

Exodus Chapter 9

- God has instructed Moses to go in unto Pharaoh and to declare: “Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, let My people go that they may serve Me.”
 - Moses has been obedient to do what the Lord has commanded.
 - Pharaoh has repeatedly hardened his heart.
 - As a result, thus far there have been 4 plagues upon the land of Egypt:
 1. The plague of blood, the Nile and all the waters being turned to blood.
 2. The plague of frogs, first the invasion, then the death and stench of the frogs.
 3. The plague of lice.
 4. The plague of flies, swarms of biting, blood sucking flies.
 - This chapter portrays the power and sovereignty of God, God Almighty.
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V: 1 Go in unto Pharaoh: “*Thus saith the Yahweh God of the Hebrews, let My people go...*” (5th time)

- There is the identifier, the LORD God of the “Hebrews”.

^{1st} used:

Genesis 14:13 “And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre...”

- Egyptian archeology refers to the “ah-ba-roo” people, or the Hebrews:
- “*Hebrew*” is a Semitic term that means literally “one who crossed the river”.
- When God called Abram from the Ur of the Chaldees, he crossed the Euphrates River, leaving behind all the pagan gods of the Chaldeans.
- Abram crossed the river to enter into the land which the Lord God - of the people who crossed the river - promised them.

Joshua 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood ((KJV) “nahar” (H5104) also translated “river”), or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

- When Abram obeyed the voice of God and crossed the river Euphrates and entering into the land wherein God directed him, he literally defined who the people would be – Hebrews.

V: 2-3 If you don't...

- All your live stock will be struck with a “murrain”. (5th plague)
- Murrain: (H1698) deber, deh'-ber; a pestilence, murrain, deadly plague.
- To an agrarian society and economy this would be devastating.
- More to the point this plague was directed at another of their pagan deities.
- This plague is directed specifically at domestic animals. In the “necropolis” which is a Greek word that means “the city of the dead” archeologists discovered the burial place of the bulls.
- The Egyptians worshipped the bull god known as “Apis”, out of these there was only one living bull that was considered sacred, one at a time who was selected from the “Ptah”. When the “Apis” died there were 28 standards or qualifications that were applied to the “Ptah” to determine the next “Apis”.
- The dead “Apis” was embalmed, like a Pharaoh, mummified and covered in gold. He was given a state funeral similar to the Pharaoh's and laid to rest in a special place. The tomb of the bulls had 64 chambers, each with it's own bull sarcophagus hewn from solid granite, that was 12 feet long, 9 feet tall, and 4 feet wide weighing approximately 20 tons.
- The Egyptians also worshipped a pagan deity to whom they attributed love, beauty, and joy, the goddess “Hathor” represented by a cow.
- Archeologists have frequently discovered pictures portraying Pharaoh sucking on the udder of a cow, the goddess “Hathor” receiving divine nourishment from the “true god”.
- This pagan deity is sometimes portrayed with the body of a woman, and the face or head of a cow.
- Once again God demonstrates His power in a direct challenge to these false deities.

V: 4-5 God again distinguishes between the children of Israel and the Egyptians.

Psalm 135:4 “For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto Himself, and Israel for His peculiar treasure.”

- When Babe Ruth stepped up to the plate, set his feet, then looked at the pitcher and pointed out to right field – it was a direct challenge, and the outfielders usually backed up – because the Babe had a proven track record.

- God has just given Pharaoh a “do this or else” ultimatum – thus far the Lord has been hitting at 100%.
- God demonstrates His power and sovereignty by distinguishing who will be impacted by this plague, and the exact timing of it. Appointing a set time V: 5.

V: 6 And it was so! God’s word was fulfilled completely!

- Very specific – not one of the Hebrews livestock died!

V: 7 Pharaoh knew easily enough that all the Egyptians cattle had been killed, but he sent to the land of Goshen to see what had happened to the live stock of the Israelites.

- Once he found out that none of their livestock had been affected he got angry and hardened (kabad) his heart.
- Pharaoh “hardened” – (H3513) kabad, kaw-bad'; obstinate, dull, heavy, stubbornness, act of rebellion.
- God “hardened” – (H2388) chazaq, khaw-zak'; confirm, be constant, constrain, be established, fasten, force, fortify, make hard, harden, hold fast, maintain, retain.
- Pharaoh would have felt a lot better had the Israelites livestock been affected also, this would have meant that it was some type of natural disaster, but the fact that the Israelites livestock had been spared was proof that God had been the one to bring this plague. He was angry like a little child that didn’t want to do what he was being told to do.

V: 8-12 The plague of boils – the 6th plague.

V: 8 Like the plague of lice, this is an un-solicited plague – seemingly a response to the hardness of Pharaoh’s heart.

Revelation 16:1-2 “¹And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. ²And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.”

