

All in the Field Shall Die

Exodus 9:13-26, "Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me, 14 for at this time I will send all My plagues to your very heart, and on your servants and on your people, that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth. 15 Now if I had stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, then you would have been cut off from the earth. 16 But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. 17 As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go. 18 Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now. 19 Therefore send now and gather your livestock and all that you have in the field, for the hail shall come down on every man and every animal which is found in the field and is not brought home; and they shall die." ' ' 20 He who feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses. 21 But he who did not regard the word of the Lord left his servants and his livestock in the field. 22 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt—on man, on beast, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt." 23 And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. And the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. 24 So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. 25 And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field. 26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail."

Dear heavenly Father, we thank You for this passage that You have us in. We thank You that You caused this to happen and that the whole nation of Egypt would know that You are God and there is none like You. I pray that You will help us to meditate on these things and I pray that You will be with Mr. Horn as he preaches. Speak through him and send Your Spirit upon us to hear Your word. I pray that You would sanctify us and grow us to be more like You. Amen.

As we continue with the plagues, the one thing we should think about is that God says starting with the fourth plague, the plague of the biting insects, God makes a clear distinction between the people of Israel and the Egyptians. In each one of those He doesn't just make it the Egyptians vs. the Israelites. As we think about Scripture and we think of the Egyptians and the Israelites, we have to understand that this is a picture. Israel is a picture of the people who are truly the people of God. As it says in Romans 4:14-16, "For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all." Abraham's

children, Israel, was a picture of those who have faith, it was a picture of the nation of faith. Egyptians, they're the picture of the nation that doesn't have faith, they're the people that reject God. This is used throughout Scripture and even talks about in the New Testament about Hagar vs. Sarah, the Egyptians vs. the Israelites. All these are to draw this picture so as we see this picture of these two nations, we need to ask how this applies to us because God hasn't just said He does this to Israel and this to the Egyptians. Each one of these plagues is different than that and they are all pointing to different spiritual realities. The first plague where God made a difference was with the swarms. In the land of Goshen there were no swarms, but that doesn't mean that there weren't any Egyptians living there. There would have been Egyptians living there because we know Ramses is in Goshen and it was a treasure city. I don't think that Pharaoh would have entrusted one of the storehouses of the wealth of Egypt just to Israelites. So you know that there were Egyptians there, but yet the Egyptians weren't affected by the plague. The stinging insects, these things that bite and devoured them, it didn't come upon them. We should consider that picture, that's the picture that the church has a real effect on the community around it. Those who are close to a church, in a community that has churches that are being faithful, it has real impact. It really saves people from destructive things. This is true, there is a reason why Europe was colonizing from the 14th-20th centuries. This wasn't that somehow the European were stronger, that somehow they were better physically or they had more wealth or more resources. No, the reality is they had the gospel so that created a real blessing on Christendom, a real measurable blessing that if you were in the land of Europe, in the land of America where the gospel came and transformed the culture, so the people that were in these cultures that were transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, they dominated the world. This is that picture and it's important as we see these plagues that we have to recognize they're picturing things that you see repeated throughout history. The nations whose God is the Lord, that doesn't mean everyone is faithful there or believes there, but it means there is a culture based on the word of God and there are real blessings to that culture. I think a lot of times we look at that and see that the land of Goshen wasn't affected and not look at it and understand that that is us so far, that's the United States so far. There's a reason why we're like 30% of the world's economy even though we are only 20% of the world's people. It's not because we are great or how smart we are, but because we have a culture that's been informed by Christianity and it really prevents cursing. Now we've embraced cursing and rebellion against God so we shouldn't expect this to continue, but we should expect to see the effect of the gospel on the world. The next plague where we are told God made a difference between the Israelites and Egyptians was when the pestilence killed and destroyed all their cattle. It didn't matter because when God pours out judgements He spares His people. He makes it clear that these are My people that are protected. He pours out a judgement that doesn't affect everybody. Not a perfect example, but one we should consider is, worldwide there is this scourge of abortion. How many people have been murdered in the world by abortion? God says not to commit murder. The house of the true Israelites is not murder. Not those that profess but their heart is far from Him, the true people of God haven't been hit by the scourge of abortion because they do not murder their children. We need to see that Christianity has a real effect and these pictures in these plagues, let's not ignore that they play out today. These are real things. God gave us these so we can see how the world works now. They are given to us as examples so we can see how the world works now. Then we come to this plague and this plague it's clear

