

The Seventh Plague: Hailstorm

Exodus 9:1-35

Let me read that part of the “hailstorm” passage that we left out due to limited space. (13-17)

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For this time I will send all My plagues on you and your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth. ¹⁵ For *if by now* I had put forth My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, you would then have been cut off from the earth. ¹⁶ But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth. ¹⁷ Still you exalt yourself against My people by not letting them go.

Many individuals suffered the boils of the sixth plague. But now it is the nation that stands on the verge of destruction. This and the next plague – locusts – will destroy much of Egypt’s agriculture and infrastructure. In this rather long section, God emphasizes several important bits of knowledge:

- He operates according to a plan
- Terrible destruction may come at any moment
- The Lord wants a certain expression in the so-called “sinner’s prayer”
- Nature operates only as the Lord wants it to and only for His glory.
- Repentance demands action as well as words

I. **For This Very Purpose** (NIV)

- A. Wherever we are in life we are there for the very purpose God has in mind.
- B. Whatever the details, God will use us to glorify Himself, whether as Pharaoh or Moses. (16)
- C. This Pharaoh was raised up to be defeated and spoken about in every age and every place.
- D. Moses was raised to be the “voice of God” and the intercessor and leader of Israel.
- E. Our prayer should be, “Lord, claim me, show me my purpose and equip me for it.”

II. **Hail and Lightning**

- A. History may help us predict the future but gives no guarantee of what lies before us.
- B. God’s Word, on the other hand, is certain, and announces both trial and deliverance.
- C. The Egyptians, like most people, had no sense of the nearness of God’s wrath. (15)
- D. This was a storm that is comparable to those that accompany hurricanes and tornados.
- E. “Prepare to meet thy God.” “For in such an hour as you think not, the Son of Man comes.”

III. **The Lord’s Earth**

- A. The Hailstorm also was to teach that “the earth is the LORD’s, and all it contains.” (29, Ψ 24)
- B. Egyptians believed they were subject to the evil ways of Set, god of storms and chaos.
- C. The Bible says a storm shows the majesty and power of God. Ψ 77:18
- D. In our day the climate people think the earth is ours, that we can change it to suit ourselves.
- E. The more we offend God, the more He turns the earth and nature against us.

²⁷ Then Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “I have sinned this time; the LORD is the righteous one, and I and my people are the wicked ones. ²⁸ Make supplication to the LORD, for there has been enough of God’s thunder and hail; and I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer.”

IV. **The Sinner’s Prayer**

A. “God, I am a sinner. I know that I deserve your wrath. [I believe Jesus died for my sins.] Please forgive me.”

B. “I have sinned. . . The LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong.” (27)

C. Irony: This is a great word, but Pharaoh is insincere, speaking hypocritically.

D. Nevertheless, God is doing right by condemning my sin and asking for my worship.

E. Always start your conversation with God by admitting He is right and I am wrong.

³⁰ But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the LORD God.” ³¹ (Now the flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud. ³² But the wheat and the spelt were not ruined, for they *ripen* late.) ³³ So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread out his hands to the LORD; and the thunder and the hail ceased, and rain no longer poured on the earth. ³⁴ But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he and his servants. ³⁵ Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not let the sons of Israel go, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses.

V. **Lips and Hearts**

This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.
(Matthew 15:8)

Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance. . . (Luke 3:8)

A. The Lord had said that Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go unless compelled to do so.

B. Despite all the plagues so far, the king and his officials did not truly fear the LORD God. (30)

C. The length of this passage makes one realize the mighty struggle that is going on.

D. I submit that the unregenerate heart is the hardest item on earth.

E. Pray the Lord to make your lips and your heart to be perfectly in sync.

