people came around to believe that they were going the wrong way. They knew it was wrong for Pharaoh denying the Hebrews passage to freedom. When the Hebrews did eventually leave, the Egyptians loaded them up with all kinds of materials and wealth. You do not do that unless you have a very strong compulsion to do so.

The broader idea is that this next series of curses will be remembered on earth throughout time. That record has certainly been preserved and communicated widely until today. God is using locusts to convey damage at hand, and worse is yet to come. Locusts are like a destroying army being blown away at God's command.

Read Exodus 10:21-29: What is worse than torture and loss on earth? Hell and eternal consequences. The next plague is total darkness. No moonlight or sunlight. Hell is a dark place where you are alone with screaming and fire and

worms. Not fun. God is telling men that their bearings are set for a very dark place that is not nice.

¹⁰ When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! ¹¹ And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 8)

Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ “For many are called, but few are chosen.” (Matthew 22:13-14)