

EXODUS CHAPTER 9-10

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God has raised up a prophet in Moses and has sent him to the king of Egypt. God intends to have the Pharaoh release the nation of Israel from bondage. Moses and his brother Aaron have confronted the Pharaoh and their request has been rejected.

In these chapters, the huge conflict continues between the God of Heaven and the king of Egypt. The Lord is unleashing His frightful power on Egypt, one step at a time. The first miracle affected their water, the second brought frogs, the third brought gnats, and the fourth brought flies. Now the hits will get harder.

#5 PLAGUE ON THE LIVESTOCK

(9:1) "Go back to Pharaoh," the LORD commanded Moses. "Tell him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let My people go, so they can worship Me.

- God is having **Moses** order the release of Israel again.

(2) If you continue to hold them and refuse to let them go, (3) the hand of the LORD will strike all your livestock—your horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep, and goats—with a deadly plague.

- The penalty will be severe on Pharaoh's entire nation if he refuses. Their valuable animals will die. The precise description of the **plague** is not clear.
- The frogs, gnats and flies were personal inconveniences, but now the battle escalates to include the wealth of the Egyptians—their **livestock**.
- Not every animal will have the **plague**, just those in the **fields**. This **plague** will decimate Egypt's transportation

and food supply. The god *Sekhmet* was associated with disease.

(4) But the LORD will again make a distinction between the livestock of the Israelites and that of the Egyptians. Not a single one of Israel's animals will die!

- This punishment will not affect the Hebrews. **The Lord** has blessed them with **livestock** and He will not diminish their wealth. Pharaoh may have owned much **livestock** himself.

(5) The LORD has already set the time for the plague to begin. He has declared that He will strike the land tomorrow.

- This **time** it is **the Lord** who sets the **time**. Pharaoh has a few hours to think it over before calamity hits.

(6) And the LORD did just as He had said. The next morning all the livestock of the Egyptians died, but the Israelites didn't lose a single animal.

- **The Egyptians** lost their transportation, their work **animals**, their meat, and more.

(7) Pharaoh sent his officials to investigate, and they discovered that the Israelites had not lost a single animal! But even so, Pharaoh's heart remained stubborn, and he still refused to let the people go.

- **Pharaoh** sent **investigators** to Goshen to see if the livestock of Israel was affected. None. Not one.
- Even then, the hardened **Pharaoh** would not give in. But the Lord will turn up the pressure again.

#6 BOILS ON EVERYONE

(8) Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from a brick kiln, and have Moses toss it into the air while Pharaoh watches."

- Like the third plague, this sixth plague did not require an answer from **Pharaoh**. It just happened.
- The men of Israel had been forced to make mud bricks and they were baked in a **kiln**. Now the **soot** from the **kiln** is coming back to **Pharaoh**.

(9) The ashes will spread like fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, causing festering boils to break out on people and animals throughout the land."

- Now there would be **boils** on man and beast. Not every **animal** had died in the previous plague.

(10) So they took soot from a brick kiln and went and stood before Pharaoh. As Pharaoh watched, Moses threw the soot into the air, and boils broke out on people and animals alike.

- There was no question in the petulant **Pharaoh's** mind where these **boils** came from. **Moses** did this in front of the stubborn ruler. How does a man care for a **boil** on his camel?

(11) Even the magicians were unable to stand before Moses, because the boils had broken out on them and all the Egyptians.

- The revered **magicians** got **boils**, too. They were in pain. They didn't have any **magic** to get rid of **boils**. Everyone in **Egypt** had **boils**. The people suffered more under this plague than any of those which preceded it. The god *Isis* was connected with medicine.

(12) But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and just as the LORD had predicted to Moses, Pharaoh refused to listen.

- On some of the events, Moses said the **Pharaoh hardened his heart**, but here the **Lord hardened his heart**. The Lord will crank up the pressure yet more.

#7 HAIL EVERYWHERE

(13) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh. Tell him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let My people go, so they can worship Me.

- **The God of the Hebrews** orders this one-nation, self-made deity to let Israel leave Egypt.

(14) If you don't, I will send more plagues on you and your officials and your people. Then you will know that there is no one like Me in all the earth.

- The Lord is turning up the pressure.

(15) By now I could have lifted My hand and struck you and your people with a plague to wipe you off the face of the earth. (16) But I have spared you for a purpose—to show you My power and to spread My fame throughout the earth.

- The Lord has the **power** to destroy this man and all of his people, but He has refrained so He could show His unlimited power *incrementally*.
- God will get glory for this display of **power** over the whole **earth**.

(17) But you still lord it over My people and refuse to let them go.

- The king was still holding out against the Lord's **people** and would not **let them** leave Egypt. God has a further punishment in store for Mr. Proud.