who this strikes and who it doesn't strike. The land of Goshen is not struck, but among the Egyptians the plague strikes those who do not fear God and it doesn't strike those who do. It strikes those who fear God. Understand what this means, understand there are real implications to what this means. If all the church preaches is the love of Jesus Christ, it doesn't protect a society from destruction. It has to preach the fear of God. It has to preach that God judges so that people avoid the judgement. This isn't somehow separate from the gospel because the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. If you don't teach the fear of the Lord, don't expect people to accept the gospel because they need to have wisdom, they need to have knowledge in order to accept the gospel. If you reject the fear of God you are not preaching the gospel. We are a nation where people think it's fine that two men marry. The reason we think that is we have lost the fear of God and the fear of God is really a protection against destruction. It really protects you from destruction because it makes you not choose sin and the wages of sin is death. It doesn't mean that you somehow avoid death, but it has real temporal blessings when you fear God. It really changes the way you live, it really changes the culture. So as we go here and we look and see this plague, it hits those who do not fear God, who do not regard the word of God and there's a protection to those who fear God, who regard His word. Understand, we see this today. There's churches where the word of God is preached, but when they get pressure you find out that a bunch of them weren't saved, but it had real effects on their lives, it really constrained their sin, it really made their lives better. We need to understand how important it is for us to teach the fear of God. It's important for us to teach it in our households, it's important for us to teach it to the people around us. When the church of Jesus Christ is called 'salt and light', understand one of the easiest ways to be faithful salt, to be faithful light is to speak of the fear of God because that is what protects a society. When you speak of the fear of God, that is what shows light so people see their sin and are afraid to do it, it is what constrains people. It doesn't mean that they will all be saved. These Egyptians, some of them feared God and they were not saved, but understand it still was a blessing to the country, it was still a blessing to them in this life. So as we think of these plagues and as we continue to go forward, I just want to make sure we're not thinking of these things as far as things that happened back then. Yes, we see the horror of it and we say this is what God can do, but let's make sure that we also see God is embedding in there these patterns that He has repeated over and over again in history. It matters how we walk with our children, it matters in what our conversations are with those who are around us.

Verses 13-17, "Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me, for at this time I will send all My plagues to your very heart, and on your servants and on your people, that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth. Now if I had stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, then you would have been cut off from the earth. But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go." Again, the Lord is speaking to Moses. The nation had been destroyed and was being destroyed. The people have been devoured by insects and God says to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh." This

reads that Moses was supposed to go to where Pharaoh was. This same language was used in Exodus 8:20, "And the Lord said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him, 'Thus says the Lord: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me." We don't know for sure based on the text whether he was supposed to wait at water's edge for Pharaoh to come or if he was just supposed to go into him. My view is that it's likely he just went into him. It is relevant the time that Moses went, it's relevant because we're going to find out later in this passage that on the next day, at about the same time, the judgement is going to come. This is going to come early in the morning so when we think about that, God's making a difference. There's those who it says, 'Don't regard the word of the Lord', but they are sure to make sure their flocks and servants are in the fields and those that do fear the Lord are going to make sure that in the morning their livestock and their servants are in their houses. God is doing this first thing in the day. Think how easy it is, that if you regarded at all to say, 'Well, we'll just start an hour later today.' They didn't want to regard, they didn't want to hear the word of God at all so they made sure their servants were out there. So he's to stand before Pharaoh "and say to him". He was to stand before him and repeat the same things, "Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews." Another cursing is going to come upon Egypt. "Let My people go, that they may serve Me." Again, God is making it very plain this is what the escape from the situation is. Too often we see sin and people say they don't know what to do. Yes you do! Pharaoh knew exactly what he was supposed to do. People say, 'I don't know, I just can't get along with my wife.' Yes you do! All you have to do is stop yelling at her, it will be really simple. I've counseled way too many people that want to make things complicated. God has told them what to do and they simply don't want to do it. That's the problem. It's not that they don't know and God repeats it here again and again and again. It's really simple Pharaoh, you want the destruction to stop happening in your nation, here's all you have to do, let My people go to serve Me. We should recognize especially in ourselves how easy it is for us to be obstinate and just pretend like we don't know what the problem is when we really know what the problem is. We know what the sin is, we know what the consequences are that are happening in our life, but then we turn around and say, 'But I don't know what's going on!' Most of the time God makes it extremely obvious, it's our sin that makes it hard to see. Pharaoh is asking what he can do even though God tells him over and over again that it's simple, let My people go so that they may serve Me. Then God is going to change what He does. He says, "for at this time I will send all My plagues to your very heart." This is the difference. Before this God was afflicting them in severe ways. The frogs were so thick that they were everywhere. The blood and lice were everywhere. The biting insects were so many that the ground was covered with them. The burning from head to foot. And now God is going to say He is going to get serious and strike at your very heart. These plagues are going to get a lot worse. When we think of heart we tend to think of the center of emotion, but it's important to remember the heart in Hebrews is the center of the person. It's their emotional center, their intellectual center, it's the center of their reason, it is the core of their being. God is saying He is going to strike you to your very core. All the plagues going forward, the hail, the locusts, the darkness, and the death of the firstborn, this is going to strike at the very core of Pharaoh. The things he cared about the most, the things he thought were most important. The strike to Pharaoh's heart is says, will be "on your servants and on your people." It starts not with God going to strike Pharaoh, He's going to strike his servants, his slaves, and his people. It's easy to think when we look at Pharaoh and when we

