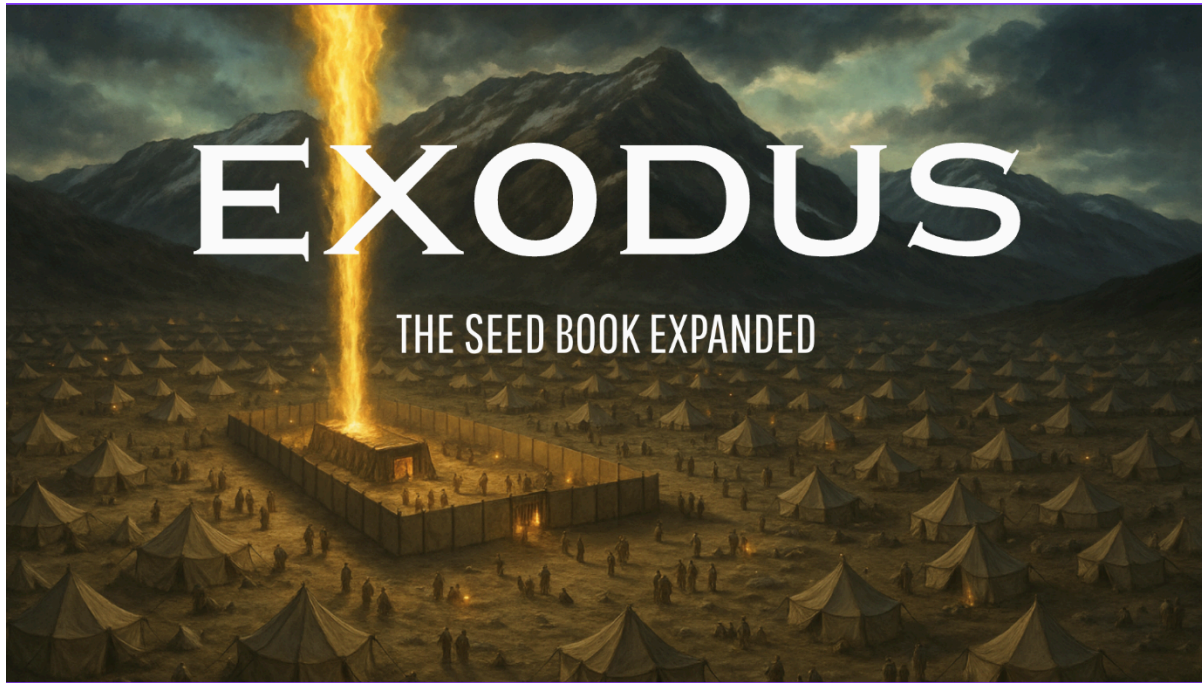


Exodus 9 (TAC)



Good evening, Arising Church!

Tonight, we will cover Exodus chapter 9, which means we will continue our study on the plagues of Egypt. Tonight, we will be covering the events that took place during the fifth plague through the seventh plague. We will also continue our foreshadowing of the Book of Revelation, diving into new details about the end times that will deepen our understanding of the future. We will begin our teaching with a brief overview, followed by prayer, reading our chapter, and then we will dive right into the text!

To start, you should be familiar with this slide:



Last week, we covered the 2nd plague, all the way through the fourth.

This week, you can see that we will be covering the 5th plague all the way through the 7th, as highlighted in the sections on this slide. With that said, last week we observed an escalation in the severity of the plagues, as well as an escalation in the hardening of Pharaoh's heart.

Tonight will be no different. The escalation will continue in the severity of the plagues and the hardening of Pharaoh's heart, as we will see the plagues begin to affect not just the possessions of the Egyptians, but their very lives.

The following slide will be familiar to you, but with added details...

~

(DO NOT READ)

PLAGUES							
	PLAGUE	VERSES	WARNING	DISTINCTION	REMORSE /RELENT	PLEA /NO PLEA	ROOT WORD FOR HARDEN
1.	WATER TO BLOOD	Ex 7:14-25	warning	not stated	X/X	NO PLEA	KAVED
2.	FROGS	Ex 8:1-15	warning	not stated	✓/✓	PLEA	KAVED
3.	GNATS	Ex 8:16-19	no warning	not stated	X/X	NO PLEA	CHAZAQ
4.	FLIES	Ex 8:20-32	warning	Israel	✓/✓	PLEA	KAVED
5.	LIVESTOCK	Ex 9:1-7	warning	Israel	X/X	NO PLEA	KAVED
6.	BOILS	Ex 9:8-12	no warning	not stated	X/X	NO PLEA	CHAZAQ
7.	HAIL	Ex 9:13-35	warning	those who heed warning	✓/✓	PLEA	CHAZAQ
8.	LOCUSTS	Ex 10:1-20	warning	not stated	✓/✓	PLEA	CHAZAQ
9.	DARKNESS	Ex 10:21-29	no warning	Israel	X/✓	NO PLEA	CHAZAQ
9.	DEATH OF THE FIRSTBORN	Ex 12:29-32	warning	those who put blood on the door	✓/x		

As you can see on this slide, this is an overview of the 10 plagues, including some pertinent details on the interactions between God and Pharaoh that occur during the plagues.

You can see in the 3rd column that there is a repeating cycle of warning, warning, and then no warning given before the 3rd plague and then the cycle repeats. Last week, we saw that a warning was given before the plague of frogs, but after that, no warning was given before the plague of gnats.

In the 4th column, you can see the instances where God explicitly states that there will be a distinction between Israel and Egypt. You should recall that this first occurred in our text last week, and that the word for distinction also means redemption.

In the 5th column, you will be able to see the instances where remorse was shown by Pharaoh and the cases where the cessation of the Plague in view is mentioned in the text.

~

To refresh your memory, we started last week with Pharaoh showing no remorse about the plague of blood, and there is no recorded stoppage.

After that, the plague of frogs begins with a warning, and the plague is so severe that Pharaoh pleads for the plague to stop, and then God stops it.

Next, after Pharaoh hardens his heart, there is no warning before the plague of gnats, and after the plague, there is no remorse from Pharaoh, nor is there a recorded stoppage of the plague.

Then we finished our chapter with the plague of flies. After seeing no remorse from Pharaoh, God graciously sends Moses to warn Pharaoh about this plague. After the plague was completed, we noticed that Pharaoh felt remorse, and he made a plea to Moses, resulting in a recorded stoppage of the Plague.

What makes all of these details interesting is what you see in the last column on the right.

~

Last week, we learned that there were three Hebrew words used to describe the hardening of Pharaoh's heart. The first of the three is not mentioned on this slide because it occurs before the plagues begin in Exodus 7:3, and it refers to God's statement about what He is going to do to Pharaoh, which is made in advance of the events themselves.

This Hebrew word is "Qashah", which means a general hardness, as in something being tempered so that it is hardened like steel.

From that point on, we saw that Pharaoh's heart goes through cycles of becoming heavier (Kavod) and then being strengthened (Chazak).

As you look at that column on the far right, you will see that there will be one more iteration of that cycle, and then from that point, Pharaoh's heart will only increase in strength, bent on rebelling against Adonai.

~

The following slide will be familiar, but it will take on greater importance in our text...

DRAGON WAR

Genesis 3:15	In the beginning of the Bible a conflict between a serpent and God's creation.
Isaiah 51:9-10	God was in conflict with a dragon in days of old.
Psalms 74:14	God crushed the heads of Leviathan in an age-old conflict.
Psalms 89:9-10	God is presented as ruling over the raging seas and crushing Rahab or being in conflict with Rahab in the past.
Isaiah 27:1	God will defeat Leviathan and the dragon in the future.
Rev 12:16-17	There is a dragon that is making war against the people of God and ultimately God himself.
Rev 13:4-5	The dragon gives authority to gentile nations to blaspheme God.
Rev 13:11-14	The same dragon gives authority to gentile nations to work miracles and to deceive people.
Rev 20:2-3	The dragon is seized. The serpent, dragon, devil, and Satan are all revealed as the same entity throughout the biblical narrative.
Rev 21:1	The dragon is done away with in the chaotic seas and the chaotic seas cease.

In Exodus 7, we taught you about the first interaction between Moses, Aaron and Pharaoh and how Aaron's staff turned into a Tanin or a dragon, and swallowed up the staffs of Pharaoh's magicians.

You will remember that the Tanin or the Dragon represents the chaotic sea monster that has been warring against God and virtually every other culture in the ancient world was aware of this war and boasted that their lesser gods had the power to subdue the dragon.

While the false claims are abundant in the mythologies of near eastern cultures, Pharaoh was purported to be a divine son of the gods who could control the forces of chaos and the fact that Aaron's staff or dragon defeated the dragons of Pharaoh was an intentional act designed by Yahweh to demonstrate to Pharaoh that Yahweh alone had the power to subdue the chaotic sea dragon.

We learned from this passage that this act also foreshadowed God's ultimate victory over the dragon in the Book of Revelation, which we are learning will look a lot like the Book of Exodus.

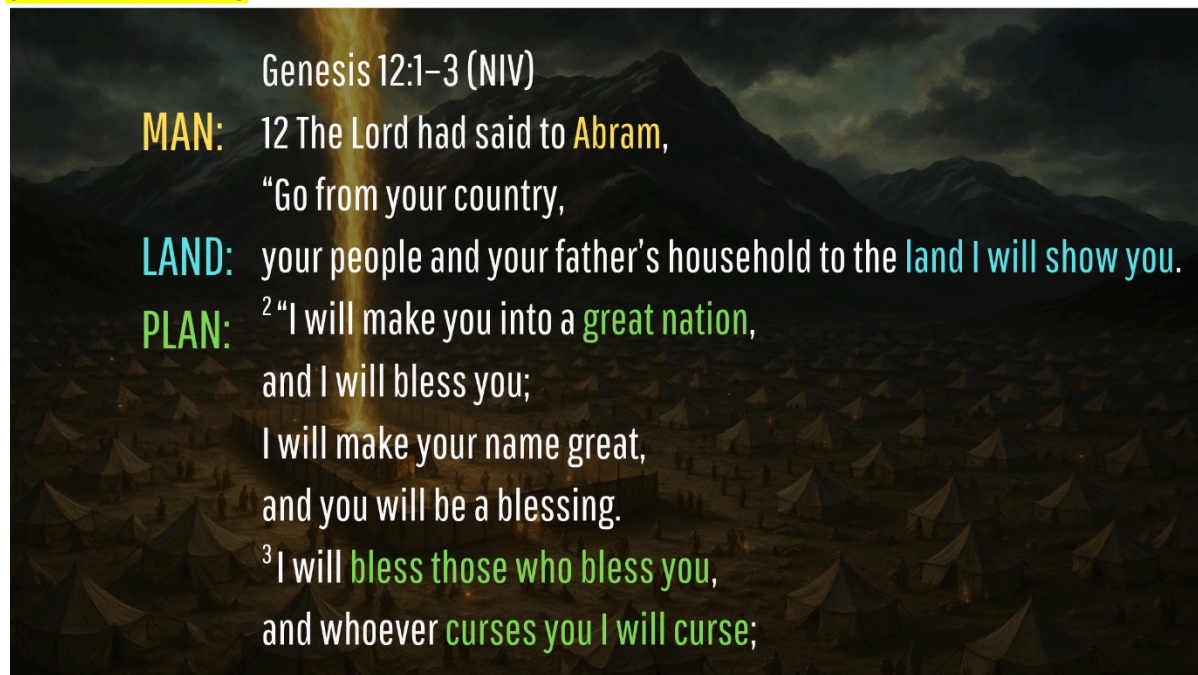
~

Tonight, you are going to see the relationship between the dragon and Egypt as you have never seen it before, and you will see how God's dealings with Egypt

form the basis for how God deals with any national power that the dragon uses to do his will.

On this next slide, we want to remind you of the ultimate purpose of the Book of Exodus and the basis on which God is using these events to gain glory for himself.

