

5,6,7 Pestilence on Livestock, Boils, Hail

Exodus Chapter 9

Exd 9:1 1) 5th of 10 Plagues - Pestilence on Livestock vs 1 - 7

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and speak to him, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

- *The phrase "that they may serve me" points to the fact that it is for God's sake that the Hebrews go. Not necessarily for the sake of the Hebrews. How much more severe is Pharaoh's sin in his refusal.*

Exd 9:2 "For **if you refuse** to let {them} go **and continue** to hold them,

Exd 9:3 behold, **the hand of the LORD will come** {with} a very severe pestilence on your livestock which are in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the herds, and on the flocks.

- *As before we see the conditional judgment. If you refuse (adding) and continue. ...The hand of the Lord will come.*
- *Moses tells Pharaoh that a severe pestilence will fall upon the livestock.*
- *The Egyptian god that this judgment is coming against is Apis. And Hathor.*
 - *Apis was represented by a living bull called the Apis bull that was adorned and worshipped. When the Apis bull died the all Egypt mourned as if the Pharaoh himself had died. After death, his body would be embalmed, and after the funeral rites were performed, the body would be placed in a granite sarcophagus. All Egypt would search the country side looking for it's replacement.*
 - *Hathor was a cow headed goddess of the desert. Hathor was also the mother goddess of Pharaoh. Pharaoh was sometimes referred to "son of Hathor"*
- *The natural explanation is that the parasite flies would bite the livestock and infect the livestock with anthrax bacteria.*

Exd 9:4 "But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing will die of all that belongs to the sons of Israel.""

- *Not only is there a distinction with the people, Believers and Non-Believers, God distinguishes between the property of the Believers and the Non-Believers.*

Exd 9:5 The LORD set a definite time, saying, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land."

Exd 9:6 So the LORD did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the sons of Israel, not one died.

- *The Lord set a definite time - God is making it clear that this is how promises are made and kept. By setting definite time and keeping it builds integrity and confidence in the one making the promise.*

Exd 9:7 Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

- *Pharaoh's heart hardened again and he "continued to hold them (Israel)"*

Exd 9:8 2) 6th of 10 Plagues - Boils vs 8 - 12

WITHOUT WARNING

Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take for yourselves handfuls of soot from a kiln, and let Moses throw it toward the sky in the sight of Pharaoh.

- *This kiln or furnace is either a furnace to make bricks or others had said that this may have been the furnaces used for human sacrifice.*

Exd 9:9 "It will become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and will become boils breaking out with sores on man and beast through all the land of Egypt."

Exd 9:10 So they took soot from a kiln, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses threw it toward the sky, and it became boils breaking out with sores on man and beast.

- *Boils - meaning an inflamed spot. The root word denotes a burning. Could very well be leprosy.*

- *The boils broke out an man and animals.*
- *The Egyptian gods that this broke out against was Imhotep, Serapis and Thoth.*
 - *Imhotep, the god of medicine. (Imhotep was an advisor, physician, and architect to King Zoser 3150 BC. He was so revered by Egypt that after his death they worshiped him as a god.)*
 - *Serapis was a deity in charge of healing.*
 - *Thoth was the god of intelligence and medical learning.*
- *The natural explanation is similar to the last, pestilence on livestock; that this was breaking out due to the fly bites and the disease the files carried.*

Exd 9:11 The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians as well as on all the Egyptians.

Exd 9:12 And the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not listen to them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses.

- *The magicians couldn't stand - some commentators say this is so du to the boils upon their legs and feet. Others feel that the magicians could not stand because of the inability to give an explanation for the boils on the people and that they couldn't do anything about them.*
- *Pharaoh again hardened his heart and worse would not listen. But the Lord knew this was to happen.*

Exd 9:13 **3) 7th of 10 Plagues - Hail** vs 13 - 35

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

- *5th time Moses says this to Pharaoh (7:16-20; 8:1-5; 8:20-24; 9:1-7; then this verse)*

Exd 9:14 "For this time I will send all My plagues on you and your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth.

- *Remember Pharaoh's question Exodus 5:2 "Who is the Lord? I do no know the Lord.*
- *2 Samuel 7:22-23 David declares the greatness of God "Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for [there is] none like thee, neither [is there any] God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears. And what one nation in the earth [is] like thy people, [even] like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, [from] the nations and their gods?"*
- *Isaiah 46:8-9 "Remember this, and shew yourselves men: bring [it] again to mind, O ye transgressors. Remember the former things of old: for I [am] God, and [there is] none else; [I am] God, and [there is] none like me,"*
- *Jeremiah 10:6 "[there is] none like unto thee, O LORD; thou [art] great, and thy name [is] great in might."*

Exd 9:15 "For {if by} now I had put forth My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, you would then have been cut off from the earth.

- *We have been looking at all these plagues and been in awe of God for His power and yet the Lord has been holding back*

Exd 9:16 "But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth.

