

Exodus 9

Trust in a Big God/Prove a Faithful God

- Blood/Frogs/Lice/Flies
 1. After some relief Pharaoh breaks his promise to let God's people go
 2. God's people **will** be set free because God said so. Promised Abraham
 3. Plagues [heavy hand of God] will continue until Pharaoh obeys

I. The Fifth Plague: Livestock Diseased

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and tell him, 'Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

- Moses to speak to Pharaoh again
- Title used at first meeting in Ch.5 : **God of the Hebrews**
 1. Descendants of Abraham; God's friend
 2. Given promise of to inherit the land

Let My people go that they may serve Me!

2 For if you refuse to let them go, and still hold them, 3 behold, the hand of the Lord will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the oxen, and on the sheep—a very severe pestilence.

- Continue to rebel against God:
 1. His hand will be against you
 2. He will strike livestock w/Severe pestilence: Massive, abundant, numerous

Strategic Plague: God's judgment will be effective. By hitting livestock...
God will hit Egypt's economy, transportation and military

- **Also a strike against:** Egyptian false-deity *Hathor*
 1. Mother goddess in the form of a cow
 2. Egypt considered cattle sacred/symbol of fertility

Record of Egyptians losing a battle because their enemies put a herd of cattle in front of their advancing troops. It worked because the Egyptian soldiers would not shoot at the opposing army for fear of accidentally killing the "sacred" cattle. [Guzic]

- Worshiped rats and cows in India run past starving people in street
- Christ less religion is cruel and evil

4 And the Lord will make a difference between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel."''

- Only Egyptian Livestock will be diseased/die

All things work together ...for believers. Divine double standard

Romans 8:28 ...we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also

predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...

- God puts up with the wicked to benefit His kids...
- Pharaoh's rebellion will only magnify God's miraculous power and love for His people

5 Then the Lord appointed a set time, saying, "Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land."

- Lord now sets the time [Unlike Ex 8:9 when Pharaoh did]
 1. Pharaoh loses the privilege.
 2. Reneged after the Frog debacle
 3. God will tell Pharaoh precisely when the disease will strike

6 So the Lord did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the children of Israel, not one died. 7 Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one of the livestock of the Israelites was dead.

- **People always try to explain away God's miracles**
- Can't explain this miracle away with Science, Coincidence or Luck

7b...But the heart of Pharaoh became hard, and he did not let the people go.

- **Even after unexplainable:**
 1. Pharaoh continues in unbelief
 2. Pharaoh allows his pride to hurt his own people/nation

Determined in unbelief

Christopher Hitchens devout atheist determined in unbelief even through cancer; even using the pain and suffering as a proving ground that he would never change his position. Sad.

SUMMARY The Fifth Plague: Livestock Diseased; Economy, Transportation, Military and false Deities take the hit.

II. The Sixth Plague: Boils

8 So the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh. 9 And it will become fine dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt."

- **No warning to Pharaoh:** God's long-suffering beginning to wane
- Lord to Moses and Aaron:
 1. Take handfuls of ash from furnace
 2. Throw it up in the air in front of Pharaoh
 3. Disperse in the wind and falls upon man/animal
 4. Boils that will burst into soars

Boil Hebrew Lit. "to burn." i.e. swelling, painful, skin inflammation [man/animal other than

livestock] Sense of falling on and sending forth with shoots, to blossom

10 Then they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered them toward heaven. And they caused boils that break out in sores on man and beast.

- Moses/Aaron obey God: No more excuses

11 And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians.

- Boils covered magicians/Egyptians now bed ridden
- No boils on Israelites
- Direct hit toward Egyptian false-deity *Imhotep*:
 1. Egyptian False-deity of medicine
 2. Magicians favored by *Imhotep* were stricken

12 But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the Lord had spoken to Moses.

- Frozen: The Lord hardened Pharaoh's unbelief
- Exodus/Revelation connection: Did not repent

Revelation 16:2 [First Bowl: Loathsome Sores] So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore [boil] came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image...[Sea to blood, Fresh water to blood, Men scorched]...**10** Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. **11** They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

The Lord will honor our decisions

SUMMARY The Sixth Plague: Boils

III. The Seventh Plague: Hail

13 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, 14 for 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.

- **New mode of operation:** Plagues to your touch your very heart
- **More intense than:**
 1. Blood
 2. Frogs
 3. Lice
 4. Flies
 5. Livestock
 6. Boils

- It will strike you Pharaoh, your servants, your people

Pharaoh does not care who his stubbornness hurts

- **Stiff-necked:** Unable to be moved from your position even proven wrong
- Seven signs of a stiff-necked person...
 1. Certainty that you are right
 2. Refusal to listen to anyone else
 3. Defensive when criticized
 4. Making excuses for your shortcomings
 5. Lashing out at others
 6. No desire to examine your own life
 7. Repeated pattern of misbehavior
 8. Prayer without repentance

Stubbornness affecting/hurting everyone around you

- Pride of husbands leaving church as wives growing now grieving
- Pride of husbands leaving bible studies as kids thriving now confused

I've been holding back...what's coming will touch your heart!

15 Now 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.

- I struck your animals with a deadly disease...it could easily have been you
- I only let you live that I might show My power

16 But 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.

- I struck your animals with a deadly disease...it could have been you
- I let you live for My purpose...that I might show My power

Romans 9:17 ...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."

