



EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 10:21-29

21 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt." **22** So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. **23** They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the people of Israel had light where they lived. **24** Then Pharaoh called Moses and said, "Go, serve the Lord; your little ones also may go with you; only let your flocks and your herds remain behind." **25** But Moses said, "You must also let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. **26** Our livestock also must go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind, for we must take of them to serve the Lord our God, and we do not know with what we must serve the Lord until we arrive there." **27** But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. **28** Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me; take care never to see my face again, for on the day you see my face you shall die." **29** Moses said, "As you say! I will not see your face again

DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 10:21-29

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Have you ever thought what it would be like to be blind? I have. I hate it when the electricity goes off and I am left in total darkness with no warning. I don't even have time to light a candle or grab a flashlight. I cannot fathom what it would be like to be blind and in total darkness all the time. Total darkness is what happened to the Egyptians when God brought about the ninth plague.

God gave no warning he was about to bring on darkness. The plague of darkness was a dreadful plague. According to scripture, it was darkness that was so thick it could be felt (verse 21). It was supernatural. It wasn't just like night time, nor was it even like pitch black. It had to be terrifying. Each person was completely alone with his thoughts, his sin, and his guilt. The blindness of their minds brought upon them this darkness of the air. Never was a mind so blinded as Pharaoh's, and never was air so darkened as Egypt. This plague demonstrates that the Lord is the God of creation and is totally sovereign over it. The world began in darkness (Genesis 1:2), and the LORD's creative acts put a limit on the darkness (Genesis 1:3-5).



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The plague of darkness was a mockery of the Egyptians' chief god, Re. Re was believed to be the provider of light and warmth. Not only that, Pharaoh was considered the physical representation of Re. They worshiped the sun and Pharaoh. Their god, however, was powerless against the might of Jehovah.

We should dread the consequences of sin. Our sin represents darkness. We should always be doing our best to live in the light (1 John 1:7). If three days of darkness were so dreadful, can you imagine what eternal darkness will be? The children of Israel, at the same time, had light in their dwellings. We are not told what kind of light, be it artificial like candles or lamps, or if the sun shone there. However, it was dark outside their dwellings. Having light in their dwellings shows the particular favor God gave to His people.

Pharaoh once again tries to negotiate by offering to let the people go but keep the animals. It is common for sinners to bargain with God. Probably all of us have done it. However, God does not compromise. The partial obedience Pharaoh was willing to give was not acceptable to God. Moses told Pharaoh they would not leave one single hoof behind. Once again, God hardened Pharaoh's heart. Pharaoh was angry during the previous locust plague. Now he was beyond that. He was livid. He threatened to kill Moses if he dared show his face again. Had he forgotten how often he had sent Moses to ease him of his plagues? And now he tells him to come no more! Pharaoh is overestimating his own power. Moses agreed he would not see Pharaoh's face again. (Hebrews 11:27 says, "By faith Moses left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible"). So all negotiations ceased. In other words, Pharaoh was doomed. When men drive God's word from them, He justly gives them up to their own delusions (Romans 1:24-32).

Questions:

1. Will God need to bring terrible plagues around you to get you to do the things that He is calling you to do?
2. We see that Pharaoh hardened his own heart, but God also hardened Pharaoh's heart with the latter plagues. Is your heart hardened for some reason? Are you trying to bargain with God to get what you want? If so, please ask God to show you His will and to change your heart to obey His will.
3. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." What sins do you need to confess today? Share your confession with your Journey Group or other biblical community who will hold you accountable.