

TruthInScripture
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Exodus 9.

In our current study of Exodus we are now in CH 9. So, just a word or 2 from CH 8. Well, First in CH 7 we saw the first of the plagues.

It is interesting that the plagues come in the form of 3 at a time, until the last, the taking of Pharoah's first born.

The first 2 of each set come with a warning period. At least a warning statement that we can take as a sign that there was a warning.

We also have noted that each plague pointed to a greater meaning than the event itself, by

that I mean that the events, the plagues really happened... and each plague attacks an Egyptian deity and proves that they are indeed false gods.

/The plagues also answered Pharaoh's original question: Who is the LORD, this YHVH that I, the Pharaoh should obey HIS voice to let Israel go?

No surprise that even in the face of stubborn defiance, the LORD's divine power stands unmatched.

HIS protection over the Israelites amidst the plagues is a testament to HIS mercy and Grace and HIS unyielding love for HIS people.

So, we saw the Frog Plague. The LORD instructed Moses to warn Pharaoh of an impending plague of frogs if he refuses to release the Israelites.

Pharaoh's plea to remove the frogs is granted, but his heart hardens once GOD does indeed end the plague.

Then the Gnat or lice Infestation.

The LORD delivers a plague of gnats or blood sucking insects. The Egyptian magicians acknowledge that it is a god doing this. Pharaoh remains in defiance.

The Swarm of Flies.

We studied that, this was a single swarm that just swallowed up the land. However, GOD exempts the land of Goshen, where the Israelites reside. Pharaoh temporarily agrees to let the people go, but Pharaoh changes his mind and hardens his heart once the plague is lifted.



/The first plague was directed against several Egyptian river deities. The Nile itself was worshipped as a god by the Egyptians, and the LORD GOD

shows that HE has complete power over the Nile, not some river gods or goddesses.

7:25 Seven days passed after the LORD had struck the Nile.

So, there was a complete period of time for Pharoah to realize that this was the LORD of ALL. But as we know, Pharoah did not.

/This is the second plague of the frogs, and notice there is also a warning. Frogs were considered deity.



/Egyptians worshipped the frog as a female goddess because frogs were common around the Nile, because they reproduced rapidly, and because being amphibians they were said to be of two worlds, creatures of both land and water.

The frog was a goddess, hence the plague was exacerbated because it was against the law and culture to destroy a frog.

Pharaoh pleads to Moses asking Moses to plead to the LORD on Pharaoh's behalf. Even when Pharaoh's plea was granted, his heart did not change – he hardened his heart – yet Pharaoh did just as GOD said he would.

This becomes a familiar pattern: when Pharaoh did not keep his word to let the people go the first time, no doubt it became easier and easier to do the same again. Pharaoh ignored his promise; but GOD did not.



/16 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, that it may become gnats through all the land of Egypt.’”

Lice כֵּנִי kēn - kane The Hebrew Word occurs only in connection with this plague. These insects are sometimes identified with mosquitos, whatever they were exactly, they were terrible because they were everywhere.

/This plague also struck at the heart of Egyptian worship, especially at their priests. The Egyptian priesthood was extremely careful about hygiene and ritual cleansing; and this plague of lice made them unable or unclean so that they could not worship their gods.

This was the beginning of the escalation of power in the plagues, yet they said “finger” rather than

referring to the more powerful hand or arm. So in any event, the plagues are going to get tougher...although already bad.

/8:21 “For if you do not let MY people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and on your servants and on your people and into your houses; and the houses of the Egyptians will be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they dwell.

I hate flies.

/The word here is awrobe עָרֹב
‘ārōḇ = swarm, the tradition is that it is a swarm of flies. It is in the singular...

So the tradition is that these are biting flies and/or other insects. This word awrobe really means a swarm, so we will go with flies. It seems that it was a single swarm that covered the land. This plague did not affect the land of the Israelites in Egypt, that is Goshen.

This 4th plague consisted of a dense swarm of what is traditionally understood as flies. But keep in mind our earlier discussion.

