

The Plagues of Boils, Hail, Locusts, and Darkness

Exodus 9:8 – 10:29

Introduction

So far we have seen :

- Aaron's rod which turned to a snake that ate the magician's snakes.
- The surface waters in Egypt turned to blood.
- Swarms of frogs.
- Swarms of gnats.

- Swarms of flies.
- The death of the Egyptian livestock that were in the fields of Egypt.
- Starting with the plague of flies, God exempted the land of Goshen from the plagues that followed.



Waters Turn to Blood
Exodus 7:14-25



Amphibians (Frogs)
Exodus 7:26-8:11



Gnats (Lice)
Exodus 8:12-15



Flies
Exodus 8:16-28



Disease on Livestock
Exodus 9:1-7

The Ten Plagues of Egypt



Unhealable Boils
Exodus 9:8-12



Hail and Fire
Exodus 9:13-35



Locusts
Exodus 10:1-20



Darkness
Exodus 10:21-29



Death of First-Born
Exodus 11:1-12:36

- We continue to see the sovereign power of God as He graciously works to teach both Pharaoh and Israel Who is and who is not God.
- God continues to show that the “gods” of Egypt are false and that Pharaoh has no power but what God allows him to have.

- The Lord was exposing the futility of the Egyptian religion and letting everyone see that the gods they worshiped, including Pharaoh himself, were not gods at all.

- Lastly, notice that Pharaoh chooses continually to harden his heart against God.
- In our message today we study the next four plagues: the plagues of boils, hail, locusts, and darkness.

The Plague of Boils (9:8-12)

^{ESV} **Exodus 9:8** And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from the kiln, and let Moses throw them in the air in the sight of Pharaoh. ⁹ It shall become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and become boils breaking out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt." ¹⁰ So

they took soot from the kiln and stood before Pharaoh. And Moses threw it in the air, and it became boils breaking out in sores on man and beast. ¹¹ And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils came upon the magicians and upon all the Egyptians. ¹² But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh,

and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had spoken to Moses.

Explanation

- There was no warning given this time. Moses and Aaron simply went to one of the lime-kilns, filled their hands with soot, threw the soot into the air, and trusted God to do the rest

- God changed the soot in “fine dust over all the land of Egypt” resulting in painful boils on humans and animals.
- In spite of the suffering of his people and the animals, God enabled Pharaoh to resist the pressure of the people, and Pharaoh did not obey God, just as God had previously predicted.

The Plague of Hail 9:13-35

- **God graciously gives Pharaoh opportunity to repent and obey His command. (9:13-15)**

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. ¹⁴ For this time I will send all my plagues on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth. ¹⁵ For by now I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth.

- **God tells Pharaoh why He has chosen to destroy the power of Egypt (9:16-17).**

¹⁶ But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth. ¹⁷ You are still exalting yourself against my people and will not let them go.

- **God graciously warns of the danger of the judgment of hail (9:18-21).**

¹⁸ Behold, about this time tomorrow I will cause very heavy hail to fall, such as never has been in Egypt from the day it was founded until now. ¹⁹ Now therefore send, get your livestock and all that you have in the field into safe shelter, for every man and beast that is

in the field and is not brought home will
die when the hail falls on them."''' 20

Then whoever feared the word of the
LORD among the servants of Pharaoh
hurried his slaves and his livestock into
the houses, ²¹ but whoever did not pay
attention to the word of the LORD left
his slaves and his livestock in the field.

- **God sends the hail through Moses (9:22-26).**

²² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, so that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, on man and beast and every plant of the field, in the land of Egypt."

²³ Then Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to

the earth. And the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. ²⁴ There was hail and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very heavy hail, such as had never been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. ²⁵ The hail struck down everything that was in the field in all the land of Egypt, both man and beast. And the hail struck down every plant of the field and

broke every tree of the field. ²⁶ Only in the land of Goshen, where the people of Israel were, was there no hail.

- **Pharaoh is alarmed and confesses he has sinned and asks for mercy (9:27-28)**

²⁷ Then Pharaoh sent and called Moses and Aaron and said to them, "This time I have sinned; the LORD is in the right,

and I and my people are in the wrong.
²⁸ Plead with the LORD, for there has
been enough of God's thunder and hail.
I will let you go, and you shall stay no
longer."