have a type of Satan that he doesn't care about anybody, but even the worst people in the world have people that they care about, they have connections to people. When you think of this plague as striking at the heart of Pharaoh, this is that people close to him are going to start dying, the people he cares about are going to start dying. I'm sure he cares about the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. These things are going to strike at the very heart of him, these plagues are going to destroy him, the things that he values the most. God is going to do it "that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth." He's going to make sure, and as we read these plagues, make sure you understand there is none like God in all the earth. There is none that behave this way, there is none that have this power, there is none that have this might, there is no one that can do this, there is no one that can resist God's will. As you read this and you hear this, understand there are so many in the church today who say they can resist the will of God. They want to diminish the power and as you read these plagues, He's going to harden Pharaoh's heart so that Pharaoh does the things that hurt him the most instead of just letting the Israelites go. As we see that, we should be reminded that God controls all things and that there is no God like Him, there is none other like Him. He controls every action of Satan, He controls every action of every disease, He controls every blessing you receive, every job you have, every paycheck you receive. This is all from the hand of God, there is none like Him, there is no constraints upon God. He alone is God, there is no other. Pharaoh wanted to make God just a god among the other gods, but God is going to teach Pharaoh there is nobody like Him. Let's make sure we remember that, let's make sure that we understand what it truly means to be God. It means He does whatever pleases Him, there is no constraint on Him by space, time, or power. There is no constraint on God. There is no one like Him, there is no one who can resist His will. People always want to make God like other powers and authority. God says to do this, but man says to do this so I'm going to submit to the authority. No, there are no other authorities like God. We want to treat the coronavirus like it has authority to make sick whoever it wants to make sick. That's not true, it was sent by God, it makes sick only those who God decreed would get sick. There is no authority, there is no ability, there is nothing we can do except that God gives us the ability, strength and will to do it. God is God, there is no other and He's going to teach that to Pharaoh. Let's make sure we embrace that, not just in theory, but in practice. When we see things going on in life around us, nothing operates, including Satan, outside the direction of God. There is none like Him, there is no one that is even similar to God. There is God and then there is the creation. Satan is a creature. The big divide in everything is the division between the Creator and the creature. All creatures submit to the will of the Creator. And there is only one Creator, there is none like Him. He's the only one that can cause so much evil to happen in the world and use it for good. He's the only one that can tell a lying spirit to go forth and use it to be a blessing to His people. Then Moses is told to say to Pharaoh, "Now if I had stretched out My hand." He wanted Pharaoh to understand that this is not God's inability to strike Pharaoh, He could stretch out His hand and kill him at any time. He could say a word and the whole world will cease to exist. If He stretched out His hand, if God struck Pharaoh and his people with pestilence, they would be destroyed. Pharaoh lasts through all ten plagues, not because of anything Pharaoh does, but because God doesn't want to strike him. God is using him, He is hardening his heart just as Pharaoh chooses to harden his heart, He is hardening his heart so that His glory will be made known, so God will make known that there is no one like Him in all of the world. If God wanted to, He could cut Pharaoh off from