These next 3 plagues (flies, dying livestock, and boils) begins just as the first and last three began, following a confrontation with Pharaoh early in the morning. And

what we can assume followed a warning.

/Pharoah is seeing his grip on the Israelites slipping away. So first he says no to the request, then yes BUT you have to stay in the land.

Pharoah knows if he let's the Israelites go, they are not coming back, and that is true. Now he says well ok but don't go far. What does that mean, what is far?

Imagine the process for Pharoah. He is a man who is used to getting his way in everything. And now he can't even bargain, he slowly agrees to the original request, but he will never do so totally.

I can't help think of believers who do something similar. Seek to negotiate with GOD.

They will follow GOD a little here and there but still live life according to their own plan not GOD's plan. Or many say, get me out of this problem LORD and I will be a different person. And it is usually a problem resulting from their stupid decisions. ...

I will get on the straight and narrow, And GOD does in HIS grace and mercy get them out of it...and they do get on the straight and narrow for a little while. But they go back to the vomit. Back to their stupid decisions.

/Grace is getting what we don't deserve (blessing) Mercy is NOT getting what we deserve (punishment).

8:31 The LORD did as Moses asked, and removed the swarms (of flies) from Pharaoh, from his servants and from his people; not one remained.

32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and he did not let the people go.

So, notice Pharaoh is the one that hardened his heart. Pharaoh was the one that remained stubborn and continued to reject the LORD.

In CH 9 we see the 5th, 6th and 7th plagues. The livestock pestilence

or plague, the plague of boils are the 2nd and third of the second group of 3.

/In this chapter we also see the transition from Pharaoh's hardening of his own heart to the LORD as the one Who hardened Pharaoh's heart as the exit or exodus of the Israelites from Egypt approaches.

CH 9

1 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.

2 “For if you refuse to let them go and continue to hold (חֲזַק hāzaq = muscle) them,

3 behold, the hand of the LORD will come with a very severe pestilence (meh ode = exceedingly much – kahvade = heavy great – deh bear = plague) on your livestock which are in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the herds, and on the flocks.

Remember when the magicians said that it was the finger of a god? Well GOD says you will see the hand of the GOD. Although we know a finger was all that was needed, I think the LORD used this for the reason of contrast.

4 “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.”

/In an act of mercy, GOD told Moses to give another warning, so that Pharaoh would have yet another opportunity to repent. Which he will not do.

5 The LORD set a definite time (a moed = an appointed time...), saying, “Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land.”

/6 So the LORD did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died (מות *mût*)

= dead here a verb – died); **but of the livestock of the sons of Israel, not one died.**

7 Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened (כָּבַד kābād V = 3rd person = GOD Hardened), and he did not let the people go.

Sequential verb

Notice GOD's plan and HIS demand never changed. In this demand like the others, we see the people of Israel belonged to GOD, not to Pharaoh.

Pharaoh was responsible to treat Israel well, for the sake of the

LORD, not only for the sake of Israel and for the sake of Pharoah for that matter. In the same way, we must treat each other well.

GOD put the children of Israel there under captivity, but Pharoah had a role, to treat them well, not to try to exterminate them.

Remember Matthew 22? It is in MAR and LUK as well.

MAT 22:34 But when the Pharisees heard that Yeshua had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together.

/35 One of them, a (no me kos = a teacher of the law of Moses) asked (epare ahtah oh = accosted HIM with a demand) a question,

testing or tempting HIM, This guy is challenging the LORD on the Scripture.

36 “Teacher (not Raboni = didaskalos), which is the great commandment in the Law?”

The megas = greatest, biggest

**37 And Yeshua said to him,
“YOU SHALL LOVE THE
LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL
YOUR HEART, AND WITH
ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH
ALL YOUR MIND.’**

DEU 6:5, which this teacher of the law should have known.

38 “This is the great and foremost commandment.

Protos kai mega entole in tal lay.

