

## Exodus 9

Verses 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. <sup>2</sup> For if you refuse to let *them* go and continue to hold them, <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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.’”” <sup>5</sup> The Lord set a definite time, saying, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.” <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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.

### 5<sup>th</sup> plague – Livestock in the field

The hand of the Lord will come *with* a very severe pestilence on your livestock which are in the field

Here, this plague is restricted to the livestock in the field but in verse 6 it says all the livestock of Egypt died.

One thing we know for sure, both statements can't be true

In verse 3, God had already limited the plague to those in the field, so is it necessary to state the same in verse 9?

Is Moses somehow required to say that all the livestock of Egypt died that were in the field as opposed to just saying all the livestock of Egypt died?

It seems that Occam's razor should apply in this situation

<sup>4</sup> 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.

Starting with plague 3, the gnats, the magicians could not duplicate the miracle

Starting with plague 4, the flies, Israel was exempt from the plagues

**But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.**

Here again, it is not absolutely certain who hardened the king's heart

Verses 8-12

**<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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." <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not listen to them, just as the Lord had spoken to Moses.**

### **6<sup>th</sup> plague - Boils**

**Take for yourselves handfuls of soot from a furnace**

The Israelites had been enslaved at brick-making and now the ashes left over from the hardening of those bricks become painful boils on their oppressors

The law of reaping and sowing doesn't always happen quickly but time is on its side

**The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils**

This image says more than a 1000 words

People who stand against God will be unable to stand before Him in the end

Israel was warned about rebelling against God and how they would suffer

See Deut. 28:27

The LORD will afflict you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors, festering sores and the itch, from which you cannot be cured

God judges' mankind and nations based on their actions not their heritage

**And the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not listen to them, just as the Lord had spoken to Moses.**

The language is quite clear here

The hardening of his heart came from God

See pic 905

Plague	Verse	Who hardened the kings heart	King	Not sure	Lord
Blood	7:22	Pharaoh's heart was hardened		x	
Frogs	8:15	He hardened his heart	x		
Gnats	8:19	But Pharaoh's heart was hardened		x	
Flies	8:32	But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also	x		
Livestock	9:7	But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened		x	
Boils	9:12	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart			x
Hail					
Locust					
Darkness					

So why did God wait until now to harden the kings heart?

Because the king was finally ready to give up and let the people go.

But God could not let the king give up now because there was a bigger issue at hand

God was judging the nation of Egypt for their sins and their punishment would not be complete until all of the 10 plagues were accomplished

But one question that arises from this is; was God depriving the king of his free will?

The answer to that question is both Yes and No

The king was denied his right (free will) to say "I give up" at this point in time

And this will happen 3 more times before his death

However, the temporary denial of free will is not the same as predestination

The king had many years prior to this time of judgment to get right with God

But it seems clear that he did not take advantage of those opportunities

For those who believe in predestination, the king never had a chance to get right with God because that is determined before one is born

There are numerous examples in the Bible where God hardened the hearts of certain people or nations at critical times to change the course of history

But that is in no way the same as predestination as taught by most Calvinists.

Verses 13-17

**<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Still you exalt yourself against My people by not letting them go.**

**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.**

Egypt had a god for everything, but the Lord wants Egypt to know that there is no god like Him

**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 could have destroyed Egypt and the king right away but he choose not to.

Because the plagues and the Red Sea disaster was more dramatic, and the news of these events would reach the whole world

**Still you exalt yourself against My people by not letting them go.**

In this plague the Lord gave the king his free will back but he returned to his old ways one more time

Verses 18-21

**<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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.””” <sup>20</sup> The one among the servants of Pharaoh who feared the word of the Lord made his servants and his livestock flee into the houses; <sup>21</sup> but he who paid no regard to the word of the Lord left his servants and his livestock in the field.**

### **7<sup>th</sup> plague - Hail**

**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**

Secular historians say that a unified kingdom was formed in 3150 BC by King Menes

However, we know Egypt had to form after the global flood ended in 3097 BC. In addition, the population after the flood was only 8 people. It would have taken many years before the population reached a point where some of their descendants would migrate far enough to reach Egypt. Then it would take many more years for those that came to Egypt to reach a population large enough to form a united kingdom. A more realistic date would be around 2700 BC.

