

## The Ninth Plague: Darkness

### Exodus 10:22-29

The end is near. Only two more plagues remain. Only, Pharaoh doesn't know that. But his advisors and most of the people sense that the nation cannot bear much more trouble. Locusts have stripped the land and sicknesses of various kinds have brought the populace to the brink of total destruction. All the while the Israelites have been living relatively normal lives, protected by the God of their fathers. The world is growing dark. . .literally. I used to visit a part of Cairo known as Heliopolis: Sun City. One of the greatest gods of Egypt was *Ra*, the sun god. *Ra* was about to be put in the closet.

#### I. Total Darkness Is a Taste of Nothingness.

- A. Darkness means 3 things in the Bible: blindness, ignorance and separation (isolation).
- B. The next trial for the Egyptians was the darkness of separation, a descent into nothingness.
- C. Darkness came upon the Egyptians like an oily mass that left them with only their thoughts.
- D. The Egyptians were basically immobilized (23) and incommunicative.
- E. Like the other plagues it was only temporary (3 days) but it spoke of God's judgment.

#### II. Rejection of the Light Assures a Sentence of Darkness.

- A. Pharaoh was already in serious darkness, having lied to God 8 times after hearing His Word.
- B. Every plague, including the one now portending, was a gracious ray of divine light.  
Light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (Jn 3:19)
- C. Every rejection deepens the separation and lessens the hope of walking in the light.
- D. Pharaoh's gradual concessions were still repudiations of the LORD and love of darkness.
- E. By contrast, the Israelites in Goshen were flooded with light, even with but little faith.

#### III. Those Who Have the Light Follow a Pattern of Behavior.

- A. This is God's pattern, and He will not allow His people to keep one foot in "Egypt." (24)
- B. The behavioral elements are willingness to obey, offering sacrifice & perpetual service. (26)
- C. In so far as the Israelites behaved in this fashion, they would continue in the Light.
- D. Pharaoh & his crowd were always going to demand Israel behave like Egyptians.
- E. So, are we (1) believers in the Light (2) living in the Light and (3) serving in the Light.  
But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

#### IV. Eternal Darkness Is Reserved for Certain Folks.

The Lord, having saved the people out of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that did not believe . . . Woe to them! for they have gone in the way of Cain. . . to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. (Jude 5-13)

- A. There is no fellowship in the Pit, nothing but discomfort, isolation and darkness.
- B. Note the irony – Pharaoh: Do not see my face again. Moses: I shall never see your face again! (29)
- C. Jude says those in such a situation are basically "unbelievers," not criminals or nasties.
- D. Jesus says, "He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (Jn 8:14)  
I am come a light into the world, that whoever believes on me should not abide in darkness. (Jn 12:46)
- E. If you want to live in the sunshine, go to heaven. The true Heliopolis is in Heaven.