

Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Ex. 10:1-20	Plague 8: locusts
Tuesday:	Ex. 10:21-29	Plague 9: darkness
Wednesday:	Ex. 11	The tenth and final plague: death of firstborn
Thursday:	Ex. 12	Instructions for Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread
Friday:	Ex. 13:1-16	Instructions for setting apart every firstborn to Yahweh

In today's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will conclude the story of the plagues. This parsha also presents Yahweh's instructions for keeping the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. This portion will be the basis for a special edition of Parsha Pearls during Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread. Now, let's read Ex. 10-11 & 12:29-41.

PARSHA POINTS

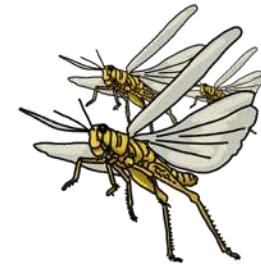
- Yahweh told Mosheh (10:1):
 - to go to Pharaoh
 - that He had hardened the heart (**lev**) of Pharaoh and his servants
 - that He did this so that He might show His signs before them
- Mosheh told Pharaoh (10:4-6):
 - that if he refused to let His people go, He would bring such a great number of locusts within their borders that they would cover the surface of the land
 - the locusts would decimate the remainder of the vegetation that the hail did not destroy
 - the plague of locusts would be the worst infestation they had ever seen, even filling up the inside of every Mitsrite home
- Pharaoh's servants pleaded with Pharaoh to let the Yisra'elites go - 10:7
- Mosheh and Aharon were brought before Pharaoh, who told them that they could go and serve their Elohim, but wanted to know which of them would be going - 10:8



- Mosheh informed Pharaoh that it would be the (10:9):
 - young
 - old
 - sons
 - daughters
 - flocks
 - herds
- They would all be going to observe a festival to Yahweh - 10:9
- Pharaoh changed his mind, and even mocked Mosheh about letting them go - 10:10-11

Yahweh sends the 8th plague upon Mitsrayim

- Yahweh told Mosheh to stretch out his hand over the land of Mitsrayim so that the locusts would appear - 10:12
- Mosheh stretched out his rod and Yahweh brought an east wind on the land all that day and night (**lailah**). In the morning (**boker**), there were locusts all over the land of Mitsrayim - 10:13
- As Yahweh had warned, the plague of locusts was very grievous. They covered the land so completely that it changed to a dark color. The locusts ate up everything that was green, until no plants were left in the land of Mitsrayim - 10:14-15
- Pharaoh hastened to call Mosheh and again confessed that he had sinned against Elohim and against Mosheh - 10:16
- Pharaoh asked Mosheh to pray to Yahweh to remove this plague and Mosheh did as Pharaoh wished - 10:17-18
- Yahweh sent a west wind to blow every single locust into the Sea of Reeds - 10:19



Yahweh sends the 9th plague upon Mitsrayim

- Pharaoh hardened his heart yet again, and broke his promise about letting the children of Yisra'el go - 10:20
- Yahweh instructed Mosheh to stretch out his hand yet again, so that darkness would cover the land of Mitsrayim - 10:21
- Mosheh stretched out his hand toward the heavens, and thick darkness came upon Mitsrayim for 3 days - 10:22
- The darkness prohibited the Mitsrites from doing anything. They could not see each other, and for the entire 3 (**shalosh**) days no one arose from their place - 10:22
- Unlike the Mitsrites, the Yisra'elites had light in their dwellings - 10:23
- Pharaoh called Mosheh and gave permission for the Yisra'elites to leave to serve Yahweh, but insisted that their flocks and herds remain behind - 10:24



- Mosheh resisted Pharaoh's plan, saying that (10:25-26):
 - Pharaoh was to provide the animals for their offerings and sacrifices to Elohim
 - The Yisra'elites' entire possession of livestock was to go with them
- Yet again, Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would NOT let them go - 10:27
- In anger, Pharaoh demanded that Mosheh leave his presence at once, threatening to put Mosheh to death if he should dare to show his face (**panim**) there again - 10:28
- Mosheh angrily confirms that Pharaoh is right: they would never again see each other face to face - 10:29

Yahweh sends the 10th and final plague upon Mitsrayim

- Yahweh let Mosheh know that He would send 1 more plague; and this one would cause Pharaoh to finally let His people go - 11:1
- As Yahweh had spoken earlier, in Ex. 3:21-22, the Yisra'elites were to ask the Mitsrites to give them objects of silver and gold - 11:2
- Mosheh had obtained favor from the Mitsrites and respect from Pharaoh's servants - 11:3
- Mosheh then informed Pharaoh that at midnight, Yahweh was going to smite the firstborn in the land of Mitsrayim - from Pharaoh's son to Pharaoh's lowest female servant. Even the firstborn of the cattle would die - 11:4-5
- This tragedy would cause a cry to arise throughout Mitsrayim, such as had never been heard, or ever would be again - 11:6
- Mosheh informed Pharaoh that during this judgment Yisra'el would have Yahweh's protection from all alarm; not even a dog would be barking - 11:7
- Lastly, Mosheh declared to Pharaoh that, following the death of the firstborn, all his servants would come and demand that the Yisra'elites leave their land - 11:8
- Mosheh left Pharaoh's presence in a state of great displeasure - 11:8
- Yahweh informed Mosheh that Pharaoh still would NOT listen to him or let the people go, so that Yahweh's wonders would be multiplied and manifested throughout the land of Mitsrayim - 11:9
- Yahweh smote all the firstborn of Mitsrayim at midnight, just as He said He would - 12:29
- There was a great cry throughout the land of Mitsrayim. There was not one single house where at least one person had not died - 12:30
- Pharaoh called for Mosheh and Aharon during the night and urged them to leave Mitsrayim, both they and all Yisra'el, with all their flocks and their herds, to go and serve Yahweh - 12:31-32
- Pharaoh said he would be blessed when they left - 12:32



- The Mitsrites were anxious to have the Yisra'elites finally leave - 12:33
- In their hurriedness to leave, the dough didn't get a chance to rise in the Yisra'elites' kneading bowls - 12:34
- As Yahweh had spoken earlier, in Ex. 3:21-22, the children of Yisra'el asked the Mitsrites for objects of silver and gold, and also for garments for their journey. Yahweh gave them favor with the Mitsrites, and they were given all that they asked - 12:35-36
- The number of the children of Yisra'el who set out on foot from Ra'meses to Sukkoth were about 600,000 men, besides little children - 12:37
- A mixed multitude of people went out with the children of Yisra'el, as well as flocks, herds and much livestock - 12:38
- The children of Yisra'el could not delay their journey. Because they did NOT have time to let their bread dough rise, they baked unleavened cakes to sustain them along the way - 12:39
- The children of Yisra'el departed from Mitsrayim exactly 430 years from the time they had first entered it, to the very day (Gen. 15:13-14) - 12:40-41



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Numbers have meanings. Research the significance of the numbers 430 and 600,000 as connected to Scripture.
- When Pharaoh asked Mosheh to pray to take away the plagues on several occasions, or to forgive his sin, what do you suppose he was thinking? Was he truly repentant and sincere on those occasions, or was he just playing a game? (8:8-10, 28; 9:27-28; 10:16-17)
- Discuss what it might have been like to experience a darkness that could be felt. What does darkness portray? What does light portray? Do you think there is any significance to the 3 days of darkness? (10:21)
- The last 3 plagues made a mockery of certain mighty ones (elohim) of the Mitsrites. Research which ones they were. (10:4, 21; 11:5)