(DO NOT READ)



In the Book of Genesis, God makes a covenant with Abraham to give him a certain land and to make him into a great nation that will ultimately bless every nation on the earth.

This covenant with Abraham displays the express will of Adonai for his plan of salvation for the entire earth and the plan that Adonai had in store for revealing His character to the world as a covenant-keeping God that lesser, malignant spiritual forces cannot stop.

Later in the book of Genesis, God reveals to Abraham that this plan will commence by bringing his people to Egypt, where they will become enslaved, and then bringing them out with mighty works and demonstrations of power.

~

In our studies of the book of Exodus, we have seen the sovereign hand of Adonai at work in the dealings with the Egyptians and the Israelites, demonstrating both **His faithfulness to the covenant He made with Abraham AND His righteous judgments on the gods of the Egyptians at the same time!!!!**

Tonight we are going to see how the events in Exodus inform us about why and how God will deal with the last kingdom in the book of Revelation that will arise to oppress the people of Israel and attempt to assert its dominance over Yahweh.

We will see that God's dealings with Israel will always be a way to demonstrate his majesty to the world while using Israel to judge the lesser gods that are aligned against him!

Read & Pray

Exodus 9:1–35 (NIVUK84)

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: “Let my people go, so that they may worship me.”

~

Last week, we saw Pharaoh pleading with Moses to stop the Plague of the flies, and Moses prayed to the Lord, and then there was a recorded stoppage of the plague of flies. After the removal of the flies, Pharaoh hardens his heart for the fourth time and does not follow through with his promise to let the people of Israel go.

Now we are picking up in Chapter 9, which starts with an initiation by Moses, directed by God, to give Pharaoh his fourth warning. What most people fail to recognize is that it is not the severity of the plagues that hardens Pharaoh's heart. It is instead the acts of kindness by Adonai to Pharaoh that warn and relent from plagues that seems to provide the stimulus for Pharaoh to demonstrate the hardness of his heart. Consider:

- o **Romans 2:4 (NIV)**

- ⁴ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Repeated warnings should be viewed as chances for true repentance. However, a hardened heart is revealed when these acts of kindness are taken as opportunities for further sin, leading to more hardening and rebellion against God's will. Many believe that sternness causes a heart to harden, but in reality, continued mercy and kindness offer the chance for repentance. If repentance does not occur, the result is an emboldened heart that becomes increasingly hardened to sin. In the absence of repentance and in the presence of a hardened heart, the only righteous response is an escalation in the level of severity of discipline that must ensue.

~

This chapter opens with God demonstrating His mercy to Pharaoh by bringing him His 4th warning after he had failed to do what He said He was going to do. But as you know the lack of genuine repentance and the presence of an increasingly hardened heart is going to engender the next level of escalation in Adonai's dealings with Pharaoh.

The other thing that makes the opening of this chapter interesting is that in God's 4th warning to Moses, He refers to Himself as "The God of the Hebrews," which is something that has not been said to Pharaoh since the first plague, which featured the Nile turning to blood.

At that point in the story, Pharaoh's retort to Moses and Aaron was that he did not "know" Yahweh, or he had no regard for Yahweh therefore he would not let the people go.

You should remember that we taught you in Exodus chapter 5 that Pharaoh's response could not have meant that he did not know who Adonai was; instead, he was displaying **disregard** for the importance of who Adonai was due to his low view of Adonai's people.

The following slide should help you recall what we covered.

~

(READ SLIDE)

UNDERESTIMATING YHWH

2. And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord—rather “YHWH.” Lord was a common name applied to objects of worship; but Jehovah was a name he had never heard of. Pharaoh estimated the character and power of this God by the abject and miserable condition of the worshippers and concluded that He held as low a rank among the gods as His people did in the nation. To demonstrate the supremacy of the true God over all the gods of Egypt, was the design of the plagues.

Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible (Vol. 1, p. 51). Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Pharaoh failed to understand who the People of Israel were because of their lowly condition and he surmised that their God was just as lowly as they were in his eyes.

God responds to Pharaoh's estimation in Exodus 5 by having Moses tell him that the "**God of the Hebrews**" has met with them and he is the one that wanted the people of Israel to go on a journey.

Now, in chapter 9, God instructs Moses to use this **phrase** again, as Pharaoh should better understand it than when he first began his rebellion against the will of Adonai. By using this name, God is making a connection between Himself and the family of Abraham. By this point, Pharaoh has had an experience with the power of Yahweh that should leave him with no doubt about who is demanding that the Israelites be released.

~

Yahweh is the God of the family of Abraham, who currently resides in Egypt and Yahweh is the one who has been unleashing devastating plagues on the people of Egypt for their refusal to let God's firstborn son go....

The first time that this was mentioned to Pharaoh, he had not seen the power of God at work in his nation yet. His refusal to honor the God of the Hebrews cost him and his people serious annoyance and discomfort.

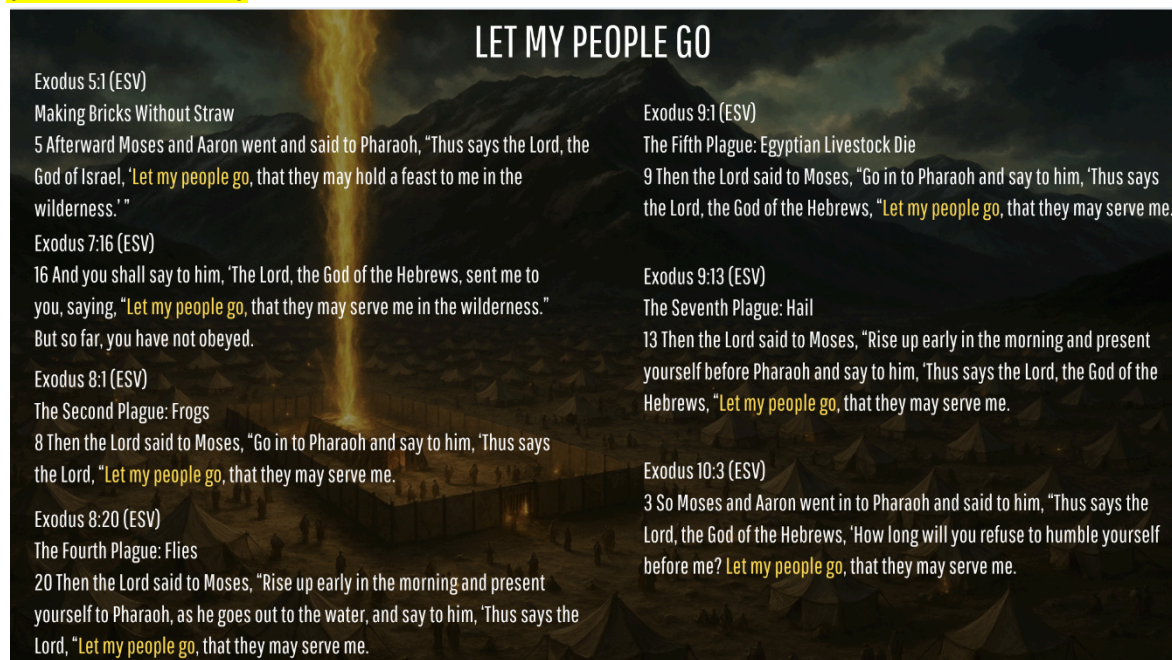
At this point in the story, Pharaoh should see the repetition of this phrase as a reminder of what his resistance to the God of the Hebrews has cost him and as a warning that it will get worse if he does not let the Hebrews go.

What is even more incredible than this is that when God directs Moses to speak to Pharaoh, he tells Moses to say "Let my people go" ... which many people have taken to mean that Moses is saying this to infer that they are Moses' people....

What is actually being said is that Yahweh is the God of the Hebrews and that the people belong to Yahweh... This could not be taken by Pharaoh in any way except that he would be in direct conflict with God for his misuse of God's own possession...

Furthermore, this phrase "let my people go" occurs 7 times throughout the Exodus narrative. Take a look at this next slide.

(DO NOT READ)



LET MY PEOPLE GO

Exodus 5:1 (ESV)
Making Bricks Without Straw
5 Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'"

Exodus 7:16 (ESV)
16 And you shall say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, "Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness." But so far, you have not obeyed.

Exodus 8:1 (ESV)
The Second Plague: Frogs
8 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, "Let my people go, that they may serve me."

Exodus 8:20 (ESV)
The Fourth Plague: Flies
20 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, "Let my people go, that they may serve me."

Exodus 9:1 (ESV)
The Fifth Plague: Egyptian Livestock Die
9 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, "Let my people go, that they may serve me."

Exodus 9:13 (ESV)
The Seventh Plague: Hail
13 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, "Let my people go, that they may serve me."

Exodus 10:3 (ESV)
3 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."

As we have already discussed in our studies so far, the number 7 in the Bible represents perfection and completion.

In the 7 times that God says to Pharaoh, "Let my people go," you should be able to glean that God gave Pharaoh a perfect number of warnings. You should also be able to understand that God gave Pharaoh a perfect number of indicators of who he was and who his people were.

The fact that God calls the nation of Israel "my people" 7 times should cause you to remember this passage...

- o **Genesis 17:6–7 (ESV)**

7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, **to be God to you and to your offspring after you**

God's promise to Abraham that He would be his God and the God of his descendants for eternity. God's sevenfold message to Pharaoh is the recognition that he is the God who is perfectly keeping His promise to Abraham, and a warning to Pharaoh that if He continues to stand in the way of God fulfilling His covenant to Israel, then He will come to know God on a whole different level.

2 If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back,

3 the hand of the LORD will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field—on your horses and donkeys and camels and on your cattle and sheep and goats.

4 But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.’ ”

~

At this point in the story, the escalation in the plagues is starting to increase rapidly.

For instance, the plague that God is going to bring upon the land of Egypt is now being mentioned as a "terrible plague" instead of just a normal plague.

If you were here last week, you were able to see that the plagues that God had brought upon the Egyptians up to this point were no laughing matter and they caused Pharaoh to plead with Moses several times.

Now God is mentioning that He is going to bring a "terrible plague," which in Hebrew is even more descriptive. The Hebrew literally says that God is going to "lay a hand on Pharaoh with a **heavy** plague", which would mean that the plagues that are coming are going to cause the Egyptians to bend under the strain of what God is going to do.

The next thing that is interesting about the beginning of this plague is that God says here, for the second time, that He is going to make a distinction between Israel and the Egyptians. This is astounding because in the plague that occurred before this one, God mentioned that he would create a distinction as well.