- *God allowed the wicked / unbelieving to remain. Why? to show His power and to proclaim His name.*
- *Pharaoh thinks He is unmovable and accomplishing his will. God declares that He (God) is showing His greatness through Pharaoh's rebellious stubborn heart.*
- *God is demonstrating that He, not Pharaoh is in control*

Exd 9:17 "Still you exalt yourself against My people by not letting them go.

- *SELF EXALTATION*
- *Company of those how exalt themselves*

- *Role of the Christian*
 - *Humble yourself* James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6
 - *Esteem others* Philippians 2:3; Jesus' example Philippians 2:8

Exd 9:18 "Behold, about this time tomorrow, I will send a very heavy hail, such as has not been {seen} in Egypt from the day it was founded until now.

Exd 9:19 "Now therefore send, bring your livestock and whatever you have in the field to safety. Every man and beast that is found in the field and is not brought home, when the hail comes down on them, will die.""

- *"Such as has not been {seen} in Egypt"* This would be odd to have this hail. The region receives approx. 2 inches of rainfall a year.
- *A warning with a lot of grace. There is a way of escape.*

Exd 9:20 The one among the servants of Pharaoh who **feared the word of the LORD** made his servants and his livestock flee into the houses;

- *There were those around Pharaoh who were starting to get the point. The Lord God was in control and He does what He says He'll do.*
- *They took the Word of the Lord seriously.*

Exd 9:21 but he who paid **no regard to the word of the LORD** left his servants and his livestock in the field.

Exd 9:22 Now the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that hail may fall on all the land of Egypt, on man and on beast and on every plant of the field, throughout the land of Egypt."

- *This plague is against a number of Egyptian gods. (See here and verse 32)*
- *Shu was the wind god. And Nut was the sky goddess. The Lord showed that He controls the wind and the sky. Horus was also a sky god. Horus was a hawk headed god. You might remember in the movie "10 commandments" when (Yule Brenners) Pharaoh's son died he laid his body in the arms of a hawk headed statue. Nefetiri spoke to Pharaoh and said, "That's nothing but a stone"*
- *Natural explanation is going back to the volcano eruption of approx 1500 BC that caused the Nile to turn red, also brought either falling ash and brimstone. At the very least the volcanic ash in the sky changed the weather patterns for a short time causing hail to form.*

Exd 9:23 Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt.

Exd 9:24 So there was hail, and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very severe, such as had not been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

- *Fire can be imagined as balls of fire collecting on the earth. Or the hail that is on fire.*
- *This fire flashing could be a very descriptive picture of lightening.*
- *Thunder = Hebrew word "qowl" could be voice or noise Verse 28 Pharaoh says he has heard enough of God's voice or God's noise.*

Exd 9:25 The hail struck all that was in the field through all the land of Egypt, both man and beast; the hail also struck every plant of the field and shattered every tree of the field.

Exd 9:26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the sons of Israel {were,} there was no hail.

- *Again a distinction is made between the Egyptians and Israel. No hail or fire from the sky fell on the land of Goshen.*

Exd 9:27 Then Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "I have sinned this time; the LORD is the righteous one, and I and my people are the wicked ones.

- *We see Pharaoh uses perfect words but his they are not heart felt.*
- *Spurgeon's Sermon "7 Confessions of Various Sinners"*
 - Exodus 9:27 Pharaoh The Hardened Sinner

-	Numbers 22:34	Balaam	The Double Minded Sinner
-	1 Samuel 15:24	Saul	The In-Sincere Sinner
-	Joshua 7:20	Achan	The Doubtful Sinner
-	Matthew 27:4	Judas	The Deceitful Repentant
-	Job 7:20	Job	Repentance of a Saint
-	Luke 15:18	The Prodigal	Repentance of a Believer

- 1 John 1:9+10 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us"

- Exd 9:28 "Make supplication to the LORD, for there has been enough of God's thunder and hail; and I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer."
- Exd 9:29 Moses said to him, "As soon as I go out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the LORD; the thunder will cease and there will be hail no longer, that you may know that the earth is the LORD'S.
- Exd 9:30 "But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the LORD God."
- Exd 9:31 (Now the flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud.
- Exd 9:32 But the wheat and the spelt were not ruined, for they {ripen} late.)
- This plague is against a number of Egyptian gods. (See here and verse 22)
 - Isis and Seth were the Egyptian deities that were set to protect the crops. But the Lord showed His rule by destroying the crops.
 - The crops listed here would place the timetable to be January. Wheat and rye (spelt) was not yet with a head so it was not ruined.
- Exd 9:33 So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread out his hands to the LORD; and the thunder and the hail ceased, and rain no longer poured on the earth.
- Exd 9:34 But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he and his servants.
- Exd 9:35 Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not let the sons of Israel go, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses.
- This Moses made supplication to the Lord and the rain and hails ceased.
 - Pharaoh once again reneged on his word. This time the scripture says he sinned.
 - His and his servants' hearts were hardened.
 - KJV says Pharaoh "sinned yet more"
 - Paul encourages us in Thessalonians to:
 - 1 Thess 4:1 "Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us {instruction} as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more."
 - 1 Thess 4:10 "But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more,"

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