I raised you up and made you ruler of Egypt that My Name may be declared in all the earth...this story told for My benefit, My Purpose, My Name, and My People now and forever

17 As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go.

- **You exalt yourself.** Devilish

Ezekiel 28:2 "Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre [type of Satan], 'Thus says the Lord God: "Because your heart is lifted up, And you say, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the midst of the seas, 'Yet you are a man, and not a god, Though you set your heart as the heart of a god..."

- I will, I will, I will...**You will** most definitely be humbled

Matthew 23:12 ...whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

- **Promise:** Maybe not right away...but you will be humbled

18 Behold, 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. 19 Therefore 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.”””

- 24 hours from now everything is going to change
- This plague will hit you Pharaoh “to your very heart”
 1. Heavy hail
 2. Unprecedented
- **First God offers Grace:** Anyone/Anything that is out in the elements will die

Plagues sent to our *very hearts* begin with Grace.

Cause us to acknowledge/come to the realization we are sinning against love

20 He who feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses. 21 But he who did not regard the word of the Lord left his servants and his livestock in the field.

The Lord encircles those who fear Him

Psalm 34:7 [David] The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.

- Fearing God is directly related to regarding the Word of God
- **Regard:** To lay violent hands upon/not let go [here the Word]

22 Then 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.” 23 And 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.

- Hail and Fire “darted” to the ground
 1. **Darted:** Lit. Ran along the ground
 2. “Natural” disasters can be judgment/wake-up call from God

Psalm 29:10 The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood, And the Lord sits as King forever. 11 The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace.

- God was sitting during the flood

24 So 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. 25 And 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. 26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.

- **Fire and Ice:** Hail and Lightning
 1. Together shooting down from the sky
 2. Also darting, running along the ground
- **Every living thing in fields died:** Man/Animal/Herb and Tree
 1. Gods people in God's place of protection were not harmed
 2. Foreigners who feared God were not harmed
 - God loves the Egyptians
 - God loves the Buddhist
 - God loves the Muslim
 - God loves the Hindu

God will judge them all if they do not bow the knee to Living God and trust in Jesus One way to God...One means of escape from judgment. His way or no way

- **Just as the Ark:** One way of escape: Wood and Nails

John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Philippians 2:10 ...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Every knee will bow willingly or unwillingly

27 And 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.

- **Pharaoh confesses to Moses and Aaron**
 1. I have sinned...this time?
 2. The Lord is righteous
 3. My people are wicked
 4. I am wicked

28 Entreat 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."

- **Mediate for me to the Lord**
- What was Pharaoh so he scared of?
 1. Mighty thundering
 2. Hail
 3. It's enough...I give. Cry uncle!

Beginning of plagues that will strike Pharaoh's very heart. Why Hail?

- **Hail:** Directed against several Egyptian false-deities
- One notable false-deity of heavens: **Nut, the sky goddess**

29 So 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."

- **NOTE:** Thunder/Hail/Fire are happening presently
 1. I will walk out of the city
 2. I will spread my hands to heaven
 3. The hail will stop

Purpose for you seeing what God will do when I intervene? You MAY know that the earth is the Lord's; i.e. that He does as he wills with nature. The Living God.

Psalm 115:3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.⁴ Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands.⁵ They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;⁶ They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell;⁷ They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat.⁸ Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

30 But as for you and your servants, I know that you will not yet fear the Lord God."

- You're not sorry for your sin...your sorry you were found out/don't like consequences
- **Worldly Sorrow:** Grieved by consequences of sin not sin itself

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

- **Godly Sorrow:** Grieved because we have grieved the God who loves us

Ephesians 4:28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

- **Godly sorrow leads to a change:**
 1. Change of mind
 2. Change in action
 3. With no regret...not turning back

I say again that we have need to stand in doubt of that repentance which is not accompanied with mourning for sin; and even when Christ is clearly seen by faith, and sin is pardoned, and the man knows that it is forgiven, he does not cease to mourn for sin. Nay, brethren, his mourning becomes deeper as his knowledge of his guilt becomes greater; and his hatred of sin grows in proportion as he understands that love of Christ by which his sin is put away. [Spurgeon]

- I will intervene. You will find some relief. You will not let the people go

31 Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley was in the head and the flax was in bud. 32 But the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they are late crops.

- Timing here suggest plagues covered about a year

33 So 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. 34 And 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.

- Thunder, hail and rain stopped
- When Pharaoh saw some relief and felt Gods hand removed...
 1. He sinned yet more

Hardening our hearts against God is sin; failing to repent when God graciously answers our plea is to and to ignore His rich mercy is to sin yet more. [Guzic]

2. He hardened his heart
3. He AND his servants hardened their hearts

What happens when a prominent leader of a nation hardens his heart? When he/she says that what God says is right... is wrong, and what God says is wrong ...is right. Sometimes the nation follows and thus the nation will be judged as a whole.

35 So the heart of Pharaoh was hard; neither would he let the children of Israel go, as the Lord had spoken by Moses.

- Pharaoh's heart is now HARD
- As God told Moses, Pharaoh would not listen
 1. Chose not to acknowledge God
 2. Chose not to fear God
 3. Chose Not to believe God

**For the hard hearted sometimes it takes a tragedy to break them.
In the end he will be left with no choice but to obey God**

- **Moses knew God's end game:**

Exodus 4:22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. 23 So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.'"

- Seven out of nine plagues so far

SUMMARY The Seventh Plague: Hail strikes Pharaoh's heart but God will go deeper

What does God have to do/allow in order for the stiff-necked to acknowledge Him?