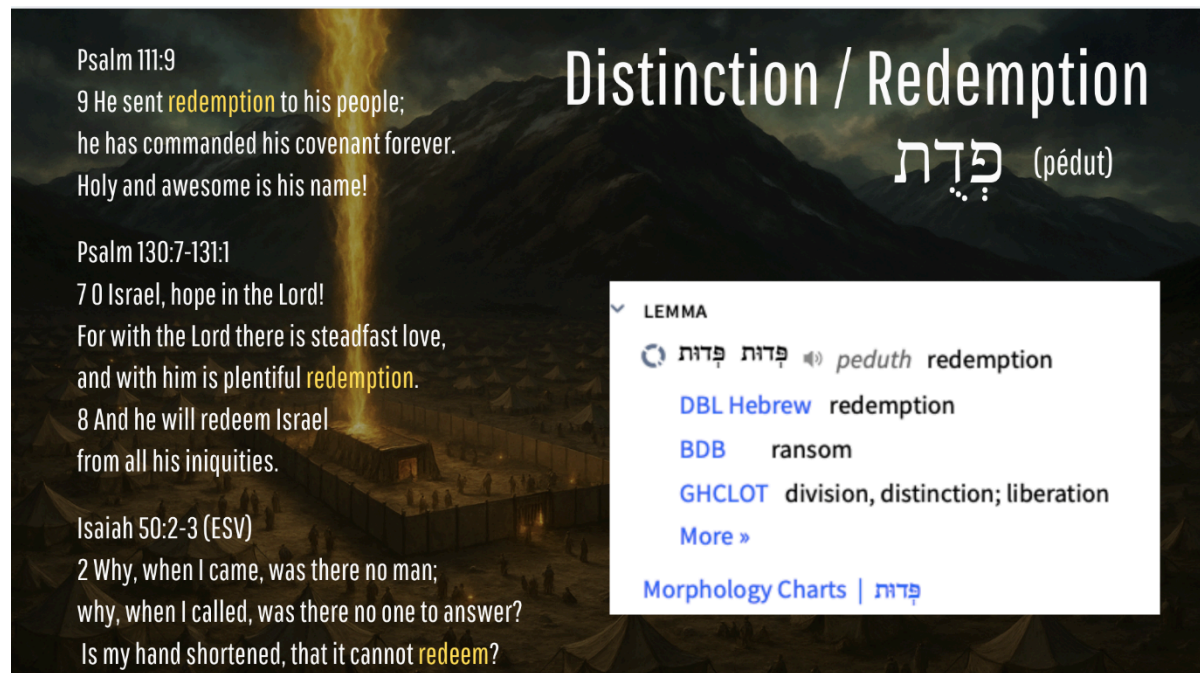
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In the first three plagues that fell upon Egypt, no distinction is mentioned being made between Israel and Egypt. Now, God seems to be making distinctions at a more rapid pace.

The other thing that makes this interesting is that the word for 'distinction' in chapter 9 is different from the word used in chapter 8 for the distinction that God would make.

If you remember, last week we taught you that the word used for distinction was also the same word in Hebrew that means "redemption".

(DO NOT READ)



Distinction / Redemption

פְּדוּת (pédut)

Psalm 111:9
9 He sent **redemption** to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

Psalm 130:7-131:1
7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful **redemption**.
8 And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

Isaiah 50:2-3 (ESV)
2 Why, when I came, was there no man;
why, when I called, was there no one to answer?
Is my hand shortened, that it cannot **redeem**?

LEMMA

פְּדוּת פְּדוּת peduth redemption

DBL Hebrew redemption

BDB ransom

GHCLOT division, distinction; liberation

More »

Morphology Charts | פְּדוּת

We learned that there is an intentional connection between God making a distinction by redeeming and that redemption causes the world to know who the people of God are!

The word that is used in our chapter tonight is the word "hiphlah", which means "to treat excellently."

(DO NOT READ)



Exodus 9:3-4 (NIV)

3 the hand of the Lord will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field—on your horses, donkeys and camels and on your cattle, sheep and goats. 4 But the Lord will **make a distinction** between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.’”

Distinction / Treat Excellently

הִפְלִיחַ Hiphlah

ROOT NIV

✓ פִּלַּח	plh	to treat excellently, treat specially
• פִּלַּח	plh	⚙️ treat excellently, treat specially
• פִּלְעִי	peloni	⚙️ so and so, someone known
• אֶלִּיפֶלֶהוּ	eliphelehu	⚙️ Eliphelehu

This is striking to us because while God is laying a heavy burden on the Egyptians for oppressing the people of Israel, God is going to treat the people of Israel excellently!

~

This also stands out to us because it shows that God has more than one way to distinguish between the unrighteous and the people of God. He will do this by redeeming you and causing you to walk out your redemption in the eyes of the world. He will also create a distinction by treating you excellently because you are in a relationship with Him!

The Lord will always work to make a distinction between his people and the world so that all will know who belongs to him and that the world will know who God is by the way that he deals with his people. Take a look at this slide with us:

(DO NOT READ SLIDE)

Growing Distinction

1. Mal. 3:17-18- God restores a distinction in the last days between Israel & other nations after persecution
2. Ex. 8:22-23- (plague of flies) The people of God will also suffer but a distinction will be made in tribulation
3. Ex. 9:4- "treat excellently" a distinction is made even among the possessions of the Israelites (cattle)
4. Ex. 11:7- "not a dog shall growl against the Israelites" God causes nature itself to show a distinction
5. Ex. 12:23- The blood of the lamb serves as the distinction (life & death) for the obedient Israelites
6. Ezek. 9:4-6- God commands a mark to be placed on the foreheads of those who are appalled by sin
7. Ex. 7:3-5- God ultimately makes a distinction between His people and the world so that all may know that He is the Lord

In Malachi 3:17-18, the Lord says, "once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked" which seems to indicate that in a great time of persecution, at least for a while, there seems to have been a lack of distinction. The Lord will restore this.

In Exodus 8:22-23, we read about the 4th plague in Egypt, the plague of flies. The Lord makes a distinction for the first time since the plagues have begun. Considering that there are three waves of judgment each containing three plagues, we notice a round of judgment where the people of God seem to be suffering right along with the rest of Egypt. However, there did come a point where Adonai began to make a clear distinction. This may be the best picture of what the book of Revelation will be like for the believer.... We may have to endure but God will eventually protect and redeem those who persevere.

~

In Exodus 9:4 we see that Adonai even treats the possessions of His people excellently furthering the noticeable distinction.

In Exodus 11:7, God makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel by even silencing growling dogs, showing that creation itself will acknowledge a distinction among the people of God. This will occur again in the end times, where God will again employ nature to aid Him in making a distinction.

In Exodus 12:23 a distinction is made in Egypt among the Israelites as the obedient distinguish themselves through applying the blood of the lamb. Failure to present this distinction will result in death. As we will again see in Revelation 12:11 total deliverance requires receiving the slain lamb.

In Ezekiel 9:4-6, God tells a servant to mark the foreheads of those who are appalled by the sin that is happening in the land. Those without this distinguishing mark were struck down. Consider this in light of the mark of the beast in revelation. Anyone who takes this distinguishing mark will be condemned by God.

~

And in Exodus 7:3-5 we see that God is ultimately making a distinction between His people and the world so that all may know that He is the Lord and He is the one working these wonders, signs, and miracles for the sake of His great name.

He is a God that wants to reveal himself to his people and he also wants to give the world the chance to know who he is through his dealings with his people.

There is one more detail that we would like to cover with you before we move on, and it pertains to the livestock that belonged to the Egyptians... Take a look at:

- o **Genesis 47:15–17 (ESV)**

15 And when the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, “Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? For our money is gone.”

16 And Joseph answered, “Give your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, if your money is gone.”

17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the herds, and the donkeys. He supplied them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year.

The Livestock that is in view in our chapter tonight only belongs to Pharaoh because God was working through a Hebrew man named Joseph!

Remember that in Genesis, God used Joseph to predict a famine would break out throughout the land. Then Pharaoh put an Israelite man in charge of all the economic activities in Egypt.

The only reason Pharaoh has livestock at this point is that the Egyptians once recognized the Jewish Savior that God raised up. Now God is going to take away the livestock that he gave to them because they are rejecting the God of the Jews and mistreating the Jewish people!

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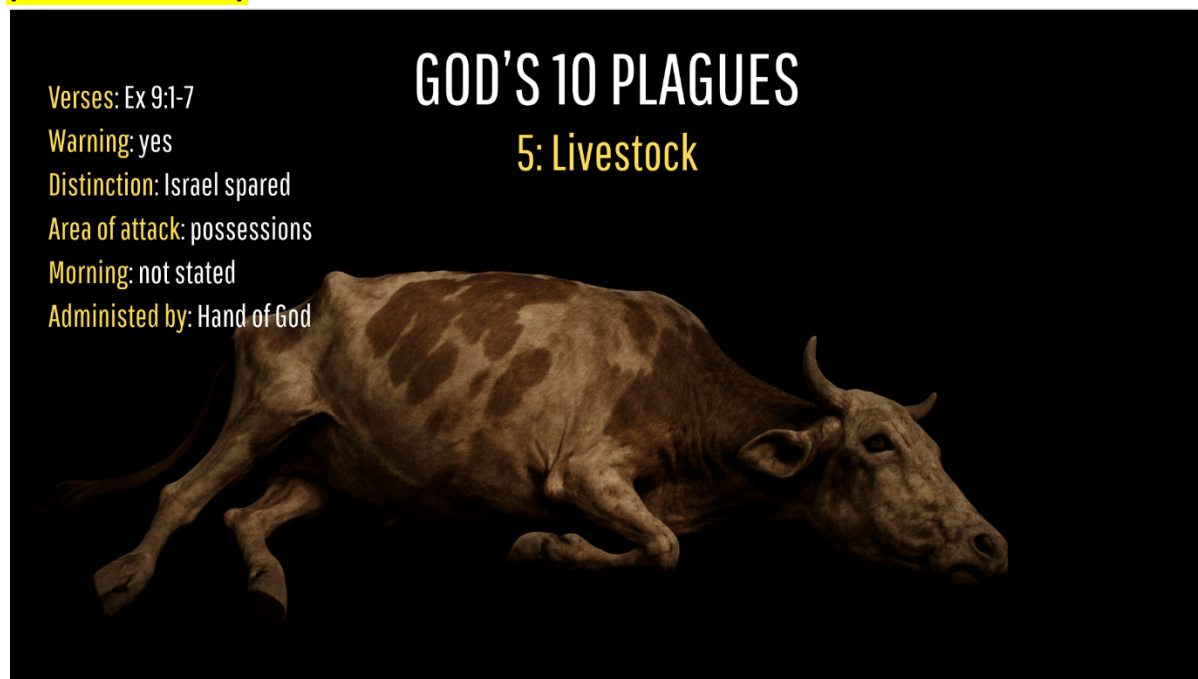
5 The LORD set a time and said, “Tomorrow the LORD will do this in the land.”

6 And the next day the LORD did it: All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one animal belonging to the Israelites died.

7 Pharaoh sent men to investigate and found that not even one of the animals of the Israelites had died. Yet his heart was unyielding and he would not let the people go.

Again, you can see that while the consequences of Pharaoh's stubbornness escalate and become more severe, God is still treating Pharaoh in the most merciful way.

(DO NOT READ)



He tells Pharaoh what is going to happen and then informs him of the time when the consequence will occur, which should have been enough time for Pharaoh to consider that God is not playing games at this point.

Each time God warned Pharaoh that a plague was going to occur, the plague occurred exactly as God had said it would, giving Pharaoh no reason to think that anything would be different in this case. If God says it is going to happen, his track record shows that He is going to do what He said He would do.

At this point, Pharaoh's response is becoming somewhat predictable. As we have seen so far, Pharaoh misses his opportunity to repent and instead obstinately refuses to do so, thereby inviting the judgment of God again.

~

What is unique about this occurrence is that Pharaoh actually sends men to investigate whether what God said would happen, actually happened! These men report their findings to Pharaoh, which aligns exactly with how God said they would.

This raises the question, "What was the point of Pharaoh investigating the matter?" In the story so far, Adonai has not given Pharaoh any reason to doubt what he said would happen.

Whether Pharaoh intended to prove God wrong or was assessing the damage, the fact that he is now personally investigating the matter and still refusing to repent should tell you everything you need to know about Pharaoh's heart. For a different example of investigating, take a look at Acts 17.

- o **Acts 17:11 (NIVUK84)**

11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the **message with great eagerness** and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

The Bereans investigated the message that Paul spoke to them, but with a different outcome than Pharaoh.

Their investigation was initiated with eagerness over the message, and they conducted it in a way that carefully verified the truth of Paul's message, with the intent of their hearts being aimed at joyfully obeying whatever truth would be discovered.

~

Pharaoh's investigation was done from a position of rebellion toward God and a refusal to submit to what he was requiring of him, so whatever truth would be discovered in the matter would be inconsequential to him...

This tells us that further investigation is never the issue; the heart behind the investigation is.

- o **Proverbs 29:19 (ESV)**

By mere words a servant is not disciplined, for though he understands, he will not respond.

