

**EXODUS 7:14-9**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Exodus chapter 7 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

As you remember, Joseph has died, and the Pharaoh's the knew Joseph, remembered what he had done to save the Egyptians, had all passed off the scene. It is then we see the Egyptians place the children of Israel under hard bondage.

Things had gotten so bad, some 400 years of this bondage, that we read in Exodus 2:23-25, "**Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.**"

It is then that God calls Moses to return to Egypt, he was on the run for killing an Egyptian and has spent the last forty years in the land of Midian.

So Moses and his brother Aaron go to Pharaoh and ask Pharaoh to let his people go and worship the Lord. But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he refused.

He not only refused to let them go, but he made them work harder to make the bricks. Now they had to gather the straw to make the bricks and they were to make the same number of bricks as before, when the straw was provided for them.

Obviously they were angry with Moses and Moses goes before the Lord and the Lord reassures Moses that He is with them and He will bring them into the land of Canaan, the Promise Land!

So God instructs Moses to go before Pharaoh and have Aaron cast his rod to the ground, and as he did it became a snake.

And we saw that Pharaoh's wise men, his sorcerers, the magicians did the same!

Satan loves to oppose the work of God by imitating it, and that is what we see here. He tries to deny the power of God.

But Aaron's one snake swallowed up all their snakes or rods that had turned into snakes!

But Pharaoh was not impressed. He felt, "*Anything your God can do we can do just as well!*"

Thus, we closed last time with this, "**And Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the Lord had said.**" Exodus 7:13.

And it is out of this hardness of Pharaoh's heart to let the children of Israel go, that we see the first plague poured out upon them.

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Exodus chapter 7, beginning in verse 14 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

## **EXODUS 7**

### **VERSES 14-18**

Please keep in mind that as we go through these ten plagues, they don't seem to happen in rapid fire succession.

It seems that the first plague began sometime in July when the Nile River overflowed its banks.

And we know it ended in April as the first Passover began or was established.

One writer put it like this,

*These events would have played out over the course of several months, beginning in July or August when the Nile flooding occurs and culminating around January.*

*The next three plagues - the hailstorm, the swarms of locusts, and the thick darkness which could be “felt” - are all linked to seasonal winds occurring from February to April.*

*Thus, the whole sequence would have culminated in the spring, corresponding to the timing of Passover.*

- <http://bit.ly/3Jd5AML>

First of all, God created these plagues. Can He use natural phenomena to do them? Yes, He can but it doesn't mean that is what happened with these plagues.

There are some who feel that this first plague was something like a red tide or the effects of the Nile during this time of year, July through August when it overflows and picks up red dirt that will discolor the water and the organisms within the dirt would kill the fish.

It is possible but I don't think that is what happened here. Yes, God could do that, but the word “**blood**” means just that, **BLOOD!**

It was not “*like blood*” but it was blood!

And it was not just in the Nile River, as we will see in verse 19!

Why are these plagues so spread out, over this ten-month period of time?

I believe that God is very gracious, and He was given Pharaoh time to repent between each of the judgments. We see this also in the Tribulation Period where these judgments of God are over a seven-year period of time!

Keep in mind why the first plague came upon Pharaoh and the Egyptian people.

The first plague – as all the plagues – came because Pharaoh hardened his heart against God and His people.

In mercy, God warned Pharaoh, but Pharaoh disregarded the warning.

As we will see with all these plagues, God is destroying their deities to show Pharaoh and the Egyptian people who the real God is, and answering that question of Pharaoh!

Remember what Pharaoh said to Moses back in Exodus 5:2, “**. . . ‘Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.’**”

He is going to find out who this God is in a powerful way!

So this first plague is – ***WATER BECOMES BLOOD!***

One of the gods of the Egyptians was the god ***HAPI***. He was said to be the god of the Nile and the god ***KHNUM*** was to be the guardian of the Nile. In fact, the great god ***OSIRIS*** was said to have the Nile as his blood!

Think about how this was a powerful witness of what the God of the children of Israel can do. You see, it seems that Pharaoh went down to the Nile River regularly to worship there but this time, his gods are bloody!

The problem is, as we will see, Pharaoh keeps hardening his heart towards God and the more he does, the more serious the judgments will get.

Let me show you what I mean.