(18) So tomorrow at this time I will send a hailstorm more devastating than any in all the history of Egypt.

- A new deadline: **hail** is coming **tomorrow**. Nothing like this had happened **in all the history of Egypt**. *Seth* was the god of thunderstorms.

(19) Quick! Order your livestock and servants to come in from the fields to find shelter. Any person or animal left outside will die when the hail falls."

- **The hail** is coming, but if Pharaoh takes action, he can save his valuable workers and valuable **livestock**. Otherwise, there is **death**. This warning was pure mercy from God.

(20) Some of Pharaoh's officials were afraid because of what the LORD had said. They quickly brought their servants and livestock in from the fields. (21) But those who paid no attention to the word of the LORD left theirs out in the open.

- Some among **Pharaoh's** advisers believed this warning and took action to save their **servants** and **livestock**.

(22) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Lift your hand toward the sky so hail may fall on the people, the livestock, and all the plants throughout the land of Egypt."

- Preparation time had expired and now came the **hail**.

(23) So Moses lifted his staff toward the sky, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed

toward the earth. The LORD sent a tremendous hailstorm against all the land of Egypt.

- **Thunder, hail, lightning.** The noise of the **thunder** was psychological warfare.

(24) Never in all the history of Egypt had there been a storm like that, with such devastating hail and continuous lightning. (25) It left all of Egypt in ruins. The hail struck down everything in the open field—people, animals, and plants alike. Even the trees were destroyed. (26) The only place without hail was the region of Goshen, where the people of Israel lived.

- The Lord controlled where the **hail** fell and exempted His people from the destruction.

(27) Then Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron. "This time I have sinned," he confessed. "The LORD is the righteous One, and my people and I are wrong."

- The *hard* hail is *softening* up **Pharaoh**. He's beginning to say the right words, but limited them by saying "**This time.**" But will he follow through?

(28) Please beg the LORD to end this terrifying thunder and hail. We've had enough. I will let you go; you don't need to stay any longer."

- Pharaoh now acknowledges **God** and His unbelievable power. He says that Israel doesn't **need to stay any longer.**

(29) "All right," Moses replied. "As soon as I leave the city, I will lift my hands and pray to the LORD. Then the thunder and hail will stop, and you will know that the earth belongs to the LORD.

- This God is not a local god in Egypt, but the **Lord** of the entire **earth**. It all belongs to Him. **Moses** has confidence now.

(30) But I know that you and your officials still do not fear the LORD God." (31) (All the flax and barley were ruined by the hail, because the barley had formed heads and the flax was budding. (32) But the wheat and the emmer wheat were spared, because they had not yet sprouted from the ground)

- Moses, the writer, was **there** as an eye witness. He saw the **barley** and the **flax**. It was late January. **Flax** was an important source of linen cloth. **Emmer** Farro can still be purchased today. The Egyptian gods were silent.

(33) So Moses left Pharaoh's court and went out of the city. When he lifted his hands to the LORD, the thunder and hail stopped, and the downpour ceased.

- The celestial show stopped when **Moses lifted his hands to the LORD**.

(34) But when Pharaoh saw that the rain, hail, and thunder had stopped, he and his officials sinned again, and Pharaoh again became stubborn.

- Both **Pharaoh** and his staff people **hardened** their own **hearts** this time.

(35) Because his heart was hard, Pharaoh refused to let the people leave, just as the LORD had predicted through Moses.

- The prevaricating **Pharaoh** still would not obey **the Lord**. The pressure will be turned up again.

#8 LOCUSTS EVERYWHERE

(10:1) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Return to Pharaoh and make your demands again. I have made him and his officials stubborn so I can display My miraculous signs among them. (2) I've also done it so you can tell your children and grandchildren about how I made a mockery of the Egyptians and about the signs I displayed among them--and so you will know that I am the LORD."

- The **Lord** has more power to show **Pharaoh**, his staff people and all of the earth for ages to come. These events of the plagues have been told and retold and we are focused on them right now.

(3) So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: How long will you refuse to submit to Me? Let My people go, so they can worship Me.

- **Pharaoh's** pride is the reason he will not obey the God of the Heavens and Earth. As in some of other cases, the proud king is getting a one-day advance warning.

(4) If you refuse, watch out! For tomorrow I will bring a swarm of locusts on your country. (5) They will cover the land so that you won't be able to see the ground. They will devour what little is left of your crops after the hailstorm, including all the trees growing in the fields. (6) They will overrun your palaces and the homes of your officials and all the houses in Egypt. Never in the history of Egypt have your ancestors seen a plague like this one!" And with that, Moses turned and left Pharaoh.

- The Lord will send in His cleaning crew and the **locusts** will strip the **land**. *Osiris* was the god of agriculture.