What happens after Pharaoh's investigation is something we have already seen, but it is being carried out on a greater scale than we have seen previously.

After Pharaoh finds out that God had done exactly what he predicted, the text says in verse 7 that his heart still became heavy and he would not let the people of Israel go.

After everything he has seen and experienced, he knows the truth, and he still won't submit to it. This is because his heart is heavy and chained to sin and his own heart is dragging him further and further to his own destruction. To properly understand the state of Pharaoh's heart, take a look at Jeremiah 17:

- o **Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)**

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

~

The heart of all men is a fleshly entity that is wicked and deceitful and is often presented in the Bible as having a will of its own. The warning that Jeremiah is giving is that our own hearts have the capability of deceiving us and that it is almost impossible to understand without the light of God's word.

Pharaoh is in a position where he knows the truth of who God is, he has seen God's power and even conducted investigations to find that God was right. Yet his heart is still weighed down by deceit. Take a look at Psalm 141.

- o **Psalm 141:4 (ESV)**

4 Do not **let my heart incline to any evil**, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity, and let me not eat of their delicacies!

This psalm is written by David and even he had to maintain a constant awareness of the fact that his heart could become inclined to evil...

David was a man who had in his heart to fulfill God's purposes, and yet because his heart was naturally inclined to sin, he had to guard it by asking the Lord to constantly search it and help him fight against its deceptions. This does not mean that everything in his heart was only evil, and it certainly does not mean that everything in his heart was only good... As you can see from the story of Bathsheba and the aftermath of those events, David truly loved the Lord, but his heart was capable of deceiving him in a moment.

~

The difference between Pharaoh and David is that David would eventually respond to the Lord and ask God to help him overcome his own heart by giving him a new one!

PLAGUES							
	PLAGUE	VERSES	WARNING	DISTINCTION	REMORSE /RELENT	PLEA /NO PLEA	ROOT WORD FOR HARDEN
1	WATER TO BLOOD	Ex 7:14-25	warning	not stated	XX	NO PLEA	KAVED
2	FROGS	Ex 8:1-15	warning	not stated	✓/✓	PLEA	KAVED
3	GNATS	Ex 8:16-19	no warning	not stated	XX	NO PLEA	CHAZAQ
4	FLIES	Ex 8:20-32	warning	Israel	✓/✓	PLEA	KAVED
5	LIVESTOCK	Ex 9:1-7	warning	Israel	XX	NO PLEA	KAVED
6	BOILS	Ex 9:8-12	no warning	not stated	XX	NO PLEA	CHAZAQ
7	HAIL	Ex 9:13-35	warning	those who heed warning	✓/✓	PLEA	CHAZAQ
8	LOCUSTS	Ex 10:1-20	warning	not stated	✓/✓	PLEA	CHAZAQ
9	DARKNESS	Ex 10:21-29	no warning	Israel	X/✓	NO PLEA	CHAZAQ
9	DEATH OF THE FIRSTBORN	Ex 12:29-32	warning	those who put blood on the door	✓/x		

Pharaoh, on the other hand, is being given more opportunities to respond than God ever gave David, and Pharaoh is still choosing not to. It is clear at this point

that Pharaoh wants to side with his own heart over Adonai and he is choosing to disobey God intentionally.

We see that after the plague of livestock, Pharaoh does not respond, nor does he plead with God for the plague to stop.

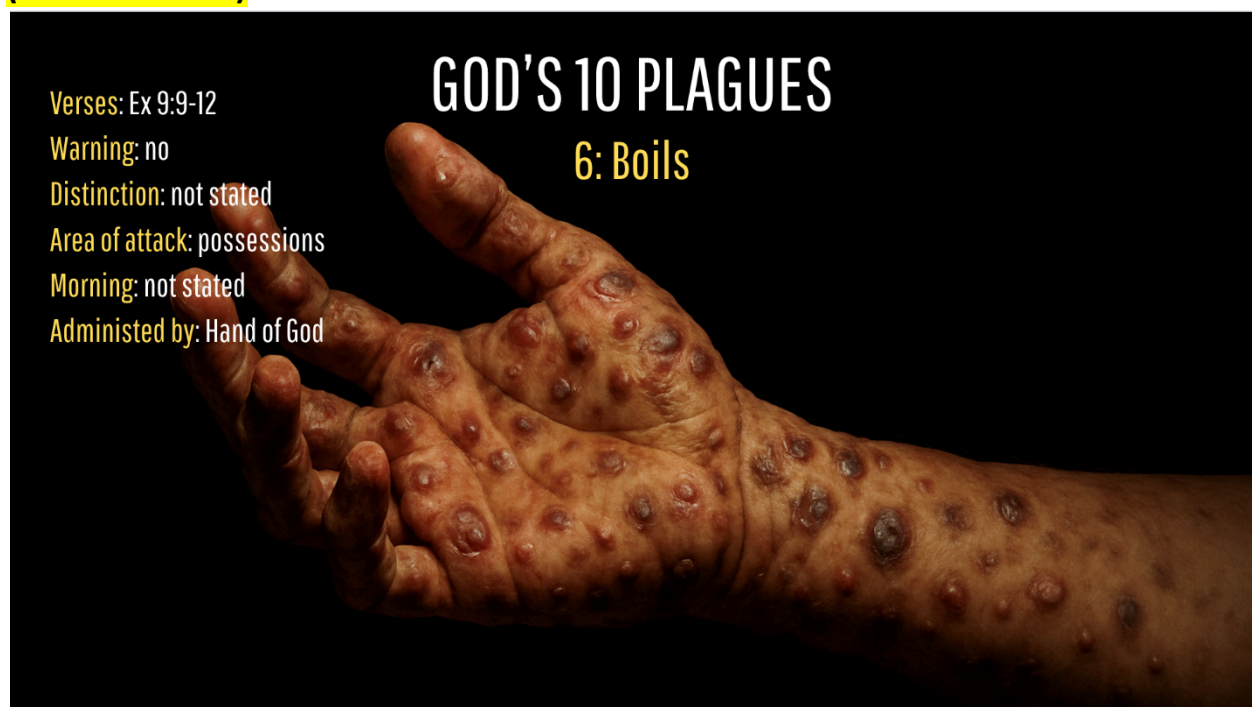
Again, after investigating what God said would happen and finding it to be true, instead of speaking out and responding to the Lord, his silence becomes a shout of defiance, saying that there is nothing Adonai could do to make him repent. As we move to verse 8, note that the next plague we will see will not include a warning.

~

8 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh.

9 It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on men and animals throughout the land.”

(DO NOT READ)



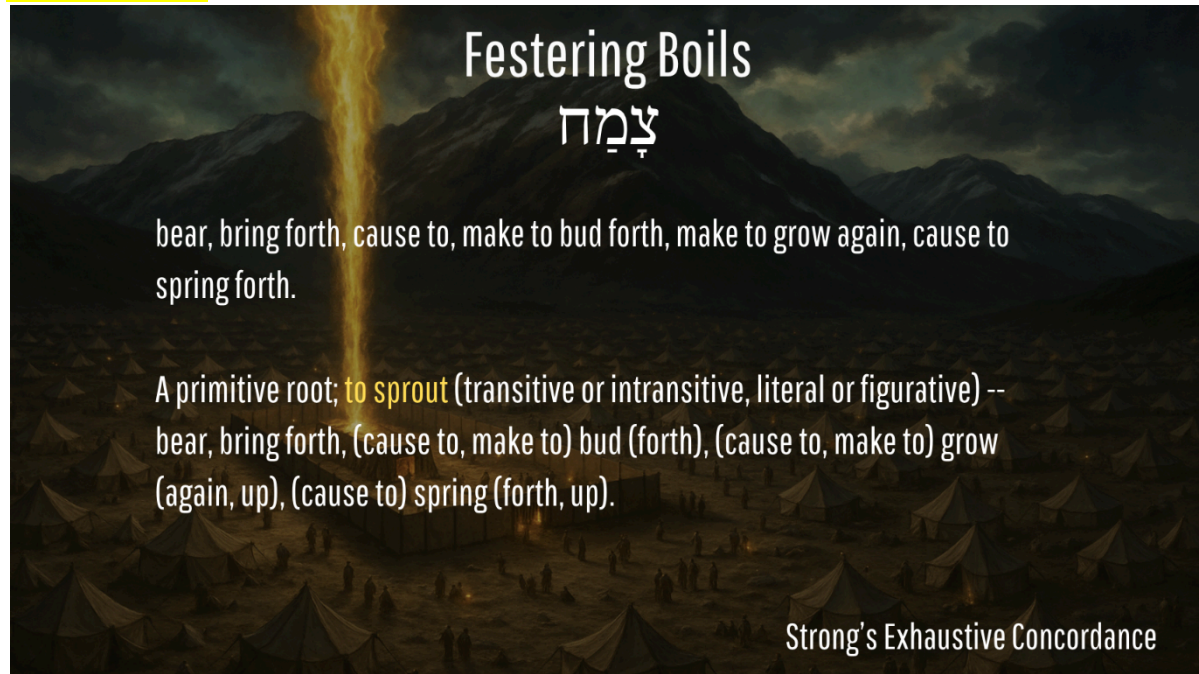
Needless to say, the plagues are definitely escalating....

Not only are these boils mentioned as "breaking out" in an uncontrollable fashion on both humans and animals, but they are also "festering" boils.

The Hebrew word for "festering" here means "sprouting"....

~

(READ SLIDE)



It is definitely bad to have one boil on your body; having numerous boils break out on your body is worse, and having many "sprouting" boils on your body at one time sounds like literal hell.

You would have to imagine how difficult and disgusting this would cause everyday life to be..... It would affect you while standing, sitting, lying down and walking. There would be no function of normal everyday life that would not be affected...

To further illustrate the severity of these boils, we would like to share with you what Deuteronomy 28 says about this plague, as it refers back to this specific event and serves as a reminder and warning to the Israelites not to disobey the LORD.

(READ SLIDE)

BOILS OF EGYPT?!

Deuteronomy 28:24–27 (ESV)

24 The LORD will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed.

25 “The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. 26 And your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away. 27 The LORD will strike you with the **boils of Egypt**, and with tumors and scabs and itch, of which you cannot be healed.



~

In Moses' admonition to the Israelites, he recalls the boils of Egypt and mentions them in the same sentence with tumors, scabs, and "itch". Combine these terms with "sprouting" boils and we think that this picture best represents what appeared on the Egyptians and their animals...

Apparently, these boils were so nasty that Moses wanted the Israelites to remember them throughout the generations so that they would not rebel against the Lord, lest he strike them with the same plague.

On the next slide, we will show you the probable source of these boils and what it could have meant for the Egyptians.

(READ SLIDE)

Exodus 9:8, KILN

9:8 brick kiln. Lit., “furnace.” The Hebrew does not specify what kind of furnace this was. While pottery was regularly fired in a furnace in Egypt at this time, there are not many examples of fired bricks. Nevertheless, there are some examples, so it is attractive to think that Yahweh was here using one of the products of the Israelites’ slavery to bring retribution on the oppressors.

Ross, A., & Oswalt, J. N. (2008). Cornerstone biblical commentary: Genesis, Exodus (Vol. 1, p. 347). Tyndale House Publishers.

~

Since there is evidence that bricks were made in kilns, it’s likely that Moses took soot from the very same kilns where Israelite slaves had made bricks for Pharaoh. This raises the question: why did God instruct Moses to use soot? We suggest that this is a prophetic act—symbolically tied to the Israelites’ suffering under Pharaoh’s command to make bricks without straw. God used soot from the same furnace of their oppression as a sign of His power to bring judgment upon the Egyptians.

If that’s the case, then what’s happening here is deeply symbolic: God repurposed the soot from the brick kilns—once used to enslave His people—as a tool of judgment against their oppressors. What was once used to torment the Israelites is now used by God to afflict Egypt.