Of course, secular historians reject bible history in favor of their own understanding of world events. But just look at how their dates have changed over the last century. Their dates keep getting shorter and shorter as new evidence brings them closer and closer to the dates given in the bible

**Now therefore send, bring your livestock and whatever you have in the field to safety**

For the first time, the Egyptians had a means of escaping the plague

All they had to do was listen to what the Lord had said

**Those who feared the word of the Lord made his servants and his livestock flee into the houses; <sup>21</sup> but he who paid no regard to the word of the Lord left his servants and his livestock in the field**

We find out here that there were some Egyptians that believed in the Lord

Those that didn't pay a heavy price for their unbelief

Verses 22-26

**<sup>22</sup> 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." <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> Only in the land of Goshen, where the sons of Israel were, there was no hail.**

**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.**

The loss of human life and the financial toll to the Egyptian economy had to be enormous.

Verses 27-29

**<sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> 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." <sup>29</sup> 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.**

## **I have sinned this time**

Anybody see a problem with this confession?

“This time”

What are we to think, the other 6 times were just a misunderstanding?

## **I and my people are the wicked ones**

A bad leader always has loyal yes men around him

These were the unbelieving servants that thought and acted like the king

Even the magicians, who had some culpability, told him this is the finger of God

## **The Lord is the righteous one**

The king was saying what he thought Moses wanted to hear, hoping the hail would come to an end

**“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.**

The hail started at the Lord’s command and it ended that way.

Verses 30-35

**<sup>30</sup> But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the Lord God.”**

**<sup>31</sup> (Now the flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud. <sup>32</sup> But the wheat and the spelt were not ruined, for they *ripen* late.)**

**<sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not let the sons of Israel go, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses.**

**But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the Lord God**

Moses was not fooled by the king's repentance

**Now the flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud.**

Both of these were important crops to the Egyptians

Flax was used to make linen and barley was used as food for men and animals

The time of this plague was in late January or in early February

**But the wheat and the spelt were not ruined, for they *ripen* late**

Spelt is a grain similar to wheat

**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.**

This time the king hardened his heart

See pic 910

Plague	Verse	Who hardened the kings heart	King	Not sure	Lord
Blood	7:22	Pharaoh's heart was hardened		x	
Frogs	8:15	He hardened his heart	x		
Gnats	8:19	But Pharaoh's heart was hardened		x	
Flies	8:32	But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also	x		
Livestock	9:7	But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened		x	
Boils	9:12	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart			x
Hail	9:34	he sinned again and hardened his heart	x		
Locust					
Darkness					



**Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not let the sons of Israel go, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses.**

In previous places when the text said Pharaoh's heart was hardened, it was marked as not sure because the text was not as clear as in other places.

But in the previous verse (verse 34) it says the king hardened his heart, so now we can know with certainty that when it says, Pharaoh's heart was hardened it means the king hardened his heart.

Here are the two verses:

<sup>34</sup> **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.**

<sup>35</sup> **Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not let the sons of Israel go, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses.**

The new chart is quite revealing:

See pic 915

Plague	Verse	Who hardened the kings heart	King	Lord
Blood	7:22	Pharaoh's heart was hardened	x	
Frogs	8:15	He hardened his heart	x	
Gnats	8:19	But Pharaoh's heart was hardened	x	
Flies	8:32	But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also	x	
Livestock	9:7	But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened	x	
Boils	9:12	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart		x
Hail	9:34	he sinned again and hardened his heart	x	
Locust				
Darkness				

Every time the king had a choice (free will) he hardened his own heart.

This plague revealed the fecklessness of several gods

1. Their sky-goddess, Nut, could not protect them from the hail
2. Isis and Seth were gods over agricultural, they did nothing
3. The Egyptians believed that Osiris gave them the gift of barley but he did not protect their barley crop

A large temple was built to honor Osiris at Abydos

See pic 920



There is now a Muslim temple built near the old temple ruins at Abydos

See pic 925 below