(7) Pharaoh's officials now came to Pharaoh and appealed to him. "How long will you let this man hold us hostage? Let the men go to worship the LORD their God! Don't you realize that Egypt lies in ruins?"

- Now **Pharaoh's** staff turned against their boss and recommended letting Israel **go**.

(8) So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. "All right," he told them, "go and worship the LORD your God. But who exactly will be going with you?"

- **Pharaoh** is trying to make a deal as he asks **who exactly will be going with you?**

(9) Moses replied, "We will all go—young and old, our sons and daughters, and our flocks and herds. We must all join together in celebrating a festival to the LORD."

- **Moses'** answer was comprehensive. **We will all go** and take our **flocks and herds**.

(10) Pharaoh retorted, "The LORD will certainly need to be with you if I let you take your little ones! I can see through your evil plan. (11) Never! Only the men may go and worship the LORD, since that is what you requested." And Pharaoh threw them out of the palace.

- **Pharaoh** allowed only the males to go and had Moses and Aaron driven from his presence so there could be no more bargaining.

(12) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Raise your hand over the land of Egypt to bring on the locusts. Let them cover the land and devour every plant that survived the hailstorm."

- Now the Master of the Universe was ready to bring on the **locusts** as He had promised in verse 4.

(13) So Moses raised his staff over Egypt, and the LORD caused an east wind to blow over the land all that day and through the night. When morning arrived, the east wind had brought the locusts. (14) And the locusts swarmed over the whole land of Egypt, settling in dense swarms from one end of the country to the other. It was the worst locust plague in Egyptian history, and there has never been another one like it.

- The land is lathered in **locusts**. The fact that they were brought on the wind and the wind blew for so long suggests that locusts had been a long way away. They were hungry after the long ride.

(15) For the locusts covered the whole country and darkened the land. They devoured every plant in the fields and all the fruit on the trees that had survived the hailstorm. Not a single leaf was left on the trees and plants throughout the land of Egypt.

- The destruction was beyond belief. The **locusts ate** everything the **hail** had left.



(16) Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron. "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you," he confessed.

- Now the king who had **Moses and Aaron** ejected wants to talk again. He has softened so much that he is willing to say that he has **sinned**.

(17) "Forgive my sin, just this once, and plead with the LORD your God to take away this death from me."

- The king is bending to these slave-class representatives of the **Lord God** of heaven.

(18) So Moses left Pharaoh's court and pleaded with the LORD. (19) The LORD responded by shifting the wind, and the strong west wind blew the locusts into the Red Sea. Not a single locust remained in all the land of Egypt.

- The response from **the Lord** was immediate. All **locusts** were gone and **Moses** records where they went.

(20) But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart again, so he refused to let the people go.

- Now the **Lord** is hardening **Pharaoh's heart**. He has more power to show Egypt and ultimately the whole earth.

#9 DARKNESS EVERYWHERE

(21) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Lift your hand toward heaven, and the land of Egypt will be covered with a darkness so thick you can feel it."

- Just like #3 and #6, so #9 does not include an audience with the man-god Pharaoh.

(22) So Moses lifted his hand to the sky, and a deep darkness covered the entire land of Egypt for three days. (23) During all that time the people could not see each other, and no one moved. But there was light as usual where the people of Israel lived.

- The only part of **Egypt** that had **light** was where the people of Israel lived. The **darkness** was intense. This was

an attack on **Egypt's** main god, *Ra*, the sun god. But the sun god said nothing.

(24) Finally, Pharaoh called for Moses. "Go and worship the LORD," he said. "But leave your flocks and herds here. You may even take your little ones with you."

- The king wants to bargain again, this time he was really in the dark. He offers to let Israel go, but without the **flocks and herds**. How does one offer sacrifices without the animals? And how does Israel survive without milk, meat, skins and the wool of their animals?

(25) "No," Moses said, "you must provide us with animals for sacrifices and burnt offerings to the LORD our God. (26) All our livestock must go with us, too; not a hoof can be left behind. We must choose our sacrifices for the LORD our God from among these animals. And we won't know how we are to worship the LORD until we get there."

- **Moses** counter offer was that all of the **livestock** must go with them. If Pharaoh was hoping to take the Israelites **livestock** to replace his own that had been killed, the ploy didn't work.

(27) But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart once more, and he would not let them go. (28) "Get out of here!" Pharaoh shouted at Moses. "I'm warning you. Never come back to see me again! The day you see my face, you will die!"

- The **Pharaoh** ordered God's men to get away from him. He never wants to see their faces again. This conversation took place in the dark.

(29) "Very well," Moses replied. "I will never see your face again."

- Pharaoh will get his way this time, but he won't like it when it comes.