- God instructs Moses to take handfuls of ashes from the furnace, and sprinkle them towards heaven, throw them up into the air – in the presence of Pharaoh.
- Even to this day, a sign of mourning in the middle east is to throw dirt or ashes into the air.

- Pointedly they are to obtain the ashes from the furnace - also translated as “kiln” – as in brick kilns...

Jeremiah 11:4 “Which I commanded your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace...”

- God had declared to Moses that He had seen the affliction of His people, He had heard their cry, and knew their sorrows.

Romans 12:19 “... vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

- Affliction and sorrow, right out of Pharaoh’s own furnace were now coming back upon the Egyptians.

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting.”

- The Egyptians are reaping what they’ve been sowing, and it’s ugly.
- In the sight of Pharaoh, God wants Pharaoh to know exactly where this is coming from.

V: 9 Boils & blains:

Boil: (H7822) shechiyn, shekh-een'; boil, botch, festering, running, oozing sore.

Blains: (H76) 'aba'bu'ah, ab-ah-boo-aw'; mean. to belch forth; an inflammatory pustule; as eruption—blains, blisters.

V: 10-11 Moses takes the ashes as God instructs, standing before Pharaoh – casts them into the air and boils break out upon man and beast.

- Special mention is made of the Magicians not being able to stand before Pharaoh because they were supposed to be perfect in appearance – unblemished.
- This is also notable again as a direct challenge to their pagan gods.
 1. Pagan goddess “Sekhmet”, woman with lion head, had the power to create epidemics, and the power to end them.
 2. “Serapis”, god of healing, “Imhotep” god of medicine, medicinal arts.
- The Egyptian gods were powerless against the True and Living God of the Hebrews.

V: 12 *“And the Lord hardened (chazaq) the heart of Pharaoh...”*

- Trials, difficult circumstance and times will either draw us nearer to the Lord, or they will drive us farther away from the Lord.

V: 13 - 35 The plague of hail and fire – the 7th plague.

V: 13-17 God explains to Pharaoh that he will be smitten many times because of his disobedience to God’s word.

V: 13 God instructs Moses to once again stand before Pharaoh, and repeat the same demand.

“Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, let My people go, that they may serve Me.”

- Notice that God isn’t going away, God will not yield to the will of man, God will continue with His plan and purposes until the will of man is in conformity to His will.
- God could exercise a greater degree of power if he wanted to, yet even in these plagues He is showing Himself merciful and kind – by showing restraint.

2 Peter 3:9 *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

V: 14 Purpose: *“That thou mayest know that there is none like Me in all the earth.”*

- Ours is the true and the living God, this is intended to be instructive not only to Pharaoh, but to us.

Isaiah 46:5 *“To whom will ye liken Me, and make me equal, and compare Me, that we may be alike?”*

Isaiah 46:9 *“⁹Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me, ¹⁰declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.”*

V: 15-16 God tells Pharaoh ahead of time what He will do to him.

- This will lead to their being “cut off from the earth” – utterly destroyed as a nation.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 “²⁷But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: ²⁹That no flesh should glory in His presence.”

- God demonstrates His sovereignty.

Romans 9:15-20 “¹⁵For He saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ¹⁶So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. ¹⁷For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew My power in thee, and that My name might be declared throughout all the earth. ¹⁸Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will He hardeneth. ¹⁹Thou wilt say then unto me, why doth He yet find fault? For who hath resisted His will? ²⁰Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, why hast thou made me thus?”

- God is sovereign in His mercy, God is sovereign in His grace.
- Some may say that this isn't fair; that God simply used Pharaoh to demonstrate His power to the children of Israel, and to the world. (Do we want fair?)
- A Calvinist might even say that Pharaoh was pre-destined to this fate.
- Not so – remember who hardened Pharaoh's heart. Pharaoh hardened his own heart, and God came in after and confirmed it.
- God knew ahead of time what Pharaoh would do, just as He knows what each of us would do – and He acted on that information and chose us for Himself, knowing that we would knowingly want, and of our own volition choose to be with Him as well.

John 3:16-19 “¹⁶For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

- Too often we emphasize ourselves but God is the one working in and through us:

Philippians 2:13 “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”

V: 17 This is a question; are you still exalting yourself?

- God is about to serve up some “humble pie”.

V: 18-19 Tomorrow at this time God will bring a “grievous” hail storm – like nothing you’ve ever seen.

- We’ll see in a few verses that as this hail hits the ground it turns into fire.

Revelation 16:21 “And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent:...

- Warning: put all your remaining cattle, and all your servants inside somewhere protected – or they will die.
- Where did the cattle come from if they were all killed before?
Answer: V: 3 “Cattle of the field” – were killed, not the ones in the barn... and or they purchased replacement cattle from other nations. (Time frame)

V: 20-21 The Lord is gracious and merciful; God is giving mercy to those who will obey.