39 “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’

LEV 19

So this teacher of the law of Moses who is tempting the LORD testing the LORD, The LORD Who is the LAW gets schooled by the One the Law is fulfilled by, the Messiah...

40 “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

Back to Exodus.

Pharaoh was warned that another plague was on the way, one that would kill the livestock of Egypt.

But not the livestock owned by the people of Israel, that livestock would not be affected.

6 So the LORD did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died (מֹתָ מוֹת *mûṭ* = dead hear a verb – died); but of the livestock of the sons of Israel, not one died.

7 Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened (כָּבַד *kābād* V = 3rd person = GOD Hardened), and he did not let the people go.

The fifth plague brought the deaths of Egyptian domestic animals:

horses, donkeys, camels, cows, sheep, and goats.

The same action by the LORD in the 2nd, 5th and the 8th plagues (the second of each cycle of 3) with this: **The LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh”.**

And the reason for the demand from YHVH is given as well: **“Let my people go, so that they may worship me.”**

The threat was quite clear: The LORD will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field.

The LORD makes a distinction for the second time: The Israelites will not be affected.

This foreshadows the final distinction between the death of the Egyptians under Pharaoh's rule and the life of the children of Israel under Yahweh's protection.

As the plagues worsen, the stakes become greater. The LORD set a time, as Pharaoh's control diminishes and Yahweh's increases.

In the plague of frogs, Pharaoh set the time (8:9). With the flies, Moses set the times of their infestation and removal (8:23, 29).

From now on the LORD will set the timing (hail; locusts).

This was also the sign of their deliverance that will come during the Passover.



Hathor, Isis, Nut and Bat were goddesses who were often depicted as cows, with the horns of cows or with the ears of cows.

8 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.

9 “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.”



Most historians and archaeologists say that the Egyptians used raw acacia wood and donkey manure as fuel for these furnaces.

10 So they took soot from a kiln a furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses threw it toward the sky, and it became

boils breaking out with sores on man and beast.

11 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.

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



The 6th plague was an outbreak of boils, directly striking the bodies of the Egyptians.

Up to this point the LORD has sort of mirrored creation.

/The undoing of the creation in Egypt and the utter destruction of the false gods that Egypt worshipped began with water (turned to blood). It continued with life from the water, the frogs.

Then, from the dust of the ground came the gnats, followed by flies. Then Livestock, also created from the earth were decimated next.

Now the bodies of GOD's created human beings was touched by these boils. And this begins with handfuls of soot (fine powdery ashes) from a furnace.



The image of Moses tossing this soot into the air in the presence of Pharaoh must have been quite a scene. Have Moses take handfuls of the soot and throw each toward the heavens before the eyes of Pharaoh.

Soot filled the air in Pharaoh's court. Moses must have looked like a madman, throwing ashes up by the handfuls, but if anyone in Pharaoh's court was amused, it didn't last long. The festering boils broke out on man and animals.

**Moses threw it toward the sky,
and it became boils breaking out
(פָּרַח pārah = sprouting), erupting)
with sores on man and beast.**

Notice man and beast.

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

/Well, that is plainly said, the
LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart.
Pharaoh hardened his own heart
time and time again...Now the
LORD does the hardening. הִזַּק
hāzaq = sequential verb, so this is
a result of the Pharaoh hardening
his own heart.

Then the LORD said to Moses,

13 “Rise up early in the morning and stand (station 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 “At 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.

/LXX 15 For now I will stretch forth my hand and smite thee

and kill thy people, and thou shalt be consumed from off 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 (lift up) yourself against MY people by not letting them go.

The LORD clearly explains the point of the plagues. They are to proclaim YHVH’s name as the GOD of all the earth. **“So you may know that there is no one like ME in all the earth”**. Your false gods are but folly, I AM

YHVH and MY purpose will be done.

“That my name might be proclaimed in all the earth”

This also emphasizes the LORD’s relation to the earth as Creator with an explanation of how the LORD has restrained from total destruction.

YHVH is LORD of all humanity, all the creation, and the entire cosmos. Water, storms, insects, animals, people, health, disease, weather, etc..