- The first three plagues you might say were just distressful. We will see the water turning to blood, we will see frogs and we will see lice. Again – ***DISTRESSFUL!***
- The second three plagues were painful, and they were very costly. We will see flies, death of the livestock, and boils. Again – ***PAINFUL AND COSTLY!***

- As we get to the last four plagues, we will see that they are very dangerous and destructive. We will see hail, locusts, darkness and then the last one, the death of the firstborn. Again – ***DANGEROUS AND DESTRUCTIVE!***

The idea here and for sinners in general is that the more they resist God, the more they reject His Word, the ***LOUDER*** God will speak to them through various things that they will go through.

Here is where we need to be careful. When we see family and friends go through difficult times, we want to help them out, rescue them and we need to be aware that maybe God is trying to awaken them!

#### VERSES 19-21

Keep in mind that the Nile River had been a source of life to the Egyptians. But now, in this judgement of God, it turns into a source of death.

Just as God told Moses and Aaron, just as they told Pharaoh, it came to pass and the smell of all those dead fish caused a stench in the land of Egypt!

It is interesting because we find this mentioned in the Ipuwer Papyrus from this period of time. In Ipuwer 2.10 it speaks of the Nile River becoming blood and undrinkable!

That same papyrus repeatedly mentions that the servants left their masters. In other words – ***THE EXODUS!***

#### VERSES 22-25

So the magicians of Egypt began digging and finding fresh water to replicate what the Lord did in this plague. They too turned the fresh water into blood!

Now think about this for a minute. For seven days this plague lasted and the only water they could drink was well water.

And here come these magicians of Egypt and instead of healing the river they take the water they received from the well and they turn it to blood.

Why did they do that?

As I have said, there is power in the realm of darkness as we have seen. The thing I want you to see is that the occult forces can't heal, they can only cause more destruction, as we will see with these other plagues.

Only God can bring true healing!

It is a Meyer wrote, *“Alleviation of human suffering is no part of the program of the devil or his agents. That can only come from Jehovah, through the believing cry of his servants.”*

Because of all this we once again see that Pharaoh hardened his heart, he refused to surrender to the true and living God!

And he should have been shaken by all of this because his magicians had no real power to deliver them!

Keep in mind that God knew Pharaoh's heart and what it would take to let His people go.

But make no mistake about it; Pharaoh did not turn to the Lord just as Judas didn't.

He recognized his error, as Pharaoh will, but they never repented of their sin and got right with God, but they hardened their heart.

We need to keep our hearts soft and open to what the Lord is showing us and then we need to obey His Words to us!

**EXODUS 8****VERSES 1-4**

Here we see the second plague, brought about because Pharaoh refused to let God's people go. And this plague was of – ***FROGS!***

Make no mistake about it, God is very gracious and merciful, giving Pharaoh another chance to let God's people go.

But, if he refuses to let them go, then frogs will overtake the land; they will be everywhere, even in their houses!

Remember from the first plague and what I said. You see, in these different plagues God is destroying their deities to show Pharaoh and the Egyptian people who the real God is!

To the Egyptians, frogs were sacred, they were worshiped, they were not to be killed.

***Heqt*** was this goddess who had the body of a woman and a head of a frog. She was married to ***Khum*** and this god made people and this goddess breathed life into them from her nostrils.

Keep in mind that frogs were very abundant around the Nile River because they reproduced rapidly. And thus, because they were amphibians, they were part of two worlds, creatures of both land and water. And they worshiped them as I have said.

Again, half frog and half woman. I don't know about this god, a woman with a frog head, that is not too good. It is not the kind of love story that ***croaks*** you all up – well, maybe it is!

VERSES 5-7

Pharaoh refuses to let the children of Israel go and thus, Aaron stretches out his hand with his rod and there are frogs, frogs, frogs everywhere!

They wanted to worship this frog god, now they have all the frogs they could ever want.

God does have a good sense of humor.

Let me make this little side note here.

Sin is just like this. That which you worship, be it alcohol, drugs, sex, possessions and-so-on, you can become plagued by them, they overtake your life.

The warning is simple. Don't go down that path.

Remember, sin is not bad because it is forbidden, but it is forbidden because it is bad.

Thus, God warns us to stay away from it because He loves us!