- God’s word, God’s instruction is intended to protect us, to help us to avoid some of the hail storms of life, some, not all of the things that would wound or kill.
- Then as today: those that feared the Lord obeyed, those than don’t fear the Lord disobey. **Psalm 119:105**

Isaiah 66:1-2 “¹Thus saith the Lord, the heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool: where is the house that ye build unto Me? And where is the place of My rest? ²For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word.”

John 14:15 “If ye love Me, keep My commandments.”

John 14:21 “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”

- Notice that those who feared the Word of the Lord didn’t just affirm it with their lips, but they took action that demonstrated what they believed.
- They took their cattle and their servant and put them inside, or not.

James 2:17-18 “¹⁷Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”

V: 22-23 Along with the livestock, the domestic animals – an additional target is the “herb of the field” – their crops.

- The Egyptians also worshipped the sky goddess “Nut” (Nwt) which granted the blessing of the sun, warmth, and kept away storms.
- There were also the gods “Isis” & “Seth”, the gods of agriculture who specifically decreed that they would never allow the flax to be destroyed.
- We’ll call that a swing and a miss....
- God commands Moses to stretch forth his hands, and Moses stretches forth his hands.
- It doesn’t matter what anyone else does, when it comes right down to it, it only matters what we do in terms of being obedient to the Lord.

Joshua 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

- Looking at cause and effect: Moses was obedient, and the Lord acted – because it was the Lord’s will to do so.

V: 24-26 The hail storm, mixed with fire – strikes throughout the land of Egypt.

- Everything that is in the field is struck down and killed, men, beasts, trees, and the crops ready for harvest.

“Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail.”

- God demonstrates His power, His control, His favor, and His love for His people.

Psalm 148:8 “Fire, and hail; snow, and vapors; stormy wind fulfilling His word.”

V: 27-28 Pharaoh demonstrates that he is in fact learning just exactly who God is: The God of the Hebrews is righteous – and I am not.

- Pharaoh sends for Moses and declares that he has sinned, that the Lord is righteous, and that he and his people are wicked.

- This is not a true confession – “*this time...*”, not a full admission, trying to somehow mitigate his responsibility, also by adding in “*my people*” - Pharaoh isn't making a true confession based on repentance.
- As Jesus was being scourged both Peter and Judas Iscariot needed to deal with their sin.

Matthew 27:3-5 ³“Then Judas, which had betrayed Him, when he saw that He was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, what is that to us? See thou to that. ⁵And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.”

Luke 22:60-62 ⁶⁰“And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. ⁶¹And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, before the cock drow, thou shalt deny Me thrice. ⁶²And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.”

- Later in John chapter 21 we see Jesus restore Peter.
- What is the difference between these two men, what was the difference between the repentance of the one as opposed to the other?

2 Corinthians 7:10 “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

- Judas was remorseful, but not truly repentant – it was more like the sorrow of being caught.
- Peter was grieved in his spirit over his sin, he went out and “wept bitterly”
- Judas’s “repentance” so called – lead to his death.
- Peter’s “repentance” lead to his restoration and salvation.
- Pharaoh is sorry for now, but that will soon change.
- “Entreat the Lord for me, stop the hail & fire, and I will let the people go...”

Liar, liar, pants on fire... skirt on fire...

V: 29 Moses doesn't just say ok it's done – he takes his time: after I walk out of the city, then I will lift my hands unto the Lord.

- Demonstrating that it will be on God's timetable, not Pharaoh's.

- Purpose repeated: “*that thou mayest know how the earth is the Lord’s.*”
- How will Pharaoh know this? By the change in weather as controlled by God.

Psalm 24:1 “The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”

V: 30 God is not fooled here, he knows what’s in Pharaoh’s heart, Pharaoh must think that he is so slick.

Proverbs 12:5 “⁵The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit. ⁶The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them. ⁷The wicked are overthrown, and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand.”

- The key word in this verse is the word “yet” – they will fear the Lord.

V: 31-32 The crops that were ready for harvest, the flax and the barley, they were destroyed. The wheat and the rye (spelt) were later crops, and not affected by this plague; they aren’t harvested until June.

- The barley was in the ear or the head; the flax was balled or in the bud, both of which indicate that this took place in or around February.
- This helps us understand some of the timing of these events. The final plague, Passover will take place on the 14th of April.
- So the last 3 plagues take place over the next two months, which is the only glimpse of timing we have up to this point. Anything else is speculation.

V: 33 Moses did as he said he would, as God had no doubt directed him – and the hail ceased, exactly on cue from the Lord.

V: 34-35 “... *he sinned yet more...*” – Pharaoh’s choice.

Sinned: (H 2398) chata', khaw-taw'; to miss the mark; to sin; by infer. to lead astray, condemn, trespass.

- Pharaoh hardened / kabad his own heart, and the hearts of his servants.
- God then hardens / chazaq – confirms Pharaoh’s heart.

“*As the Lord had spoken by Moses.*”