the earth, if God wanted to kill Pharaoh, he would be dead. Remember, as God has Moses saying these things, he's not just saying this for Pharaoh's sake. He's saying it for the people around him. He's saying it and recorded it for our sake. You can't imagine that Moses didn't go back and talk to the Israelites and say the same thing to them since he recorded it in the book later. He is saying this so the world knows He will send Pharaoh there, I will make him be unjust to the Israelites, I will make him suffer and refuse to let them go even as his servants and his friends are dying. He will do this even when he is warned that the firstborn is going to die, he's going to do this not because God could have just judged Pharaoh, He could have done that at any time, but God had a purpose. "But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up." God put Pharaoh in that position, He caused the Egyptians to be out in the field when the hailstones came so that we would understand God's power, so Pharaoh would understand God's power. He raised up Pharaoh and put him in this position, He hardens his heart so he will act in a certain way. Like I said before, when we read these things and we say, 'Nothing happened in Goshen, only in Egypt. In this case it only landed on the household of the Egyptians and not the households of the Israelites.' God ordered all of those things in detail so that we could understand things about what God does, we can understand things about who He is. God raised up Pharaoh so we could talk about him this morning and we can understand how God judges, we can understand the destructiveness of sin, we can understand how our own hearts can become hard so easily. God raised up Pharaoh very early in Revelation, very early in redemptive history so that we could understand sin and so they could understand sin. He raised up Pharaoh "that I may show My power in you," that He could show the absolute power of God, that He could preserve Pharaoh alive even when everyone around him was dying. We look at Pharaoh and we see the destruction of his nation, we see the destruction of his officers and his slaves. We see the destruction of everything he cares about, that he is cut to the heart and he still says he will not let them go. Even after he let's them go, what does he say? I will capture them and bring them back. He does this so that we can see the power of God, so Pharaoh can see it. We see how Jericho saw it forty years later when Joshua goes into the land and the whole city of Jericho is fearful because of the power of God and how He judged Egypt. Let's make sure when we read this and when we read it to our children that we teach them that we should fear the power of God for God judges sin and the mercy that He sent through Christ is that He turns us from sin, not just that He doesn't judge us for our sin. He still judges us for our sin, but in His kindness He gives us a heart of flesh, in His kindness He changes us and forgives us. So He shows His power in Him, but also "that My name may be declared in all the earth." All the earth understood, the Canaanites understood forty years later. No one forgot what happened. They looked at the world super power at the time and it became a destroyed nation that has no army, a large number of people that have been killed. It has no food, it has nothing, and they say this is who God is that can judge and how He can express His power. Let's make sure as we go through this that we don't forget this is the same God today. "As yet you exalt yourself against My people." He puts this in, this is because they exalted themselves against the people of God. He's saying he can control the people of God, yet God is setting him up so he will be an example to those who rise up against the church of Jesus Christ. Remember, this is what God is doing for the type, this is what He's doing for this picture of His people. This is what He is doing for Israel. Think about what He will do for the antitype, Genesis 12:2-3, "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I

will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” That’s the promise. The promise was a shadow of it to Israel when He’s protecting Israel, but the real promise is to the church of Jesus Christ. If God would do this for the shadow, what will He do for the substance? We need to understand this, this needs to be something that empowers our boldness, our willingness to speak. This is what God did to Egypt for going against the people of God, how much more will He do for His bride? How much more will He do for those who have put their faith and trust in Him. Remember, Israel, as soon as they get out of Egypt, they start rebelling against God and that’s what God did for the type. What will He do for His people, those who truly put their faith and trust in Him. Let us have a greater boldness going forth knowing that God will protect His people.

Verses 18-21, “Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now. Therefore send now and gather your livestock and all that you have in the field, for the hail shall come down on every man and every animal which is found in the field and is not brought home; and they shall die.” ’ ’ He who feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses. But he who did not regard the word of the Lord left his servants and his livestock in the field.” So he tells Pharaoh, “Behold.” Watch, see this, make sure you see this is how God can judge. The fear of the Lord is a protection against our sin, when we see that God judges, what we do is we turn from our sin. Make sure you don’t try to ignore the judgement of God. This is one of the reasons people hate to say that AIDS was sent to judge homosexuality. It’s very clear that AIDS was sent to judge homosexuality and drug use because those are the people who died with AIDS. We need to not say, ‘How can you say that?’ and instead we should say this is what we should see so we fear the judgement for sin because God judges sin. With this current coronavirus, where are the hotspots? A lot of them are in the North, but in the South the hotspots are where? Florida, where what happened in Florida? Spring break. What is spring break about? Sexual immorality. Where is the other place? In Texas, South Padre Island, where is South Padre Island? The other spring break place. That’s where most cases are in Texas, a place where there was great sexual immorality. What happens in Louisiana, another hotspot, where did it start in Louisiana? Mardi Gras, rebellion against God, great sexual immorality. Let’s be willing to say God judges so that we look at that judgement of God and our response is to fear. If we ignore what God is doing, if we don’t look at the details, if we just go, ‘He’s judging all the earth’, then we don’t look and go, ‘God says He judges for sin, how is He judging for sin?’ It doesn’t mean there aren’t people who got it from people who sin, God does have the rest of the culture be affected by embracing sin in the culture, that is something God clearly does so we shouldn’t look at it and just say, ‘Well, God is judging those people for their sexual immorality.’ Even with AIDS, a friend of mine died from AIDS because he was a hemophiliac and he had a blood transfusion. He didn’t embrace homosexuality, he wasn’t a drug user, but he still died. This is how God orders the world so that we can understand that sin is this rot that spreads out and it spreads out in our culture and in our society. When you look at the coronavirus, understand what’s going on, make sure you see what God is doing. Not just so you can say God is judging those people, but so you can say God is judging sin, He judges my sin. If that is a lever you can use to fight against your tendency to sin because we all have an old man that

