

The Eighth Plague: Locusts
Exodus 10:3-7; 12-17

Prov. 30:27 - Locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks; Rev. 9 - The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. (11) They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer). Locusts were perhaps the most feared invader. Given a choice, the Egyptians would easily have chosen frogs, lice or flies over locusts. Faced with devastating locusts, the Egyptians could only hope Osiris (agriculture) and Anubis (fields) would rescue them. But alas no. . .

I. The Locusts – Worse than most

- A. Locusts are found on all continents except Antarctica.
- B. News in 2020: Swarms of locusts are threatening the Horn of Africa, Middle East & South Asia.
- C. In the Bible locusts have both literal and figurative meanings: crop destroyers & military invaders.
- D. The Lord pronounces judgment on sinful nations utilizing both insects and armies.
- E. In the case of Egypt, an unheard of swarm would practically destroy the nation.


II. The Leftovers from the Hailstorm v.5

- A. The hail had destroyed much of the crops, but not the wheat and spelt or any stored grain.
- B. The hail meant a quick death for those hit by it, but the locusts meant starvation.
- C. The locusts did not have to wait for the grain to ripen; they just ate through all vegetation.
- D. So this eighth plague just continued Egypt down the way of death.
- E. But as already seen, death and ruination are not certain because God has the last word.

III. Egypt in the Process of Being Destroyed

- A. Pharaoh's servants: "Do you not realize that Egypt is destroyed?" v.7
- B. Pharaoh: "make supplication to the LORD your God, that He would only remove this death from me."
- C. All nations, same destiny: The wicked will return to Sheol, *Even* all the nations who forget God. Ψ 9:17
- D. Israel was an exception, but only so long as they obeyed the Lord and received His grace.
- E. Friends, listen to good advice; the locusts are coming. Do you have a way of escape?

IV. The Only Way of Escape

- A. Note the picture God is painting: deliverance for His people, destruction for His enemies.
- B. God is not interested in any partial yielding or incomplete worship.
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.
- C. The only way the king and his people will survive is by a complete surrender to God.
- D. The Israelites would need to learn this lesson in the wilderness and beyond.
- E. When the Exodus (outgoing) finally took place, some savvy Egyptians went along. 

V. Death on the Nile

- A. There was usually a period of years between large locust swarms occurring naturally.
- B. But *this* visitation was ordered and directed by the Lord as a deadly punishment.
- C. God caught them in the wind and carried them where He wanted them to be.
- D. Pharaoh described clearly what was happening: “*Remove this death from me.*” (17)
- E. Death will find you whether you’re beside the Nile River or the Santa Ana River.

But there is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God,
the holy place

of the tabernacles of the most High. Psalm 46:4

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding
out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. Revelation 22:1

A frightening fact about locusts is a 10 to 16-fold increase in locust numbers occurs from one generation to the next. African countries are now experiencing their worst infestations of locusts in decades. Desert locusts in Africa and Asia swarm with as many as 150 million locusts per square kilometer and fly in the direction of the prevailing wind. They may travel up to 150 kilometers in one day. A very small, one-kilometer locust swarm can eat the same amount of food in a day as about 35,000 people. Locusts live up to one year without population control.