And once again here come the magicians of Pharaoh and they make more frogs, not exactly what they needed at this time.

Was this a trick?

Absolutely not! There is power in the occult but also understand they were only able to bring about more misery, not healing.

You see, only God can bring true healing!

VERSES 8-15

Enough is enough, Pharaoh couldn't take it any longer and he asks Moses to call upon their God to get rid of these frogs and he will then let the children of Israel go to sacrifice to the **LORD** – to Yahweh!

Now please understand that Pharaoh wanted relief, he didn't want the **LORD**.



And we are told that Moses asked Pharaoh when he wanted the frogs to go away!

I don't know about you, but I would have told Moses – ***IMMEDIATELY!***

But Pharaoh tells Moses that tomorrow will be fine!

Are you kidding me?

First of all, why did Moses let Pharaoh choose the time for the frogs to be taken away by God?

I think the reason was to prove to him and to all the Egyptians that this was a plague from the God of the Hebrews and not a freak natural phenomenon.

Not only that but it demonstrated that ***YAHWEH*** was the living God who heard their words and responded to the prayers of His servants.

Okay, but what about Pharaoh, why wait a day?

Maybe he thought that by then his magicians would come up with something to get rid of them and he was stalling.

But the magicians could not eliminate the frogs, only make more frogs.

And so, after Pharaoh's magicians failed, the next day the frogs died and stunk up the land. Their god stunk and is dead!

And these so-called gods, these frogs who were dead, were placed in a big pile and burned up!

And what Pharaoh does next, man does as well.

You see, when the frogs were gone, the pressure was removed, and Pharaoh hardened his heart once again and refused to let them go!

It is like the story of a farmer who was nailing some shingles on the peak of his roof when he suddenly lost his footing.

Sliding down the roof, headed for destruction, he said, ***“Lord, if you’re there, save me and I’ll give you my life.”***

Just then, as he reached the edge of the roof and was about to plunge to his demise, his belt loop caught on a nail and halted his fall – at which point he looked up to heaven and said, ***“Never mind, Lord. The nail saved me.”***

May we be careful and heed the voice of God, not tomorrow, but today, realizing all that we have, the very breathe we breath is a gift from God!

Let me sum this up for you with these words from Warren Wiersbe about hardening your heart to what you have seen to be true. He wrote,

It means to see clear evidence of the hand of God at work and still refuse to accept His Word and submit to His will. It means to resist Him by showing ingratitude and disobedience and not having any fear of the Lord or of His judgments. . . .

Many sinners aren’t interested in repenting and receiving God’s grace; they want only to be delivered from God’s judgment. . . .

In my pastoral ministry, I’ve met people who were in trouble in one way or another, who begged me to pray that the Lord would deliver them.

They made all kinds of promises to me and to the Lord, telling what they’d do if He would help them.

But when He did graciously help them, they forgot their promises and even forgot the Lord. I never saw them again. They were quite unlike the psalmist who wrote: ***“I will come to Your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to You - vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble”*** (Ps. 66:13–14, NIV).

Pharaoh may have hardened his heart to the **LORD**, but God is going to continue to work on Pharaoh as we will see,

### VERSES 16-17

We now come to the third plague – **LICE!**

I believe this plague struck at the heart of the Egyptian worship, affecting the priests and their sacrificial animals.

Make no mistake about it, there is a lot of dust in Egypt and now we see these lice come out of that dust, and thus, there were a lot of lice!

Interestingly enough, the Egyptian god of the desert was **Set**.

Because the Egyptian priesthood were extremely careful about hygiene and ritual cleansing, this infestation of lice made them unable to worship their gods! Also, it made the animals unfit for sacrifice!

Also, keep in mind that these lice or tiny stinging gnats were barely visible to the eye, but they could surely be felt when they stung you!

Now, unlike the previous two plagues, this one came without warning. We also will see this with the sixth and ninth plagues.

To make this easy, just remember that every third plague there is no warning.

Is that fair?

Yes, in fact, if God never showed mercy, He still would be fair, He would still be righteous in His actions.

But He does show mercy but there are times when warnings have not worked, and judgment must come!

So as Aaron touched the dust of the earth with his rod, the land was filled with lice attacking man and beast!