we need to put to death. When we see the judgement of God in the world it helps us put the old man to death. So make sure you behold what's going on now. Then he says, "tomorrow." God was giving Pharaoh notice and this notice clearly went through the whole land of Egypt, even though it was only about 24 hours later that he did it. It goes through the whole land of Egypt even though all their livestock, camels, mules, donkeys, they all were destroyed. They still make sure they get it through the land of Egypt because it's the whole land of Egypt. They know they are making a decision, the next day, early in the morning this is going to happen. "I will cause very heavy hail to rain down." Just as the last judgement was a picture of hell, it was a picture of everybody getting burned as the ashes from the smelting fire came and touched them, they all got burned from head to toe. This is a picture of them being stoned, God is stoning a nation. This is what God says to do with sin, those who are witnesses against them, that they are the first ones to pick up the stones and throw it. God is a witness against them and He is stoning them with stones. You see the same thing in Sodom and Gomorrah. They're not stoned with ice balls like He stones the Egyptians, but they are stoned with brimstone which really means like a burning resin. In that case it lights all their houses and destroys all their houses. One He judges with heat and the other He judges with cold. In both cases He is stoning them for their sin. God's going to stone them with cold stones of frozen ice, but it's still mixed with fire even like it was in Sodom and Gomorrah. Understand this is given before the Mosaic law, God had not appointed a people to constrain sin. He hadn't said these were the people who were to be proclaiming to the world the law of God and what God says is righteous, so God stones them Himself. Sodom and Gomorrah broke the second table of the law and they were stoned and destroyed for it. Egypt broke the first table of the law and they were stoned and destroyed for it. The ones who left their servants and their flocks in the field, they feared something more than they feared God, they put another god before Him. That hail will be "such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now." We need to remember the judgement that came before Egypt. God does judge nations and He continues to judge nations. This is the promise of Scripture and His normal techniques of judgement are pestilence, famine, war so we should always remember when we see those three that God is the One who sends armies, God is the One who makes the earth like bronze and the sky like brass. God is the One that causes plagues to break out among people. In all the judgements that He has judged Egypt with, He hadn't judged them with as bad of a judgement that's destruction pouring down from heaven that will destroy everything that was not protected. So God gives them a warning. "Therefore." Respond to this, He's not saying He is going to do this right now. He's not telling Moses to raise his hand and He will send hail like He did the stinging insects. He says He is going to give you twenty-four hours notice. "Send now and gather your livestock." Some of the livestock would be in the field and their slaves would be watching them in the field and he says now is the time to flee to God, now is the time to flee to the refuge. This is no different than when He says later, 'Now is the day of your salvation, don't think you can put it off, don't think the judgement isn't going to come, it is going to come'. He says to send now, bring the people unto their houses now. "And all that you have in the field." Everything that was left in the field, a cart, it will be destroyed. Bring everything in or it will be destroyed, "for the hail shall come down on every man." This is the first plague that we know of where there is widespread death. God says everyone standing out in a field dies, every one of them God killed them. He stoned them to death with hailstones. "And every animal which is found in the field." Every animal will be killed

that's left outside. What do these men do? What do these animals do? They didn't necessarily have a say, their master said they had to go out into the field. Their master said, 'I'm not even going to tell them that the hailstones are going to come tomorrow.' Understand, this isn't that the animals and slaves were judged for their sins. No, the masters were judged for their sin and they were judged by their slaves and animals dying. We need to make sure we get this picture. Often when we are judged for our sin it's not that judgement comes upon us, the judgement frequently comes on those under our authority. How many children's lives have been ruined by divorce? It wasn't their choice their parents got a divorce, it wasn't their fault one of their parents committed adultery and sinned, it wasn't their choice. Yet, it has real impact. This should be another thing that causes us to say what sin we have in our life because don't think your sin is not going to affect other people. The angry man, his children are angry or his children are so submissive to the point that they will submit to anyone which will destroy them. I've seen this happen. We need to understand our sin has real consequences and sometimes our worst punishment is not that we receive the consequences for our own sin, it's that our children see the consequences of our sin, those who we have authority over. God said, "Pharaoh, I'm going to strike your heart. I'm going to cause these slaves to die, I'm going to cause these innocent animals to die. I'm not going to strike you, I could kill you, instead I am going to strike at your heart." Make sure you think about that when you're debating whether you should go to that website or debating if you should turn from that sin. Understand it has real consequences for those under your authority. Whoever is out in the field, any animal found out in the field "and is not brought home." That literally means 'gathered in the house'. They had to be brought into their house, brought in so they were under shelter, so they had a roof over their head and if they weren't gathered and brought in so they were under shelter, "and they shall die." Whether it was man or beast, they would die. They would be destroyed by the hailstones. I was looking up the history of hailstones in the US. The last recorded death by a hail stone was in 2008. Don't think people don't still die from hail stones. People die more frequently from lightning, but there have been I think four people in the US that have died from hail stones in the last twenty years, but getting hit by a softball sized piece of hail, the equivalent would be like getting hit with a brick. If you threw a brick at somebody, that would be about the same amount of force because the brick is a lot heavier, but you can only throw it so far. When a hail stone hits the ground it's frequently going around 100 miles an hour, a hail stone that size. A smaller one with least resistance would be different, but a hail stone the size of a softball is going 100 mph, it can completely crush a man's skull. The worst case I think in the US was sometime in the 18th century in South Carolina and there were like 7 people that died because of hail stones. There's other cases where whole communities, there's a place in India where they were doing some excavation and they found this whole mass of bodies and all of them had round dents in their skull, a whole village had been destroyed by a hail storm. God still judges with hail, He still kills with hail. "He who feared the word of the Lord." The warning went out so some who believed in the word of God, remember the other six plagues weren't subtle. It's not like they can go, 'Well, it's this God guy, whoever heard of Him?' They were covered with second degree burns that were putrefying. They had been eaten by insects, but still there were some who heard this and said they would just leave their servants in the field, God can't do it this time. Don't deceive yourself about the hardness of sin, how hard it can make you, how blind it can make you. They had every evidence that what God would say would come to pass would come to pass. Each