Furthermore, the Hebrew word for "boils" could offer more insight into the Hermeneutic that God was trying to employ.

(READ SLIDE)

Festering Boils

If “brick kiln” is the correct interpretation of the Hebrew “furnace” (see the note on 9:8), then there is an irony in this sign. **The “soot” (verse 9:8) from the furnaces at which Hebrew slaves toiled became a source of “hot things” (the probable root of “boils,” (shekhin) is shakhan, which means “to become hot”) breaking out on the bodies of the oppressors and their livestock.**

Ross, A., & Oswalt, J. N. (2008). Cornerstone biblical commentary: Genesis, Exodus (Vol. 1, pp. 351–352). Tyndale House Publishers.

~

The word for boils in Hebrew is "Shekhin," which is derived from the root "Shakhan."

The word shakhan means to become hot, which is interesting because it was the soot from the "kiln" or "furnace" that caused the Egyptians to become hot with boils.

Again, this would indicate that God wanted them to know that he has been watching the ways that they have oppressed the Israelites by making them bake bricks, and he is now using the same kiln to bake them...

We need to move on, but it would not be a proper Bible study without us showing you the connections between Exodus and Revelation. Therefore, we want to demonstrate that boils are a feature of the great tribulation to come.

o Revelation 16:1–2 (NIVUK84)

16 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.”

2 The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and **ugly and painful sores broke** out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshipped his image.

~

The Book of Revelation is the Book of Exodus expanded. Because we know that the events in Revelation are magnified to a greater extent, you have to imagine the boils, as we just saw, but 10 times bigger and 10 times more...sprouty.

The Book of Revelation even goes out of its way to describe the boils as ugly....

In Exodus, we see that all who follow Pharaoh in his hardness of heart develop sores, and it will be no different in Revelation... All who have not received the mark of God but rather have taken the mark of the beastly gentile kingdom will wear their loyalty on their faces... and everywhere else on their bodies.

10 So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on men and animals.

11 The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils that were on them and on all the Egyptians.

~

To further illustrate the intensity of these boils, the text mentions that the Egyptians could not stand due to the severity of the infestation.

This should remind you of the events that occurred in Exodus chapter 5, as the details are intentionally given to inform the reader that God has remembered the suffering of His people and is now doing to the Egyptians what they did to His people. Take a look at this next slide.

(READ SLIDE)

AN EGYPTIAN BEATING

a [beaten] The Hebrew officers were beaten. The ordinary punishment in Egypt for common offenses required a person to lie on his stomach with his legs and feet upward. The executioner then struck many blows on the soles of the feet, making it almost impossible to walk for weeks and perhaps for life.

Finis Jennings Dake, The Dake Annotated Reference Bible (Dake Publishing, 1997), Ex 5:14

In Chapter 5, the Israelite foremen were beaten in a way that would render them unable to walk for weeks. Now God is dishing out a beating on the Egyptians and their officials, causing them to be unable to stand before Pharaoh.

What you should realize is that when God said He would curse those who curse His people, He will go the extra mile to ensure that this is done in a way that will be remembered!

~

12 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses.

Before we move on, we would like to make a few comments on the downward spiral of Pharaoh's heart, which is starting to pick up some pace.

We have already seen him receive a warning and a plague with no warning, and as far as a response goes, we haven't seen him make a plea for mercy since the fourth plague. Instead, all we have seen from him is an investigation that proved Adonai was being truthful, followed by silence on his part.

We have also seen his heart go through one cycle of heaviness and strengthening and so far, it seems as if Pharaoh was the one responsible for allowing this to occur in his heart, not God.

We are now at a major turning point in the progression of Pharaoh's heart, where it is explicitly stated that Yahweh is doing the hardening. To make matters more severe, the cycle of heaviness to strengthening is going to happen at a much quicker pace. The text also states that his heart is being "strengthened" by God, and he would not "Shema" or "listen with the intent to obey."

We don't have time to do this now, but the progression of Pharaoh's heart into further sin bears a striking resemblance to the progression outlined in the Book of Romans.

~

13 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me,

14 or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no-one like me in all the earth.

15 For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth.

Before we deep dive into this, we just want to take a moment to recognize the Lord as,



He has already brought chaos and destruction on Pharaoh and his kingdom and then He says, do what I said or I'm gonna really bring it, because there is no one like me and I could have already wiped you off the earth!!!

~

To continue our discussion on the escalation of the plagues, we are about to get into the seventh plague, and before we do, notice that there is another warning here. In the warning, there are additional details that specifically highlight to Pharaoh the fact that God is being patient with Pharaoh...

God says to him that he could have wiped out the entire nation, but instead, he has chosen to be patient so that the Egyptians could have a chance to experience his power. On that note, let's reread Romans 9:22.

o **Romans 9:22–23 (ESV)**

22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory

The point of what Paul is saying is that God has the capability of bringing sudden destruction upon the wicked but instead of judging them swiftly, he will choose to endure their conduct so that in the prolonged absence of judgment, their wickedness will be made known more fully, and when God chooses to make his wrath and power known, it is done in a way that is undeniable and public to all!

~


He does this so that by contrast, he can then make the riches of his glory known to those who are righteous and have patiently endured the suffering and oppression of those who are wicked.

God does have the ability to bring the full force of his judgment upon those that deserve it, but in displaying patience, he waits for the most opportune time to act so that he will receive the maximum amount of Glory. He does this so that his name will be known through his actions and so that his people will remember him for all the powerful works he has done on their behalf!

On the topic of "the full force" of plagues, it is clear from this statement that God has been holding back, or, in another way, "winning with one hand tied behind his

back". To grasp what the full force of his plagues could look like, take a look at this next slide again...

CHAOS



- Shalom removed from the earth (Rev 6:3)
- People slaying one another (Rev 6:3)
- Famine, Pestilence, Death by wild beasts (Rev 6:8)
- 1/4 of earth's population dies – 2 billion compared to WW2 55 million 36x higher. Killed by plagues (Rev 6:8)
- Earthquakes (Rev 6:12)
- Sun becomes black (Rev 6:12)
- Moon is like blood (Rev 6:12)
- Stars falling to the sky (Rev 6:13)
- Every mountain and island removed from its place (Rev 6:14)
- Sky rolls up like a scroll (Rev 6:14)
- All on earth hiding in caves (Rev 6:15)
- Great star falling (Rev 8:10)
- Third of Sun/Moon/stars pummeled (Rev 8:12)
- Another 1/3 of mankind killed by angels. Another 2 billion, 1 out of every 2 (Rev 9:15)
- Battles with blood rising 6 ft high (Rev 14:20)
- Solar flares torching people on earth (Rev 16:8)
- Mass Beheadings (Rev 20:4)

To say it politely, God has been playing nice with Pharaoh and now Pharaoh is going to find out...

~

16 But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.

On a personal note, imagine being told by God that the plagues that you have experienced so far are nothing compared to what he is about to do. Then the Lord says that what he is going to do next is going to be so powerful that the entire earth is going to know about it! To us, this seems like one of the most ominous warnings that could be given to a man and should have been met with immediate cries for mercy.

Because you know what is going to happen, consider that what God does in the Exodus story actually worked! Throughout biblical and world history, the actions taken by God in redeeming His people and judging the nation of Egypt serve to cause His power and name to be known by all.

Take a look at Joshua 2:10-11

o **Joshua 2:10–11 (ESV)**

10 **For we have heard** how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. 11 And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

~

What God did at the splitting of the Red Sea and the judgment of the nations that opposed His people became public knowledge throughout the entire biblical world. Consider that this passage is being spoken by Rahab, who is in Jericho, and that Jericho is 270 miles away from Egypt.

That may not seem like a great distance to you, but in the ancient world, when a man could only walk 15-20 miles a day, this distance would have been a 13-day journey. If we were to put that into a modern equivalent, it would be roughly equivalent to traveling to India 13 times! (since that is a 1-day journey by plane)



Also, consider the fact that there were no cell phones or social media, and you will come away with the idea that knowledge of the Exodus events was so powerful that word spread very quickly, and what God said would happen actually did!

- o **1 Samuel 4:5–8 (ESV)**

5 As soon as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. 6 And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, “What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?” And when they learned that the ark of the LORD had come to the camp, 7 the Philistines were afraid, for they said, “A god has come into the camp.” **And they said, “Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. 8 Woe to us!** Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness.

~

Consider that this is taking place roughly 600 years after the events in the Book of Exodus and the other nations are still remembering what God did in Egypt!

To put this into perspective, how many of us in this room can recall the most significant event that took place in the year 1425?

- o **Exodus 10:1–2 (ESV)**

10 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them, 2 **and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD.**”

God's intention of the plagues against Egypt and his dealings with the Israelites during their oppression of Egypt was so that his name and his reputation would be known by Israel and the rest of the world for generations to come.

The fact that Israel still observes the Feast of Passover in remembrance of these events 3,600 years later shows that God's intended effect did take root in the hearts of His people.

~

Our studies in the Book of Exodus are showing us how God will allow Gentile nations to oppress his people and then begin to work within the circumstances to judge the nations that are oppressing while saving Israel to make his name and reputation famous through his dealings with Israel.

What we are seeing with the nation of Egypt is the model of how God is going to deal with every gentile nation that rises up after them who seek to enslave his people.

We will walk through the broader prophetic pattern concerning the Seven-Headed dragon in Revelation 13.

(DO NOT READ)



The point we are going to make is that this 7-headed dragon represents seven kingdoms that rule over Israel, and Egypt is the first of these kingdoms! Thus, Egypt is the prototype of how God will deal with each Gentile Kingdom and the ultimate beast in the end.

~

As a brief disclaimer, these 7 Kingdoms are not to be conflated with the 5 Kingdoms in Daniel 2. While they are related, the Kingdoms in Revelation 13 are

based on the criteria of ruling over Israel. In contrast, in Daniel 2, the criteria is having conquered Babylon, the place of the Revelation.

On that note, we would like to share some details from the book of Revelation that help us understand how Egypt serves as a prototype for how God works throughout history and how He will ultimately make His name known in the end times.

- o **Revelation 12:17–13:1 (NIVUK84)**

17 Then the **dragon** was enraged at the woman and **went off to make war against the rest of her offspring**—those who **obey God's commandments** and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

By this point in our studies, you should be fully aware of who this dragon is. According to Revelation 20:2, the dragon is the ancient serpent that God has been warring with for ages, and he is identified as Satan. In Revelation 12, we see the dragon waging war against a woman and her offspring.

We don't have time to cover all the details, but if you read Revelation 12 carefully, you should see that the woman represents Israel, and her offspring are the people of Israel and the Gentile graft-ins that have joined with Israel.

~

In our studies of Exodus, we have seen that the Egyptians present themselves as being in one accord with the dragon or the "*tanniyn*," and it is they who are making war or oppressing the people of Israel. Because we know from the book of Revelation that the Dragon is actually Satan, we can understand that Satan is the one using the Egyptians to carry out his desires because he has been in conflict with God from the beginning....

Let's move on to the next verses.

- o **Revelation 13:1–2 (NIVUK84)**

1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

Notice that a new beast is introduced in the story, one with seven heads and ten horns. Before we get to the meaning of the seven heads and 10 horns (because the text is going to explain this later), notice the unique characteristics of the beast.

He resembles the features of several different types of animals, which is a direct tie to the beasts found in the Book of Daniel.

~

Since we do not have time to review the book of Daniel (and its teachings are available to you), we will only note that this connection is another strong indicator that this beast represents the Gentile kingdoms.

Throughout the Books of Daniel and Revelation, as well as the entire Bible, when the Bible wants to describe the nature of oppressive Gentile kingdoms, it uses the image of a "beast" to do so. Let's move to verse 3.

o **Revelation 13:3-4 (NIVUK84)**

3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. 4 Men worshipped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshipped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

We will wait to explain to you what the fatal wound is and what it means that the wound is healed, as the text does that later.