#### VERSES 18-19

Let me ask you this. Why couldn't the magicians of Egypt reproduce this miracle when they had done so with the first two? (The water to blood and frogs)

I think the reason is simple. God didn't allow them to and by doing this He showed who was really in control of all things!

Now, what is interesting to me is that these magicians recognized when they have been outdone and they tell Pharaoh, "**This is the finger of God.**"

In other words, they told Pharaoh that the God of the children of Israel is better, stronger than all their gods and goddesses!

Upon hearing this, instead of surrendering to the true and living God, he hardens his heart to God.

As irrational as this is, people do that every day, they refuse to come to the Lord!

#### VERSES 20-24

Now as you read Exodus 8:20, when Moses said, "**Let My people go, that they may serve Me**" there is no record of a specific reply from Pharaoh to this request, but since the plague came, he obviously did not soften his heart towards the **LORD** God. Perhaps the reaction was not described because there was no reaction; perhaps he ignored Moses' message.

And here we see the second set of three plagues against the Egyptians – ***FLIES!***

And this time it is with flies or really blood-sucking insects and thus, it could be a variety of them.

Some feel it is the *Ichneumon fly*, which is related to the wasp.

It may have been the “*dog fly*” which is known for their painful bites that represented the god *Uatchit*, the god of the flies.

Others believe that this swarm consisted of millions of scarab beetles which the Egyptians worshipped as gods. If that’s true it meant that this was a judgment upon against *Khepri*, the god of the sacred beetle.

Or it could just be a bunch of different types of insects, we just aren’t sure. One thing we do know, this judgment was upon the gods that the Egyptians worshiped, and these so-called gods could not do anything to help them!

Whatever the case, Psalm 78:45 tells us, “**He sent swarms of flies among them, which devoured them . . .**” whatever they were, they were biting insects and there were swarms of them! They got into everything and everywhere!

I also want you to notice that this is the first plague where God set apart His people in the land of Goshen from being affected by it.

Why did God do this?

We are told, “**In order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land.**” Exodus 8:22.

God could have just destroyed the Egyptians and been done with it, but He keeps giving them an opportunity to come to Him.

Folks, God hasn't changed. Peter tells us, "**The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.**" II Peter 3:9-10.

The tragedy is, like with the Egyptians, many will refuse the grace and mercy of God and His patients and longsuffering will end and they will face His judgment!

#### VERSES 25-27

Pharaoh gives in and tells them that they can worship their God, but he offers a compromise, they can't leave the land, but they can worship in the land!

And Moses tells Pharaoh that the Egyptians won't stand for this; it will be an abomination before them as the children of Israel sacrifice to the true and living God and this would be in opposition to the gods of the Egyptians, the Egyptians would not agree to this!

Cole put it like this. He wrote, "*Moses refuses on the grounds that to sacrifice in Egypt would be like killing a pig in a Muslim mosque, or slaughtering a cow in a Hindu temple. . . . In the sense that the Egyptians would consider the sacrifice of a sacred animal as blasphemous.*"

What does this mean to us?

Pharaoh is a type of Satan who will give us a compromise regarding our faith, and it only keeps us in bondage, it does not set us free.

*“You don’t have to go to church, listen to it on the radio or watch on the internet, it’s the same thing!”*

*“You can worship God on the golf course, get back to His creation instead of in a building!”*

*“You work hard all week, you need some time off to relax, don’t go to church. God understands!”*

*“Don’t go too far with your faith, don’t get carried away with it but stay within these borders!”*

And the list of compromise goes on-and-on and yet, Paul reminds us in Hebrews 10:24-25, **“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”**

So who are you going to listen to?

I like the way that Morgan sums this up for us. He wrote, *“That is the true attitude of the man of faith. Evil is always suggesting some compromise. To listen to it, is to remain enslaved. The only way into liberty is to leave the land of evil; to go accompanied by the women and the children; and to take all property also. It is when that attitude is assumed, that men pass out from all bondage, and find the liberty which is in the purpose of God for them.”*

Now please understand that the idea here is not to go to some deserted island and isolate yourself from everyone. We are to be in the world, but we are not to let the world get into our lives.

VERSES 28-32

Moses was not going to compromise what the Lord had told him to do, and it seems that Pharaoh agreed, asking Moses to intercede before God for him and get rid of these flies!