time Moses and Aaron lifted their rod, each time they went away Moses lifted his hand to have them removed. He caused them to come and there was no reason for them to believe this couldn't happen, but only some responded with fear. We need to remember that evidence will never change a hardened heart. You can make every argument from evidence that you want. As Jesus Christ said in a parable in Luke 16:31, "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'" It's not evidence that's the problem so we can go to people that we preach the gospel and declare truth to, but don't think you will get them all of a sudden to change. It's the mercy of God that causes them to change. There were those "among the servants of Pharaoh" who did fear God. Pharaoh rejected the might and power of God, but it doesn't mean that everyone else didn't see it. Moses and Aaron are making these declarations and they are demonstrating the mercy and Pharaoh wasn't hearing, but some of those around Pharaoh were hearing, they were seeing what God was doing and it doesn't mean they had saving faith, but it meant they had fear of God, they had sufficient fear that their behavior changed. It's easy to think we want good Christians in government. We should remember what we are commanded to want in government, people who fear God. Exodus 18:21, "Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens." What we are supposed to look for in leaders is not people we believe are good and faithful Christians. What we are supposed to look for in leaders is to see that the pattern of their life is that they fear God. If they fear God they will constrain sin in the society, they will be a faithful avenger of God's wrath because they will be afraid of what God will do to society if they don't deal with the sin. Our problem is that we have a bunch of leaders that profess to be leaders. People say George Bush was a Christian, but if he was a Christian he would fear God. The world wouldn't have moved forward like it did when he was president. We need to recognize that what we need is men that fear God, not men that profess faith. There's lots of people who profess faith. President Obama professed faith, Trump says he is a Presbyterian. It doesn't mean they will rule in a faithful way. A sign of them ruling in a faithful way is that they feared God, that's what we are supposed to look for because those that fear God "made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses." God in His mercy allowed them to see the judgement to come so they fled, they obeyed God. "But he who did not regard the word of the Lord." The ones who had the same evidence, the same blisters, the one that had the same smelling frogs, the one who had all these things that were bitten up by insects, they still said they wouldn't pay attention to what God said so they "left his servants and his livestock in the field." Again, they didn't regard the word of the Lord, they didn't pay attention to what He said, but they didn't turn around and receive the judgments themselves. Instead those under their authority received the judgement, they received the destruction, the ones who didn't have a say in the matter still received the destruction. Make sure your bad judgement is not causing consequences on your family.