For now, note that this beast receives authority from the dragon, and the power and authority it receives cause the beast to become something that amazes the world, leading it to follow and worship the beast.

If we are staying true to our hermeneutic, then this will mean that Satan gives power and authority to a gentile kingdom or kingdom(s), and the entire world seems to be in bewilderment and worships it.

~

Remember that this Dragon (or Satan) is at war with the people of God, so this tells us something about what the Beast's role is in carrying out the will of the Dragon.

Again, it is not hard to see that Egypt is the prototype of this model..... They follow, worship, and interact with a dragon (Tanniyn), and they are the most powerful nation on earth, and they are currently oppressing the people of God, which is the will of Satan the entire time. Let's continue...

- o **Revelation 13:5–7 (NIVUK84)**

5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

6 **He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling-place and those who live in heaven.**

7 **He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.**

As the story develops in the Book of Revelation, the Beast is seen blaspheming God and making war against the people of God and actually conquering them.

Remember that this beast's power and authority are derived from the Dragon, which is exactly what is happening in the Book of Exodus.

~

Pharaoh supposed that he and his people were far superior to the people of Israel because of their lowly position. He surmised that because he and his gods were the ones who properly held authority derived from the Tanniyn, he concluded that he was superior to the God of Israel. He could do whatever he wanted with the People of Israel while ignoring Yahweh.

We are now going to move to Revelation 17, where we will find additional details about this beast that will help us make some connections.

- o **Revelation 17:6–7 (NIVUK84)**

6 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.

7 Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns.

As we continue, pay attention to what we are about to read, because we will receive additional details that will help us understand what this beast is.

Notice that this is the same beast mentioned in Revelation chapter 13, which has seven heads and 10 horns.

- o **Revelation 17:8 (NIVUK84)**

8 The beast, which you saw, **once was**, **now is not**, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, **because he once was**, **now is not**, and yet will come.

Notice that there is a phrase that is mentioned twice in this passage. John is being told that the beast once existed, but now it does not, and it will return in the future...

~

To understand this, we must consider that we are referring to the beast, not the seven heads, yet.

John is being given a revelation of the Beast (which represents wicked, oppressive, Gentile kingdoms) and he is given a revelation of the beast in the **last days**, meaning that John is seeing the beast **in the future**...

When John sees the beast in the future, he is told that this beast existed, and then there was a time that it went away, and then it comes back again.

This tells us that the beast that John is seeing in the future existed before John got this revelation and that it disappears somehow and then comes back at the end of the ages to fulfill its final destiny...

Being that the Beast represents a gentile kingdom or gentile kingdom(s), John is being told that the Kingdom that will arise in the future, which will receive authority from the dragon, has arisen before at some time in the past!

~

Now, before we start making assumptions about who this kingdom is specifically, let's read the next few verses because we are going to get some additional clarifying details.

o **Revelation 17:9-10**

9 **"This calls for a mind with wisdom.** The **seven heads** are **seven hills** on which the woman sits.

10 **They are also seven kings.** Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.

First, recognize that this calls for a mind of wisdom!

Next, understand that the beast John saw had seven heads, and now John is being told that those seven heads represent seven hills or seven mountains. Understand that in the Bible, the writers of the word of God used the imagery of "hills" or "mountains" to relate to earthly nations or kingdoms.

To further support this point, verse 10 of Revelation 17 states that these heads are also seven kings! What we are seeing is that the beast described in the Book of Revelation is composed of seven kingdoms! It is one beast with seven heads, or said in another way, it is one beastly power with seven different earthly manifestations or expressions.

To understand who this beast is, we must grasp that it has appeared in seven different kingdoms that **have existed on Earth in the past** and will exist on Earth **in the future**.

To understand this a little better, consider what John is told about these seven kingdoms or "heads". He is told that five have already fallen or disappeared, one of those kingdoms still exists, and one kingdom is yet to come.

To understand who these kingdoms are, we have to understand where John the apostle (who is the writer of Revelation) is and where his placement is in the timeline of History. We also have to understand the criteria of these kingdoms and what their collective qualification have to be for them to be a part of the collective "beast".

~

This beast was introduced as being given authority to become the most astonishing and powerful nations on earth and to use their power to oppress Israel!

When we review what John is being told, we can make some fairly educated guesses as to who these kingdoms are by understanding the criteria they must have and where the Apostle John's placement in history was!

To start, John was told that 5 of these kingdoms had already fallen before John's time. If we were to look at the criteria of who became the most powerful gentile nation and used their power to oppress Israel, it is not that hard to guess that these five heads could represent, as we already showed you in the first slide.

(READ SLIDE)



All 5 of these kingdoms became the most dominant force on the planet and used their dominance to oppress and persecute Israel. All five of these kingdoms rose to a position of ultimate prominence before John's day, and then they disappeared one way or another.

The next thing that John is told is that the 6th head, or the 6th kingdom, is currently existing in his day!

Our best educated guess is that this would be Rome!

~



Remember our caveat at the beginning: Rome is part of this list in Revelation 13, but it is not in Daniel 2.

Then John is told that this kingdom will eventually pass away, and another kingdom will rise, which will be the 7th kingdom. This is the most interesting kingdom because it does something that none of the other kingdoms have done. It is the one that comes after John, and when it does, it reigns for a time, and then disappears and then **returns**.

To begin understanding who this 7th kingdom might be, we need to ask: "What kingdom rose after the one that existed in John's day, and became the most

powerful force in the Middle East that oppressed the people of God?" The answer to that question may seem obvious if you know your history,..... It is the Islamic Caliphate.



To gain some traction, let's remind you of what we already heard about this 7th Kingdom....

- o **Revelation 17:10**

They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, **the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.**

~

The 7th kingdom comes, but only remains for a little while.... This is precisely the case with the Islamic caliphate. They rose almost immediately after Rome AND they oppressed the people of Israel in a way that made the previous six kingdoms look like pre-school.

The Islamic Caliphate officially ended in 1924 with the fall of the Ottoman Empire, a development that shocked the entire world, as it had existed for 1,292 years! As we continue with our narrative in Revelation 17, look at what the next verse says!

- o **Revelation 17:11**

11 The beast who **once was**, and **now is not**, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

John is being shown that the 7th kingdom will disappear, and then it will reappear suddenly as if he is an eighth king, but he is really a part of the seven or the 7th, and when he reappears, it will be time for the beast to be on his way to his final destruction. Remember, the language of verse 11 is the same language that was used in Revelation 17:8:

o **Revelation 17:8**

8 The beast, which you **saw, once was, now is not**, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will **be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.**

Remember that at this point, John is seeing into the future to a time when the 7th kingdom has already passed, but there is a day when it is revived, to the astonishment of the entire world.

~

It is not hard for us to see, that the 7th kingdom is the Islamic Caliphate that reigned from 632A.D. to 1924 A.D.. John is seeing a time when there will be a revived Islamic Caliphate that will overpower the middle east, be given authority by the satanic dragon, and use it's blasphemous power to crush the people of Israel and the graft inns that join them.

Remember what we already heard in Revelation 13:3

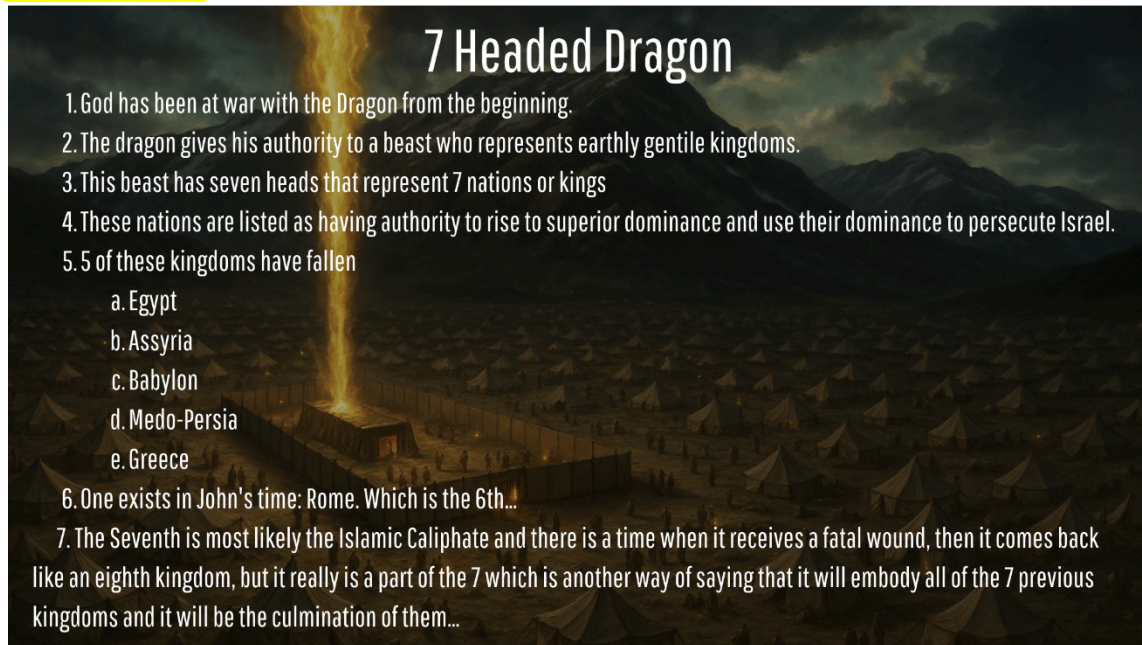
o **Revelation 13:3**

3 One of the heads of the beast **seemed to have had a fatal wound**, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.

One of the heads seemed to have a fatal wound, but it revived again to the astonishment of the world!

When we tie all of these things together, we realize that:

(READ SLIDE)



7 Headed Dragon

1. God has been at war with the Dragon from the beginning.
2. The dragon gives his authority to a beast who represents earthly gentile kingdoms.
3. This beast has seven heads that represent 7 nations or kings
4. These nations are listed as having authority to rise to superior dominance and use their dominance to persecute Israel.
5. 5 of these kingdoms have fallen
 - a. Egypt
 - b. Assyria
 - c. Babylon
 - d. Medo-Persia
 - e. Greece
6. One exists in John's time: Rome. Which is the 6th...
7. The Seventh is most likely the Islamic Caliphate and there is a time when it receives a fatal wound, then it comes back like an eighth kingdom, but it really is a part of the 7 which is another way of saying that it will embody all of the 7 previous kingdoms and it will be the culmination of them...

~

The reason we are taking the time to go through this with you is that Egypt is the first of those heads or kingdoms, and Egypt becomes the prototype of how God will deal with the beast in the end.

Furthermore, we started this thought by telling you that what God did in Egypt caused his name to be known throughout the known world, which is the same thing that will happen when God finally puts an end to the beast in the Book of Revelation.

We have said this before, but it is worth repeating: what we read about in the Book of Exodus and how God deals with Israel and Egypt is the key to understanding how God will deal with the last iteration of the beast in the Book of Revelation.

In the 2nd book of the Bible, we see a dragon-influenced, pagan, gentile kingdom that had become the most powerful nation on the earth, and they are using their prominence to oppress God's people and mock God.

~

God is going to use this nation to make His name known and to illustrate to His people His power, so that He will be remembered by His actions. Move with us to Revelation 19:19 so that we can see the end of the matter!

- o **Revelation 19:19–21 (NIVUK84)**

19 Then I saw the **beast** and the **kings of the earth** and their armies gathered together to make war against the **rider on the horse and his army**.

20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. **With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast** and worshipped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning Sulphur.

21 The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

In the end, we see that the King of Kings defeats the beast and the false prophet and they are finally done away with.

Interestingly, we see the beast working under the influence of a Dragon and in coordination with a false prophet performing signs.