- **When the storm of hail stops,
Pharaoh hardens his heart and
refuses to obey God (9:29-35)**

29 Moses said to him, "As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will stretch out my hands to the LORD. The thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, so that you may know that the earth is the LORD's. 30 But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the LORD God." 31 (The flax and the barley were struck down, for the barley was in the ear and the

flax was in bud. ³² But the wheat and the emmer were not struck down, for they are late in coming up.) ³³ So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and stretched out his hands to the LORD, and the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain no longer poured upon the earth. ³⁴ But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet

again and hardened his heart, he and his servants. ³⁵ So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people of Israel go, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses.

The Plague of Locusts 10:1-19

- **God expects us to teach His mighty acts to our children and grandchildren (10:1-2).**

^{ESV} **Exodus 10:1** 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 again graciously warns Pharaoh so he can repent (10:3-6).**

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. ⁴ For if you refuse to let my people go, behold,

tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country, ⁵ and they shall cover the face of the land, so that no one can see the land. And they shall eat what is left to you after the hail, and they shall eat every tree of yours that grows in the field, ⁶ and they shall fill your houses and the houses of all your servants and of all the Egyptians, as neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have

seen, from the day they came on earth to this day.'" Then he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

- **Pharaoh's advisors put pressure on Pharaoh (10:7).**

⁷ Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not yet understand that Egypt is ruined?"

- **Pharaoh will allow only the adult Israelites males go to worship Yahweh (10:8-11).**

⁸ So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. And he said to them, "Go, serve the LORD your God. But which ones are to go?" ⁹ Moses said, "We will go with our young and our old. We will go with our sons and daughters

and with our flocks and herds, for we must hold a feast to the LORD." ¹⁰ But he said to them, "The LORD be with you, if ever I let you and your little ones go! Look, you have some evil purpose in mind. ¹¹ No! Go, the men among you, and serve the LORD, for that is what you are asking." And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

Explanation

- The meaning of **Exodus 10:10** when Pharaoh said, "**The LORD be with you**, if ever I let you and your little ones go! Look, you have some evil purpose in mind."
- Pharoah is boasting and saying "The LORD will certainly need to be with you if I let you take your little ones! I can see through your evil plan."

- **The plague of locusts (10:12-19).**

¹² Then the LORD said to Moses,
"Stretch out your hand over the land of
Egypt for the locusts, so that they may
come upon the land of Egypt and eat
every plant in the land, all that the hail
has left." ¹³ So Moses stretched out his
staff over the land of Egypt, and the
LORD brought an east wind upon the

land all that day and all that night.
When it was morning, the east wind
had brought the locusts. ¹⁴ The locusts
came up over all the land of Egypt and
settled on the whole country of Egypt,
such a dense swarm of locusts as had
never been before, nor ever will be
again. ¹⁵ They covered the face of the
whole land, so that the land was
darkened, and they ate all the plants in

the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Not a green thing remained, neither tree nor plant of the field, through all the land of Egypt. ¹⁶

Then Pharaoh hastily called Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you.

¹⁷ Now therefore, forgive my sin, please, only this once, and plead with the LORD your God only to remove this

death from me." ¹⁸ So he went out from Pharaoh and pleaded with the LORD.
¹⁹ And the LORD turned the wind into a very strong west wind, which lifted the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea. Not a single locust was left in all the country of Egypt.

The Plague of 3 Days of Darkness 10:20-29

- **This plague came without warning.**

²⁰ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go. ²¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to

be felt." ²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. ²³ They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the people of Israel had light where they lived.

- **Pharaoh offers another compromise (10:24-26).**

²⁴ Then Pharaoh called Moses and said, "Go, serve the LORD; your little ones also may go with you; only let your flocks and your herds remain behind." ²⁵ But Moses said, "You must also let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the

- LORD our God. ²⁶ Our livestock also must go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind, for we must take of them to serve the LORD our God, and we do not know with what we must serve the LORD until we arrive there."
- **Pharaoh tells Moses to never return or he will kill him (10:27-29)**

²⁷ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. ²⁸ Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me; take care never to see my face again, for on the day you see my face you shall die." ²⁹ Moses said, "As you say! I will not see your face again."

- Pharaoh was trying to get rid of the problem of Yahweh's demands by preventing Yahweh's chosen messenger from bringing those demands to his attention.

Conclusion

- The miraculous nature of these plagues is seen in their:
 1. Prediction (of both their start and their ending).
 2. Discrimination (Goshen exempt from many of them).
 3. Intensity.

Conclusion

- Pharaoh's stubborn resistance to God's will illustrates Proverbs 29:1: "Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed-- without remedy."

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