He knew where this plague came from and that he could not get rid of it on his own and yet, once the flies are gone, once God removes them, he hardens his heart before God and refuses to let God's people go!

Folks, as you continue in sin your heart will grow hard, it will become cold.

Think of alcoholics, they start out with a few drinks here and a few drinks there, before they are addicted!

A person who gambles away his paycheck started out with a few harmless bets and now he has lost everything!

A person who is addicted to pornography and all kinds of perversion probably started out with a few magazines, maybe a CD, an Internet site and now he has destroyed his life with this perversion.

It is as Chadwick wrote, "*The drunkard, the murderer himself, is a man who at first did evil as far as he dared, and afterwards dared to do evil which he would once have shuddered at.*"

How true that is. Be wise, listen to God, don't go down that path hardening your heart to what God is saying!

Notice how this chapter sadly ends, "**But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.**" Exodus 8:32.

And thus, judgment would come upon him and the Egyptians once again.



**EXODUS 9****VERSES 1-4**

In mercy, God told Moses to give another warning so that Pharaoh would have an opportunity to repent.

But if he refuses to let the children of Israel go, then this fifth plague will come upon them – ***THE LIVESTOCK WILL BE DISEASED!***

In this judgment of the livestock of the Egyptians it is against those that are out in the fields. But again, God is going to differentiate the Egyptians from the children of Israel in that the livestock of the children of Israel will not be affected by this judgment.

Also, the livestock that were not in the fields were not affected by this plague, only the ones out in the fields died.

Keep in mind that the gods of Egypt were identified with bulls, and cows as well as other livestock. So we once again see a judgment upon the false gods of Egypt!

Let me give you a few examples to show you what I mean.

- ***Hathor*** was an Egyptian goddess with the head of a cow.
- ***Apis*** was the bull god of fertility.
- ***Khnum*** or the ram god.
- And in general, the Egyptian religion considered cattle sacred, and the cow was often a symbol of fertility.

This was such a part of their life that in an ancient record of a battle that the Egyptians were in and lost was due to the fact that their enemies put a herd of cattle in the front of their advancing troops. Because of that the Egyptian soldiers would not shoot at the opposing army because they feared they would accidentally kill a cow, which they considered sacred!

One writer summed it up like this. He wrote,

Not all the animals of the Egyptians were destroyed, since some are referred to in verse 19 and some were later killed on the Passover night (12:29b). Some fled into the houses (v. 20).

So the “all” of verse 6a means “all in the field” or “all kinds.”

The ram, the goat, and the bull were sacred animals in Egypt. Now their decomposing carcasses were polluting the environment.

- William MacDonald, Believer’s Bible Commentary, p. 95

Keep in mind that Pharaoh has the opportunity to prevent this judgment, but he refuses to let God’s people go in spite of what he has already seen and what is coming!

#### VERSES 5-7

As this plague is going on, Pharaoh sends out his men to see if the livestock of the children of Israel were affected, but, as God said, they weren’t.

But his heart did not change; it remained hard and cold to what God was saying. Thus, more judgment is about to come down upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians!

#### VERSES 8-10

Here, in third plague, in this second set of three plagues, it came without warning!

Kaiser put it like this in regard to who this plague affected. He wrote, *“For the first time the lives of humans are attacked and endangered, and thus it was a foreshadowing of the tenth and most dreadful of all the plagues.”*

So in this sixth plague, it is a judgment of – ***BOILS UPON MAN AND BEAST!***

Now, in the sixth plague God is destroying, in the minds of the Egyptians, the power of their gods.

With these boils the idea is a swelling, painful, burning skin inflammation and this will not only affect people but also animals!

*Sekhmet* was the goddess who was to have power over disease.

**Sunu** was the pestilence god.

*Isis* was the goddess of healing.

And *Imhotep* was the god of medicine.

But none of these so-called gods or goddesses could help!

#### VERSES 11-12

It seems that this plague was very painful, even for the magicians who were to be close to these gods, and they bow off the scene, they had no power before God.

And Pharaoh, his heart is not changed but he makes his decision firmer in not letting God's people go, he continues to harden his heart.

But it says here in Exodus 9:12 that God hardened Pharaoh's heart.

Please understand that what this is speaking of is that God just made firm what Pharaoh already wanted.