One theme of the book of Exodus is to recognize Who the LORD is. Pharaoh had said, “Who is the LORD YHVH . . . I do not know

the LORD”. By now, Pharaoh does know YHVH, but still rejects HIM. Israelites know, some do reject HIM. The Egyptians know and some of them believed.

GOD was creating a specific people to whom GOD would give the law at Mt. Sinai. Moses would receive it on the very spot he received his calling from the burning bush.

The creation of the people of Israel was the means by which GOD’s name would be made known in all the earth.

Pharaoh, however, exalted himself over the people and did not submit to the creator. Pharaoh exalted

himself over the people when it was the LORD who should have been exalted.

18 “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.

19 “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.”

20 The one among the servants of Pharaoh who feared the word of the LORD made his servants

and his livestock flee into the houses;

21 but he who paid no regard to the word of the LORD left his servants and his livestock in the field.

/Yehovah's actions in carefully providing shelter for anyone who feared (or trusted) the word of the LORD demonstrates the second purpose of the plagues.

GOD's goal was that all would come to fear and trust the LORD. So, the LORD sends hail, but with it there is a warning. GOD provided this one last opportunity for Pharaoh and his officials to participate in saving life.

Pharaoh's officials were divided. Some acted and hurried to bring their slaves and their property inside. Per the warning.

Some ignored the word of the LORD and abandoned their slaves and property in the fields.

The Hebrew behind the phrase **“those who ignored”** is, literally, “the one who did not set his heart or thoughts on” the word of the LORD.

This warning appears to be aimed at the Egyptians, however, it also appears to be a reminder to the Israelites of the importance of the Word of GOD in their lives.

/Who will fear the word of the LORD? Who will take it to heart? Who will fear the LORD, respect HIM and HIS Word.

The one who fears GOD's word, respects GOD's Word will find shelter from the storm.

NAH 1:7, The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And HE knows those who take refuge in HIM.

The plague itself began when Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky. From this point on, Moses would lead the people.

The description of the storm and its effect is the longest written description of any of the plagues.

22 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.”

23 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.

Hail is bah rod = fire is ash. Some say that the hail had fire in it, which of course GOD could produce. But it seems more of a matter of extreme lightning...But...

24 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.

25 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.

26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the sons of Israel were, there was no hail.

/The only place it did not hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were. The plants and animals under the care of the

LORD's people survived. Those of the Pharaoh's, did not.

Even the Egyptian officials who had believed the Word of the LORD found their animals and slaves safe.

The storm was persistent as well as destructive. In the midst of the continuous lightning and pounding thunder Pharaoh summons Moses and Aaron.

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 (pray on my behalf) 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."

29 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.

30 "But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the LORD GOD."

/I will let you go; you don't have to stay any longer. Well sounds like Pharoah is ready to repent. And he could have, and much

glory would have given to Pharoah and Pharoah's people would have had the opportunity to repent as well.

Pharoah said: **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.”**

Sounds like Pharoah is convinced and convicted, and yet the words tsa deek is lawful and rasha is unlawful. Nothing about sin and evil here, it seems more like a legal perspective... Legal admissions, not moral confessions and repentance.

This was the third time Pharaoh had said that he would let them go.

We hear the pharaoh's motivation when he says, Pray to the LORD, for we have had enough thunder and hail. Not I want to submit to this LORD, just admit a wrong and stop this storm.

The Pharaoh used his words to make an admission of convenience.

He addressed the problem as Moses' GOD Yehovah, had brought a terrible storm, so Moses must see to its removal, as he had in the past. Moses was willing to ask the LORD to remove the

storm, in spite of the pharaoh's unchanging heart.

29 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.

30 "But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the LORD GOD."

31 And the flax and the barley were struck, (killed, naw kaw used first in GEN 4 with Cain...) for the barley was advanced, and the flax was seeding. So it was approaching harvest.

32 But the wheat and the rye were not struck, for they were 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 continued to sin 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.**