Verses 22-26, "Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt—on man, on beast, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt." And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. And the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail." So the next morning God doesn't just have Moses do this so He just lets him do it. Instead, He comes back and He speaks to Moses. "Stretch out your hand toward heaven." He was to demonstrate that this wasn't just some prophecy of something that was going to happen because he saw it in the stars. That's what the magicians and wise men would do. Moses is doing it so everyone knows that this came because Moses raised out his hand. "That there may be hail in all the land of Egypt." The hail comes because Moses goes, 'Now is the time for the hail to come.' "On man, on beast, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt." Everyone that was out in the field, everyone in the land of Egypt, all of it. The crops were destroyed and everyone suffered because the crops were destroyed. "And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the Lord sent thunder and hail." The judgement was worse than God had said to Pharaoh. He said hail was going to come. Now this lightning comes that is destroying and burning, like "fire darted to the ground." Most people that heard the prophecy thought it would be bad, that a few people would die, but God's judgement is far worse and extensive. People think hell will be bad, but at least they will have pleasure there. No, hell is different than anyone can possibly imagine. God gives these pictures, but it's going to be much, much worse. Psalm 78:48, "He also gave up their cattle to the hail, And their flocks to fiery lightning." This fire darting on the ground is I think the clouds are down so low that the lightning almost looks horizontal and it's blowing apart the cattle. This is a ferocious judgement. I think as we read these judgements it's easy in our mind to put them in the category of things we have seen before. This isn't like a lightning bolt hitting a tree, this is like a lightning bolt hitting cattle and people. The fire is darting to the ground and running along the ground, which is probably a bit more literal of a translation. Think about this, before lightning rods what happened if your house got hit by lightning? You would pretty much be destroyed. No houses were destroyed. This is as much a miracle as the other one. You have hail stones on these houses that are probably not well built, but no one is destroyed there because God is protecting them. The thunder, the lightning, the hail doesn't destroy those that obey God. Even though, by every logical thing, it should destroy those in the houses, there would be some effect, but they would be protected. "And the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt." If you were out in the field, this would be like you being stoned to death by hail stones. We've lost, there's a reason why God talks about stoning people to death for certain sins. It's because it's such a painful death and it's an excruciating death and it takes a while and you never know what's going to happen so everyone would stand around and they would gather the people together to watch so other people would be afraid and say they don't want that to ever happen to them. That was the constraint of stoning. If they did what we do now, where you give someone gas and they fall asleep and die, it doesn't have much constraint on evil. God commands stoning because the pain of it so other people are afraid and He stones a nation. The people would be holding their

arms up to protect themselves. They would never know when the next blow was going to come. Stonings typically take a half hour before the person is unconscious. That's the picture here. It's not like a softball size stone lands on their head and they fall over dead. This was like a stoning like when they were to put people to death. It would be painful and it would take a while. "So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail." Just as you have all these stones hitting you, there's also this lightning where you never know if the lightning bolt was going to hit you. "So very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation." Egypt was an old nation and they had probably seen more judgements of God, but God was making it clear that it had been nothing like this before. "And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that was in the field." Every single thing that was in the field, "both man and beast." It was all destroyed. Again, the judgement was worse because Moses had gone in and warned them that the beasts and men in the field would all be destroyed. "And the hail struck every herb of the field." We will talk more about that next week, but it was the barley and the flax crops. The barley was to the point of ripening, it had produced the head at the top and it was all destroyed. Even as you think of the people dying out in the fields, remember there would be a lot less food, a lot less things for animals to eat going forward. Not only that, "and broke every tree of the field." All their trees were broken down as well. Between the lightning and hail, this isn't something that is known on the earth. You look at a tree, a large truck could run into a tree and you wouldn't notice it on a tree. The truck would be demolished, but you wouldn't notice it on the tree. That's how strong trees are, but the trees like that in Egypt, the hail would have torn that to the ground. Make sure you have this picture of how terrible this hail storm would be. We get mad when we get dents in our car, but hail storms don't typically tear trees apart, and every tree of the field was torn apart in Egypt, all the trees of Egypt. "Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail." God is still making it clear, His people avoid judgement. Make sure you flee to Christ, that's the only way to avoid judgement.

Applications:

1. Remember, God wounds and God heals. God could have struck Pharaoh, God could have struck all the leaders, He could have caused all the magicians to die, but He doesn't do that. He strikes Pharaoh's slaves and Pharaoh's officers people, the people who are tending sheep and tending oxen. These people that just restored their flocks after them being destroyed by the previous pestilence. He didn't strike Pharaoh himself. Especially with COVID19 going around, with all the fear mongering going on, with all the expressions of how terrible this is, don't forget God wounds and God heals. God's the only One that ever makes anyone sick. It doesn't mean, just like David says, 'I don't trust in horses and chariots' so he went and prepared an army after saying he trusted God. It doesn't mean we reject the order of how God does things, but it does mean that we recognize it is God who makes sick and God who heals.
2. Don't ignore the warnings when God is going to judge. God does give warnings that says He is going to judge. I've seen too many people, so many families go astray and it's not like there aren't warnings ahead of time. There are real warnings ahead of time. They hear it and see it and are told that if you follow this path, this is what will happen. I

have said this to a bunch of families, this is where you will be in five years, and not by some great prophecy, but by knowing the word of God. Sure enough, you look five years later and that's exactly where they are. Don't ignore the warnings. It's not that God doesn't tell us what's going to come, He does, He tells us the consequences of sin. He shows us patterns, He shows us practices, He shows us what He has done in the past. Don't ignore the warnings, God does judge. Understand, God gives warnings and He's given His people to give those warnings. Who's supposed to teach the nations all things Christ has commanded? Not the nations, the people of God are supposed to do that. We're supposed to be the watchmen, we're supposed to be the people say these are the judgements to come.