Almost like Pharaoh, his gods, and his magicians were given to us 3600 years ago as a sign of what this would look like.

~

When the beast is done away with in Revelation, then this occurs:

- o **Zechariah 14:6–9 (ESV)**

6 On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. 7 **And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD**, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light.

8 **On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem**, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.

9 **And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.**

In Exodus, God raised up Pharaoh so that his name would be known throughout the entire earth. In Revelation, God allows the same beastly influence to reign so

that when he does away with him, his name will be the only name that exists as a measure of power over anything.

He will be the only authority and the only character that will be acknowledged. Ezekiel says it like this...

o **Ezekiel 36:22–25 (NIVUK84)**

22 “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone.

23 **I will show the holiness of my great name**, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. **Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.**

24 “**‘For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land.**

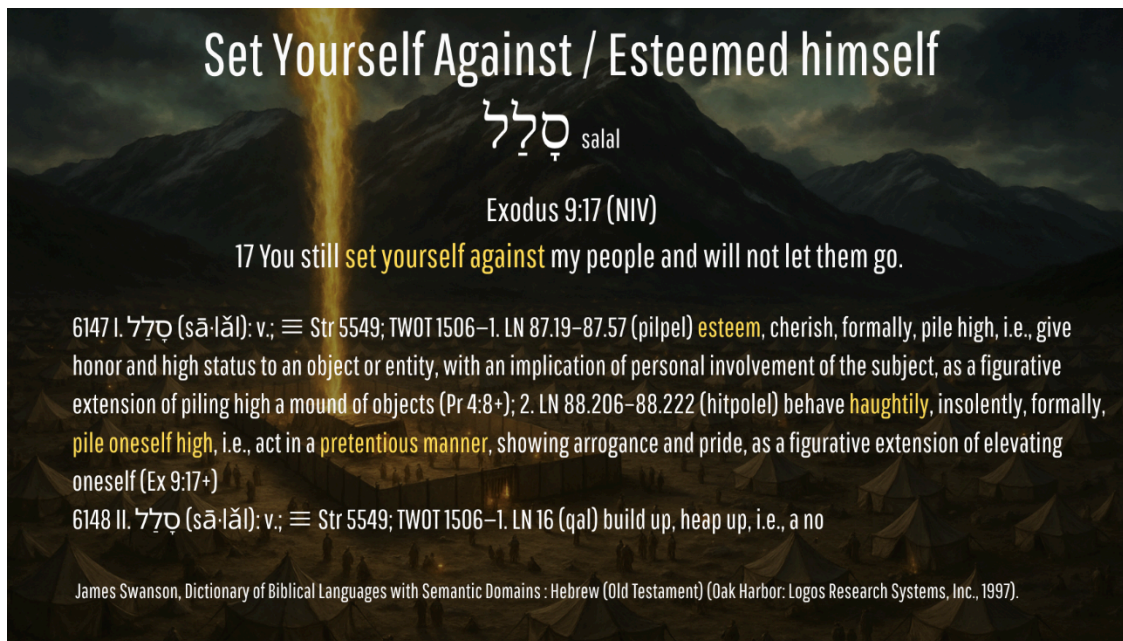
25 **I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.**

~

In the last events that are going to occur on the earth in the end times, God is going to take Israel from the beastly empires that have oppressed them and he is going to renew them and bring them to his mountain just like he did in the Book of Exodus.

The whole point of doing these things is so that his name, character, and reputation will be known throughout the cosmos and the entire world!

17 You still set yourself against my people and will not let them go.
(DO NOT READ SLIDE)



Set Yourself Against / Esteemed himself

סָלַל salal

Exodus 9:17 (NIV)

17 You still **set yourself against** my people and will not let them go.

6147 I. סָלַל (sā-lāl): v.; ≡ Str 5549; TWOT 1506–1. LN 87.19–87.57 (pilpel) **esteem**, cherish, formally, pile high, i.e., give honor and high status to an object or entity, with an implication of personal involvement of the subject, as a figurative extension of piling high a mound of objects (Pr 4:8+); 2. LN 88.206–88.222 (hitpolel) behave **haughtily**, insolently, formally, **pile oneself high**, i.e., act in a **pretentious manner**, showing arrogance and pride, as a figurative extension of elevating oneself (Ex 9:17+)

6148 II. סָלַל (sā-lāl): v.; ≡ Str 5549; TWOT 1506–1. LN 16 (qal) build up, heap up, i.e., a no

James Swanson, Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Hebrew (Old Testament) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

The English translation of this passage certainly conveys that Pharaoh is aligned against the people of God, but the literal Hebrew says something more specific here. The Hebrew says that Pharaoh is "esteeming himself over God's people"

This may be a subtle difference to you, but consider what God spoke to Abraham in

o **Genesis 12:3 (NIVUK84)**

3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever **curses** you I will **curse**; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

~

In the Promise to Abraham, the Hebrew word for "curse" is actually the word "belittle". This is not so much about cursing Israel as it is about belittling them or not giving them proper honor.

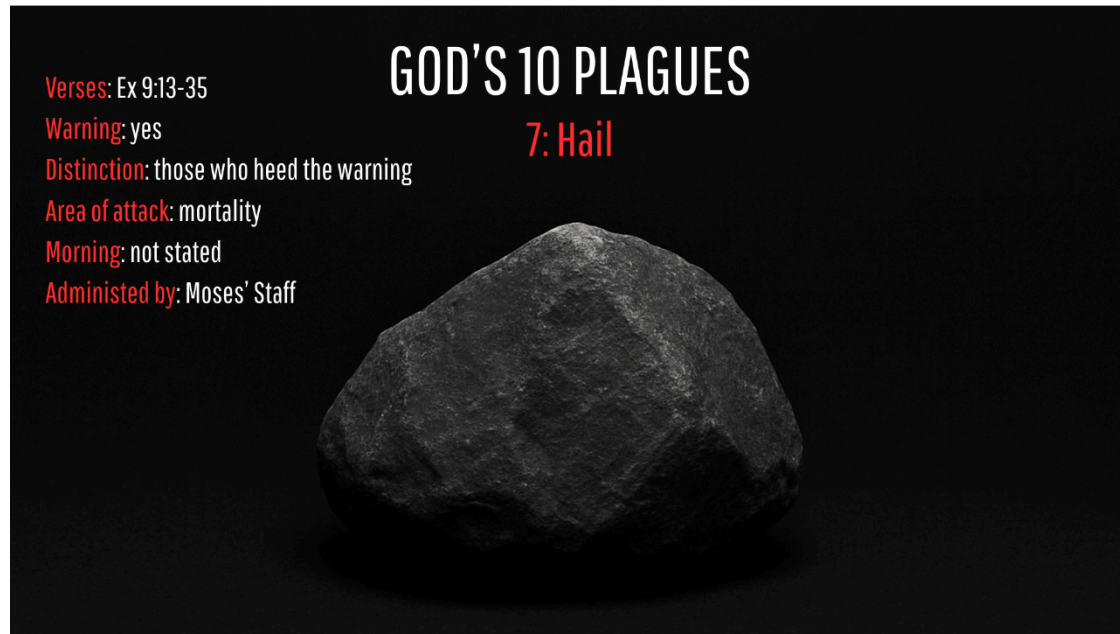
In God's eyes, Israel is his people; therefore, if anyone belittles them, they are belittling him. If anyone exalts themselves over the people of Israel, they are exalting themselves over God... God has a problem with this :)

18 Therefore, at this time tomorrow I will send the worst hailstorm that has ever fallen on Egypt, from the day it was founded till now.

19 Give an order now to bring your livestock and everything you have in the field to a place of shelter, because the hail will fall on every man and animal that has not been brought in and is still out in the field, and they will die.’ ”

20 Those officials of Pharaoh who feared the word of the LORD hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside.

21 But those who ignored the word of the LORD left their slaves and livestock in the field.



Before we continue, we would like to note one thing here. It does seem that the Egyptians are starting to recognize the hand of the Lord, and some of them are actually taking the words of Adonai to heart.

~

As we will see in a little bit, we don't take this to mean that the Egyptian people are starting to obey God fully, because Moses is going to call them out here in a bit, but what we are seeing is that some of them are starting to show signs of recognition that Yahweh is supreme and they better acknowledge what he says.

Remember, something about this process is going to culminate with a mixed multitude leaving Egypt with the Israelites.

22 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand towards the sky so that hail will fall all over Egypt—on men and animals and on everything growing in the fields of Egypt.”

23 When Moses stretched out his staff towards the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. So the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt;

24 hail fell and lightning flashed back and forth. It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation.

25 Throughout Egypt hail struck everything in the fields—both men and animals; it beat down everything growing in the fields and stripped every tree.

To start with, we want to acknowledge that we have no idea what is going on here. In our first read-through, we saw that fire and ice seem to be mixing in the sky, which gave us the thought that maybe this is not ice falling from the sky, but rather a meteor shower.

To make this more complicated, the Hebrew text does not mention thunder or lightning; the Hebrew word for "thunder" here is the word "Qol," which means noise or a din. So it is entirely possible that this is not the typical hailstorm that would pulverize corn in Illinois.

What is specifically mentioned that bears scrutiny in the Hebrew is the word 'fire,' and there seems to be a lot of it going on.

~

What gets even more interesting is when you read other passages that use this same Hebrew word for "hailstones" or you read other passages in the Tanakh that are commenting on this event in Exodus, you will see that some of them may be referring to lightning and thunder and then there are some instances where they are clearly not.

To give you a brief insight into some of the possibilities that we discussed, especially after reading other commentators.... We discussed the possibility that this could be:

- A giant lightning bolt that is constantly ablaze and swirling around Egypt, setting things on fire.

-or-

- Giant Rolling balls of fire that are tumbling around and destroying everything.

-or-

- Maybe even volcanic eruptions that are spewing stones into the air and causing lightning to strike the ground while lava is melting people.

-or-

- There might actually be fire raining down from heaven and giant hailstones raining down at the same time!

-or-

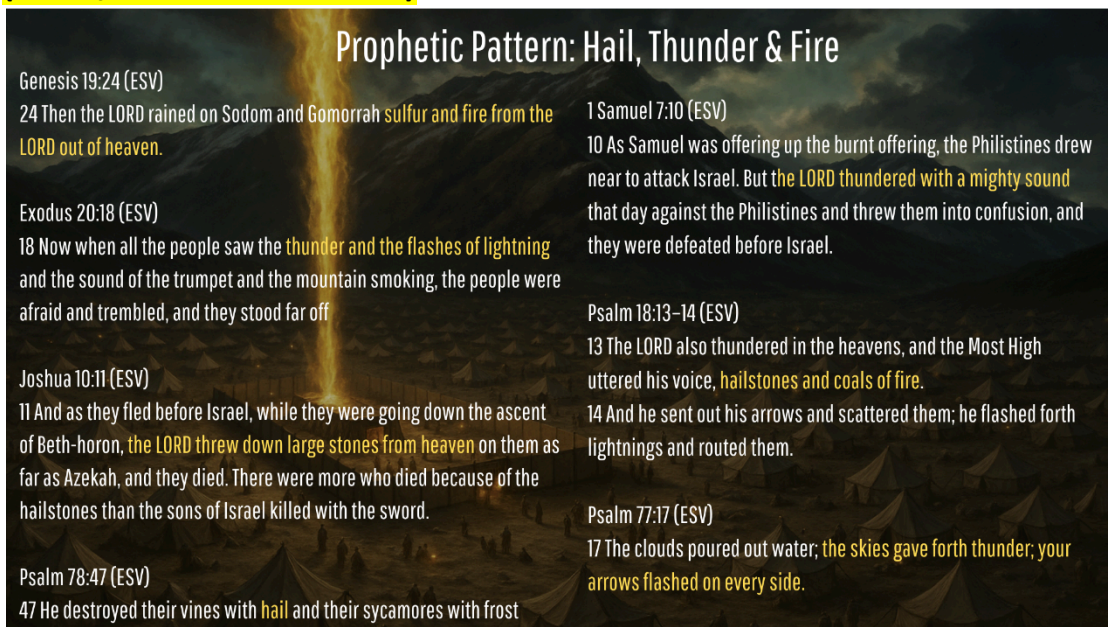
- God could be like some cosmic welder, and a giant welding arc is coming from the sky, hot enough to melt the air itself, setting the Egyptians on fire...

