

JUNE 25th

## EGYPT BEGINS TO CRACK UNDER PRESSURE

*“So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me. For if you refuse to let my people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country, and they shall cover the face of the land, so that no one can see the land. And they shall eat what is left to you after the hail, and they shall eat every tree of yours that grows in the field, and they shall fill your houses and the houses of all your servants and of all the Egyptians, as neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen, from the day they came on earth to this day.’ ” Then he turned and went out from Pharaoh. Then Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not yet understand that Egypt is ruined?”* **EXODUS 10:3-7**

Ever been caught in a hailstorm? Ever seen a car or truck decimated with hail damage? Hail damage can look like a vehicle that has driven through a drive-by shooting in inner-city Philadelphia. Or, if this helps you picture in your mind, it’s like a teenager that has acne all over their face. The pimples may be gone, but the scars from those zits remain. Hail damage destroys the look of a car. But here in Exodus 9, God comes to destroy the crops and cattle of the Egyptians. This is where we begin to see Egypt’s attitude turning. What does God teach us through these plagues of hail and locusts?

How much rain do you think Egypt receives each year? James Montgomery Boice writes that the city of Cairo receives only two inches of rain each year. That’s right. Two inches every year. We can get easily two inches in a few hours during a good-sized rainstorm in Beaver Springs..after all we are named Beaver Springs! But God. God comes with his judgment against Egypt and rains down massive hail, big enough to kill the largest bull (and any human). Do you see what God does here? He gives the Egyptians a chance to save whatever livestock that remained from the first plague against livestock. There’s a distinction here that Moses includes: Now therefore send, get your livestock and all that you have in the field into safe shelter, for every man and beast that is in the field and is not brought home will die when the hail falls on them.” Moses records that some Egyptians feared the Lord and brought the cattle to safehouses...and many did not. But God’s not finished here. Even as Pharaoh flirts with changing his heart, we see that it’s not God’s time yet. There is more humbling to be brought to Pharaoh.

Even with the hailstorm, wheat still survived...until the locusts came. And here we see the Egyptians have seen enough of God’s destruction of their nation: Do you not yet understand that Egypt is ruined!!!?? Imagine this: the fertile land of the Nile River delta completely decimated. Not one green thing remained. No trees or plants left. There was nothing left. God accomplished exactly what He said He would do...that all of Egypt would know that He is the Lord...and He never compromises. Pharaoh tried many times to negotiate with God. But God cannot compromise His holiness. God will not bend His supreme will to His created beings. But don’t we sometimes try to negotiate or bargain with God? We often want God’s favor, but we don’t want Him to interrupt our pursuit of our kingdom. Are we really much different from Pharaoh here? God has shown us His perfect plan to shepherd us, but we often take the rope from Him and steer our own path, to our own misery. Men, will we surrender to our God with all our hearts? What’s keeping you from your surrender today?

**Spend some time asking God for strength to surrender your ways to Him today. Thank Him for the privilege to serve Him.**

**For Further Reading: Exodus 9:13-10:20**