3. Another thing to remember is that sometimes those who are being judged are not the ones who receive the direct consequence of their judgment. Pharaoh didn't die, his slaves died. Make sure you recognize that, that sometimes your judgement comes because those who you care about suffer. This is how God struck Pharaoh in the heart. Don't think your sin doesn't affect people around you, your sin affects people around you. It's really important that we look at the world through the lens of what God is doing. Even as we see everything shutting down and these things happening in the world around us, make sure you look at them through the lens of what God is doing here. Make sure you look at it through the lens of God is sovereign over this, God has appointed these things, because that's how we see the judgments, that's how we see the threatenings, that's how we are able to preach the fear of God because we don't see these things and think God's hand isn't in them. Instead, make sure you look and try to understand what the hand of God is doing.
4. Judgement can be harder on innocence under authority than those in authority. How many times do presidents of nations or kings make really bad judgements for their people and they are judged for it and it creates destruction, but it doesn't really affect them? That's so God causes fear to go among the people. We are supposed to see that God has appointed authorities and some of those authorities are bad authorities that cause real destruction, but it's a warning to us because those of us mothers and fathers who have authority, understand how you exercise that authority has real significant consequences to those who didn't have any choice in the matter.
5. God was doing this so His name would be known through the world. God was showing His judgements to the fear of God would spread through the world and He sent His Son to die so people could be saved so the knowledge of His mercy would be declared through the world. We need to make sure that we understand this is what we have been appointed to, this is the purpose of the church, it's to make the world understand God's judgement but also His mercy. His glory will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea and this is our responsibility, this is what the purpose of our life is supposed to be, this is what the purpose of the church is for. Let's make sure when it's so easy for us to get distracted with other things, that we remember what we're really here for.
6. Are you teaching your children the fear of God? Understand you can't save your children, but you can teach them to fear God. It will go much better for them if they fear

God. There will be a much greater blessing to society if you teach your children to fear God. I want to just consider three ways that you need to teach them the fear of God. The first is, you need to read them the word. Fathers, you have a duty to speak the words of God to your children. This is how fear of God comes upon them, is that they recognize like in Exodus, they recognized God judges. You need to make sure you read the word of God to your children so they understand that they need to fear God. The next way is, you need to point out what God is doing. When there are consequences for sin, don't ignore that there are consequences for sin. With AIDS, when a relative got sick with AIDS you don't just say, 'He's sick with AIDS'. You say, 'He was a drug abuser and this is the consequences of sin.' Make sure you point out that there is real cause and effect in the world because God has ordered it that there is judgement for sin and they will fear God more if they see the sin and they see the consequences. Make sure you connect those dots if you want your children to fear God. The third way is, don't be a hypocrite. Don't preach the fear of God and then go sin in front of them and say, 'God won't do anything to me', because they will follow your example a lot more than they will follow your words. Make sure when you say judgement is coming, that if you disobey God then there will be judgement, that you act like it. What our society needs is fear of God, what our families need is fear of God, but it starts with people recognizing this is their duty, to make sure their children, and husbands make sure your wives fear God.

7. For any unbelievers who are listening, and there are lots here, if you haven't repented from your sin you are receiving a warning. Destruction will come if you do not flee for refuge to God, that is the house in the picture. The house is the house that Christ built that we will get to when we get to Hebrews 3. Christ built a house and that is the only house that you can flee to refuge where you will not receive the full wrath of God. Don't think you can do it a week from now, don't think you can do it a month from now. You don't know the day the judgement will come. I'm not going to stand up here and say like Moses did, tomorrow the judgement will come, but understand today is the day to flee because you don't know if you will have another day. Today is the day to flee to the only house that can withstand the hailstones, can withstand the lightnings, that can withstand the fire and the burning, it's only Christ. Flee to Christ, that's your only hope.

Let me close us in prayer. Oh Lord God, we do thank You that You have, in Your kindness and in Your mercy You have given us these judgements that we can see, these plagues You have poured out on Egypt so we can understand who You are and that You are a righteous judge in all the earth. Lord, we thank You that You are a God who puts this before us. Lord, let us respond rightly to it, let us turn from our sin because of it, Lord make us bolder to speak of these things. Make us recognize that You are the God that protects Your people. Lord we pray that You apply these verses to our hearts. Let us not walk away and not be cleansed by them for You have given us Your word so we can be cleansed by it. Lord cleanse us so we can shine forth Your glory more, cleanse us so we can speak of these things with greater boldness. Especially as You have us in this special time where the world is filled with fear, Lord let us speak of fear of You to those who need to hear it. In Jesus Christ's name we pray, amen.