

— Exodus 9.13-35 —
Exodus Series 13
The Seventh Plague

Ex 9¹³ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me,” ¹⁴for at this time I will send all My plagues to your very heart, and on your servants and on your people, that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth. ¹⁵Now if I had stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, then you would have been cut off from the earth. ¹⁶But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. ¹⁷As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go. ¹⁸Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now. ¹⁹Therefore send now and gather your livestock and all that you have in the field, for the hail shall come down on every man and every animal which is found in the field and is not brought home; and they shall die.” ’ ’ ²⁰He who feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses. ²¹But he who did not regard the word of the LORD left his servants and his livestock in the field. ²²Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt—on man, on beast, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.” ²³And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt. ²⁴So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. ²⁵And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field. ²⁶Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail. ²⁷And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I are wicked. ²⁸Entreat the LORD, that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer.” ²⁹So Moses said to him, “As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the LORD; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, that you may know that the earth is the LORD’s. ³⁰But as for you and your servants, I know that you will not yet fear the LORD God.” ³¹Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley was in the head and the flax was in bud. ³²But the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they are late crops. ³³So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and spread out his hands to the LORD; then the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain was not poured on the earth. ³⁴And when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, he and his servants. ³⁵So the heart of Pharaoh was hard; neither would he let the children of Israel go, as the LORD had spoken by Moses.

► **Today we focus on the 7th plague alone, for it has extra _____ content which is very significant.**

► **First, the content that is similar to other plagues:**

- The 7th, like the 1st and the 4th, begins with God telling Moses to meet Pharaoh early in the morning when he comes to the river. The _____ and the _____ were the two main symbols of the Egyptian gods, so this was a daily religious ritual for Pharaoh.

- As with the 1st and 4th, God demands thru Moses, “Let My people go, that they may serve Me,” and adds that the coming plagues will be much more severe and destructive (14).

► **Now the unique content:** God shows great _____ to Pharaoh and the Egyptians by giving a detailed explanation of what God is doing, why, and what opportunities lie before Pharaoh. God makes four main points:

- 1) This plague and the ones to follow will be much more _____ and destructive (14, 18-19).
- 2) This is not a _____ at all – God could have easily _____ out Pharaoh and his people with a deadly disease (15). Pharaoh is only alive and on the throne because God is _____ him alive and _____ him up (16).
- 3) Pharaoh is going to declare God’s name in all the earth no matter what, so God is giving him the opportunity to do it willingly from the _____, and so receive God’s salvation (16).
- 4) Pharaoh and his people can enjoy the same deliverance as the Israelites, but they must _____ and _____ God’s word, which some of the Egyptians did (18-19, 21).
- In response, Pharaoh confesses his _____ and professes repentance, asking Moses to entreat God to remove the hail, and promising to let the people _____ (27-28). Moses says he will entreat the LORD, but he knows Pharaoh will go back on his _____ again (29-30). And sure enough, that’s what happens (34-35).

► **Our application** concerns the relationship between God’s _____ and sovereignty, for that is what Paul is addressing in Rm 9 when he quotes Ex 9.16 and 33.19:

Rom 9 ¹⁴Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not!
¹⁵For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.” [Exo 33.19] ¹⁶So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. ¹⁷For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.” [Exo 9.16] ¹⁸Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

- The question Paul is addressing is whether God thru Jesus had broken his promises to have _____ on Israel.

- Paul casts God's mercy and sovereignty centerstage, as best friends, with both being necessary to salvation, for without mercy, God would have no _____ to save, and without sovereignty, God would have no _____ to save. Still, between the two, the main spotlight is on God's _____.

► **Surprising things** about Rm 9-11:

- Of all the times Paul uses the Greek word for mercy in the NT, over _____ are in Rm 9-11.
- The only time Paul uses the Greek word for compassion in the entire NT is right here in Rm _____.
- In Rm 12.1, what does Paul identify as the star of the show in Rm 9-11? God's _____.

Rm 12.1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service

► **"Totally depraved"** does not mean fallen man is as _____ as he could be, but that he does not have the _____ and therefore the power to come to God.

► **With the 7th plague**, how do God's mercy and sovereignty work together, and which is the star of the show?

- When all is said and done, God _____ Pharaoh's heart uninterfered with, to make his own choice for his own reasons, and to go his own way.

► **Contrast King Nebuchadnezzar** in Dn 2-4.

Rm 5.21 Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.

Dn 4.34-35, 37 ³⁴ And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. ³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?" ... ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down."

► **We see** the same pattern with Israel in Ex 33.19, which is quoted in Rm 9.15.

Ex 33.19 Then [God] said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

► **The upshot** of Ex 33.19 and Rm 9.15 is not that God shows how sovereign he is by being stingy with his _____, but that God shows how merciful he is by sovereignly showing mercy to the undeserving, and sovereignly overcoming every obstacle to salvation for those he has purposed to save.

► **How can** God's salvation be so sure? Because "it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy" (Rm 9.16).