

The Book of Exodus

The Third Three Plagues

Text: Exodus 9:13 – 10:29

Introduction:

1. As time went on and Pharaoh continued to rebel against God, the plagues upon Egypt became more and more severe.
2. As the consequences for Egypt became worse, Pharaoh's attempts to compromise with Moses and God became stronger.
3. Yet, in the end, God would prove His power and authority over all men – including the Pharaoh of Egypt.

I. Plague Seven: *HAIL* (Exodus 9:13-35)

A. The Warning from God (vs. 13-17)

1. As with the beginning of the previous groups of plagues, God told Moses to rise up early in the morning and speak to Pharaoh.
2. This time, however, God made it known to Pharaoh that the plagues would be severe and devastating.
3. "At this time" – beginning with this plague – God would send "all" of His plagues upon Egypt – indicating that this was the beginning of the end.
4. God would demonstrate the greatness of His power and prove His supremacy over all other false gods.
5. These plagues would cause Egypt to be destroyed – cut off from the earth.
6. In fact, God had raised up Pharaoh for just this purpose.

B. The Division in Egypt (vs. 18-21)

1. God announced that the next plague would be a very grievous hail, like had never been before in Egypt.
2. He warned the Egyptians to move their animals from the field into shelters and to remain indoors themselves.
3. Those who respected God's word obeyed, while others ignored it and suffered the consequences.

C. The Plague of Hail (vs. 22-26)

1. The hail in this passage is exactly the same as we understand hail today.
2. The words for "very grievous" mean, "Vehemently great or heavy."
3. Thus, these were large hailstones that pelted and pounded the land, animals, and people of Egypt.
4. The hail was accompanied by thunder, which means that there was lightning.
5. Furthermore, "fire ran along upon the ground."
 - a. This possibly refers to fires started by the lightning.
 - b. Or, it may indicate the lightning itself being conducted along the ground and harming animals and man.
 - c. The phrase "fire mingled" is the same as that in Ezekiel 1:4, "A fire enfolding itself."
 - d. This seems to be a reference to something like ball lightning.
 - e. It was a clear demonstration of the power and glory of God.
6. This is the first plague where it is stated that human life was lost.
7. This plague did not affect the Israelites in the land of Goshen.

Lesson Eight

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- D. The Results of the Plague (vs. 27-35)
1. This plague caused Pharaoh to make two great admissions:
 - a. "Jehovah is righteous"
 - b. "I have sinned"
 2. Pharaoh promised to let the Israelites go if this plague was ended.
 3. However, he hardened his heart and refused to do as he had promised.
 4. In this plague, the flax and the barley of Egypt were destroyed.
 5. Also, many flocks and herds had been decimated.
- E. This plague was an attack against many false gods of Egypt:
1. Set – *god of storms*
 2. Nut – *goddess of the sky*
 3. Shu – *god of the atmosphere*
 4. Also, the many gods and goddesses of agriculture, fertility, and plant life

II. Plague Eight: *LOCUSTS*

(Exodus 10:1-20)

- A. God emphasized to Moses that these events were to be remembered and passed down throughout the generations of Israel.
1. They were to learn the power of Jehovah.
 2. They were to learn the authority of Jehovah.
 3. They were to learn the love of Jehovah.
 4. They were to learn the folly of idolatry.
- B. The next plague upon Egypt was a devastating invasion of locusts.
1. They would cover the ground and fill their houses.
 2. They would consume all that had been left from the plague of hail.
- C. After announcing the plague, and without waiting for a reply, Moses and Aaron left the presence of Pharaoh.
- D. Pharaoh's servants were tired of the suffering and asked Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go.
- E. Pharaoh called Moses back and offered him a compromise – only the men (of fighting age) would be allowed to go.
- F. But, God had commanded all Israel to go, and there would be no compromise.
- G. Thus, the locusts came upon Egypt.
- H. Again, Pharaoh acknowledged his sin and asked for the plague to be removed.
- I. God removed the locusts, but Pharaoh again hardened his heart.

III. Plague Nine: *DARKNESS*

(Exodus 10:21-29)

- A. The highest gods of Egypt – gods of the Sun, Moon, and Stars – were defeated by the plague of darkness.
- B. This darkness was unique for it could not be penetrated by human sight.
- C. For three days, the Egyptians could not see one another and were unable to move around outside of their houses.
- D. Again, Pharaoh offered a compromise – Israel was to leave behind their flocks and herds.
- E. This deal was rejected and Pharaoh declared that if Moses appeared in his presence again he would be put to death.