Needless to say, while it is fun to speculate, we are not exactly sure what is going on in this occurrence. We can tell you that it is really bad and it immediately captures Pharaoh's attention.

Just for fun, we thought that it would be cool to show you all of the other instances in the Bible where God rains something down from heaven so that you can get a better understanding of what he is capable of.

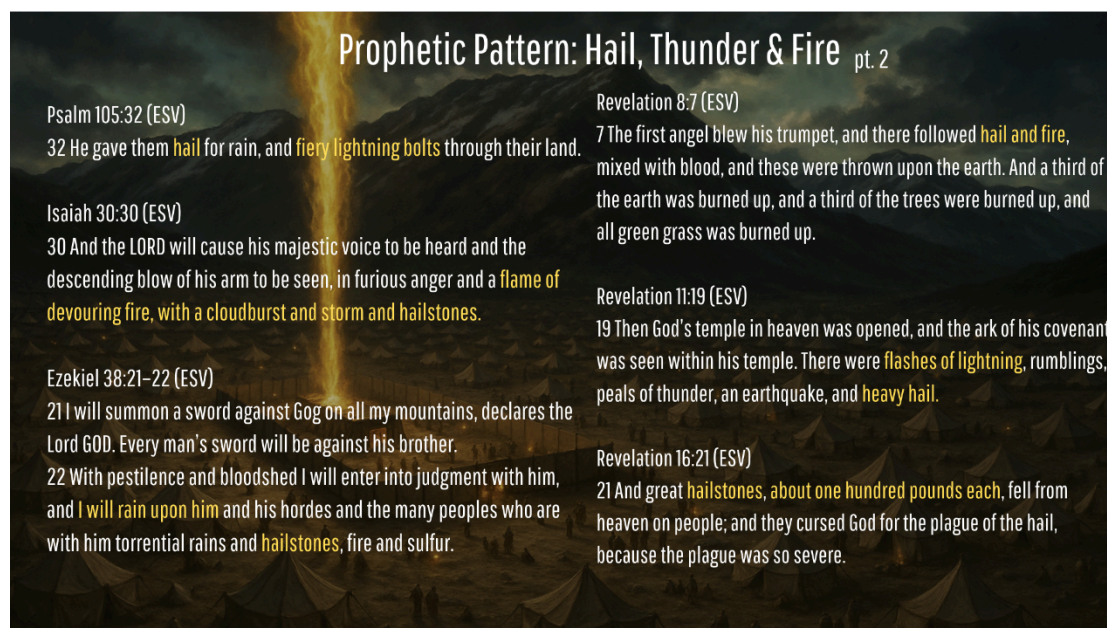
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(READ/SUMMARIZE SLIDE)



Prophetic Pattern: Hail, Thunder & Fire

<p>Genesis 19:24 (ESV) 24 Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven.</p> <p>Exodus 20:18 (ESV) 18 Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off</p> <p>Joshua 10:11 (ESV) 11 And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the LORD threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.</p> <p>Psalms 78:47 (ESV) 47 He destroyed their vines with hail and their sycamores with frost</p>	<p>1 Samuel 7:10 (ESV) 10 As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel.</p> <p>Psalms 18:13-14 (ESV) 13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High uttered his voice, hailstones and coals of fire. 14 And he sent out his arrows and scattered them; he flashed forth lightnings and routed them.</p> <p>Psalms 77:17 (ESV) 17 The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side.</p>
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Needless to say, it's pretty incredible what God can do!

~

26 The only place it did not hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were.

27 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron. "This time I have sinned," he said to them. "The LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong.

28 Pray to the LORD, for we have had enough thunder and hail. I will let you go; you don't have to stay any longer."

We have just a few comments here, and then we will move on, but notice how there is now an immediate response from Pharaoh regarding this plague.

Not only is the response immediate, it actually sounds like a good one..... if it were true. Never underestimate a sinful heart's ability to confess like the best, but still never intend to obey. Pharaoh said... "I have sinned," and that should tell you that acknowledging sin is not the same as repentance.

Next, notice that Pharaoh does not ask for this plague to stop tomorrow, as he did with the frogs; he wants it to stop now! He is saying whatever he can to get this to stop... Tells you how bad this was.

Lastly, it is a cool thought to consider how Moses and Aaron made their way to Pharaoh while a massive death storm raged outside...



~

29 Moses replied, “When I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands in prayer to the LORD. The thunder will stop and there will be no more hail, so you may know that the earth is the LORD’s.

30 But I know that you and your officials still do not fear the LORD God.”

Notice that Moses seems to have undergone a maturing process in his relationship and speech towards Pharaoh. At this point, Pharaoh has deceived him many times, and now Moses appears to be catching on.

He can discern that Pharaoh's tears are not genuine signs of repentance, and he calls Pharaoh out on it.

What we are seeing is a Moses who no longer has faltering lips, but he is discerning what is going on in Pharaoh's heart. He is delivering God's word to Pharaoh with boldness, which raises an interesting topic that we will explore further in the future.

By allowing Moses to interact with Pharaoh by confronting him and then having Moses pray for him when he refused to listen, God was training Moses for the Pastoral role that he would have in the future, where he would lead a people who would often accuse him!

~

31 (The flax and barley were destroyed, since the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bloom.

32 The wheat and spelt, however, were not destroyed, because they ripen later.)

We felt that this would be an appropriate time to show you that this verse provides us with our time frame for the events that are going to happen next in the book of Exodus.

Sacred	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Civil	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	Leap Year
MONTH /DAYS	Nison/ Abib - 30	Iyyar/ Zib - 29	Sivan - 30	Temmuz - 29	Ab - 30	Elul - 29	Tishri / Ethanim - 30	Marchesran /Bul - 29	Chislev - 30	Tebeth - 29	Shebat - 30	Adar - 29	Veadar / Adar Sheni
ENGLISH MONTHS	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	MARCH/ APRIL
FESTIVAL	Passover Unl Bread FF	2nd Passover	Pentecost				Trumpet DoA Booths		Dedication			Purim	Purim
SEASONS & PRODUCTIONS	Barley Ripe	Wheat harvest		HOT SEASON	STREAMS DRY	GRAPE HARVEST	SEED TIME	Wheat & Barley sown	WINTER	COLDEST / HAIL & SNOW	GRADUALLY WARMER	THUNDER & HAIL	

Here is a table showing the Civil and sacred calendars of Israel, along with the respective feasts/English months/ and seasonal descriptors.

Timeframe of Plagues 7-10 (that you can see)	Sacred	1
	Civil	7
	MONTH/DAYS	Nison/ Abib - 30
	ENGLISH MONTHS	APRIL
	FESTIVAL	Passover Unleavened Bread Firstfruits
	SEASONS & PRODUCTIONS	Barley Ripe

Being that the barley was ripe and the wheat was not, this tells us that we must be somewhere around the 7th month as you can see on this slide, and knowing that Passover occurs in the 7th month, then we can say that the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th plague all take place somewhere around the 7th month as well.

This suggests that things are starting to pick up at a rapid pace on our timeline!
~

33 Then Moses left Pharaoh and went out of the city. He spread out his hands towards the LORD; the thunder and hail stopped, and the rain no longer poured down on the land.

34 When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he sinned again: He and his officials **hardened their hearts.**

35 So Pharaoh's heart was **hard and he would not let the Israelites go, **just as the LORD had said** through Moses.**

At the end of our chapter, Pharaoh acknowledged that he had sinned, and then he sinned again after there was relief from the plague!

We also see that in two verses, the Egyptians' hearts are mentioned as being hardened twice, which means that their hearts are moving from being heavy to being strengthened at a much quicker pace.

The last verse states that these things are happening just as the Lord had said, which means that God's justice in His judgments was true from the beginning and is proving itself out clearly. This will be no different from the book of Revelation...

- o **Revelation 9:21 (ESV)**

21 nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

~

These judgments are foretold in the word of God, and even though the Bible says that men will not repent, the men being spoken about in the text will not repent!!!

They could have read the book of Revelation and seen that their rebellion was foretold, and yet they refused anyway...

- o **Revelation 16:9–11 (ESV)**

9 They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish 11 and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

Even though terrible judgments are occurring, the wicked still will not relent and bow down to God.

All of these things will happen just like the Lord said they would.

In fact, all of Israel's national enemies are this way. God knows the thoughts that will come into their minds, and He allows them to be raised up so that He can crush them and deliver His people.

- o **Ezekiel 38:10–11 (ESV)**

10 “Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day, thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil scheme 11 and say, ‘I will go up against

the land of unwallled villages. I will fall upon the quiet people who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having no bars or gates,'

~

This passage is speaking about the final enemy that will rise up to oppress the people of God.

God knows what thoughts will come into their minds, and He is the one who allows them to be raised up so that He can crush them!

o **Ezekiel 39:11–13 (ESV)**

11 “On that day I will give to Gog a place for burial in Israel, the Valley of the Travelers, east of the sea. It will block the travelers, for there Gog and all his multitude will be buried. It will be called the Valley of Hamon-gog. 12 For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. 13 All the people of the land will bury them, and it will bring them renown on the day that I show my glory, declares the Lord GOD.

We discover that God allowed the final enemy to be raised up, and He knew the outcome of the situation in advance. This is exactly what is happening in the book of Exodus. God allowed his people to be oppressed because he knew that he was going to save them and he was preparing a moment of maximum glory for himself. God allowed Pharaoh to be raised up because he knew that he would not repent.

~

To tie Romans 9:22 back in, God was choosing to be patient with Egypt so that He could show His wrath to Egypt while showing the riches of His glory to Israel.

o **Daniel 11:23–24 (ESV)**

23 And from the time that an alliance is made with him he shall act deceitfully, and he shall become strong with a small people. 24 Without warning **he shall come** into the richest parts of the province, and he shall do what neither his fathers nor his fathers' fathers have done, scattering among them plunder, spoil, and goods. He shall devise plans against strongholds, but only for a time.

Daniel is commenting on the renewed 7th kingdom or the 7th head of the beast that we saw in the Book of Revelation, and he is laying out all that he will do,

stating that there is a time already set by God when God will cause his actions to stop.

This king will be in our future, and the book of Daniel informs us that God already knows what he is going to do and that God is allowing him to do it so that God can get glory in his judgment.

~

- o **Revelation 17:12-14,17(ESV)**

12 And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. 13 **These are of one mind**, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. 14 **They will make war** on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”
.....17 for **God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose** by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, **until the words of God are fulfilled.**

The beast will be conquered, but Revelation tells us that God was the one who put into the hearts of men the desire to follow the beast, SO THAT the purpose of the beast is played out.

This means that while the beast derives its authority from the Dragon, God is using it and allowing its purposes to come to fruition, so that the words of God will be fulfilled.

Again, Egypt, as the first head of the beast, sets the pattern for how the other heads of the beast will act and how God will use them for His purposes.

- o **Psalm 2:1–6 (ESV)**

The Reign of the LORD's Anointed
2 Why do the nations rage
and **the peoples plot in vain?**
2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
and **the rulers take counsel together,**
against the LORD and against his Anointed, **saying,**
3 **“Let us burst their bonds apart**

and cast away their cords from us.”

4 He who sits in the heavens **laughs;**
the Lord holds them in derision.

5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

6 “As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”

God can laugh because he finds it amusing when they do what he always knew they would do...

God's purposes will stand and he will use beastly powers like Egypt or the Islamic Caliphate to get his will done!