Cole put it like this, *“This is the first occasion on which this form of words is used after an actual plague. Previously, the position has always been put from the other side: pharaoh has hardened his own heart. The moral would be that God hardens those who harden themselves.”*

And another writer said, “*Harden’ is the expression, not of the divine purpose but of the result of disobedience to the divine appeals. As a matter of fact, all the plagues were intended and calculated to soften, if Pharaoh had been willing to yield.*” (Thomas)

Pharaoh could not blame God for what came upon him and the Egyptians. This was Pharaoh’s will and God made firm what Pharaoh wanted to do!

And notice what Exodus 9:12 closes with, “**... just as the LORD had spoken to Moses.**”

You see, the Lord is all-knowing and thus, He knew what Pharaoh would do and all was going according to the plan of God, even the hardness of Pharaoh’s heart!

#### VERSES 13-21

As you can see, God gave Pharaoh this extended warning of what was ahead.

Why did He do that?

Because He wanted Pharaoh to know who was in control and it wasn’t Pharaoh, it was God!

And God explains to Pharaoh that He has been merciful to him and the Egyptians. He could have wiped them out already with pestilence! But He didn’t because He is giving them a chance to repent and let the children of Israel go.

And when it says here in Exodus 9:14 that “**... I will send all My plagues to your very heart ...**” the idea is God is going to send “*the full force of my plagues.*”

And we will see that as we go through these next three plagues, they will be more severe than the previous ones and they are described in more detail than the previous ones.

Here in this seventh plague, we see – ***HAIL MINGLED WITH FIRE!***

Keep in mind that God is coming against the gods of Egypt in these plagues. And here the Lord is coming against the Egyptian goddess of the sky, *Nut*.

In relation to the true and living God, this goddess was a peanut! Sorry.

Also, *Set* the god of storms and *Osiris* the god of crops and fertility.

And the Lord says that He could have wiped them out but instead, because He wants them to come to the true and living God, He is bringing these judgments upon them.

So far we have seen six plagues and Pharaoh's heart remains hard!

We are told that the crops that were destroyed in this judgment of God were the flax and the barely, which means it was probably February or March. The wheat and the spelt [Spelt is an ancient grain that is a subspecies of wheat] were not destroyed because they were late crops and harvested in the fall.

Now this is interesting. We are told that some of the Egyptians saw the light and they heeded the warnings of God and brought their livestock in from the fields so they would not be destroyed.

But those who refused to do this lost the rest of their livestock in this judgment.

What I want you to notice is the ones who "*feared the word of the LORD*" obeyed the Lord!

I wish more people would fear the Lord and listen to His voice through the Word of the Lord. And not just listen, but believe it and apply it to their lives, from pastors to Christians to the unsaved that they would get saved!

It is as Paul said in Romans 1:16, "**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.**"

And in Romans 10:17 Paul said, **“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”**

Peter tells us in I Peter 2:2-3, **“as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”**

God’s Word saves us, our faith grows as we read and apply God’s Word, and we mature by God’s Word all empowered by the Spirit of God who brings us to Jesus!

That is why the Devil keeps you away from the Word of God or waters it down, changes it so people can’t get saved or those that are saved, can’t grow! Let us be wise to what he has for us and what God has for us!

Now what is this hail that is spoken of in this judgment?

The Hebrew word for **“hail”** is ***BARAD*** and it speaks of a stone. And here it is mingled with fire. That is some judgment.

But, in Revelation 16:21 there is another hailstorm, but this hail weighs some 75 pounds!

We don’t know how much this hail weighed but it was mingled with fire, and it was devastating! And folks, this was a judgment of God and not a meteorite shower or something like that because it only affected the Egyptians and not the children of Israel living in the land of Goshen.

If God did use meteorites He aimed them perfectly, which He could do!

### VERSES 22-26

Can you imagine the fear that came upon the Egyptians when they saw this come upon the land!

And as I have said, some listened to what the Lord said and moved their livestock from the fields.

But many didn't believe what God was saying and they were destroyed in this judgment.

What is the point?

My point is this. Saving faith is always coupled with action!

Think about what is coming, the judgment of God upon a Christ rejecting world. And like Egypt, which is a type of the world, God has warned, and they refuse to believe what God has said, they won't take action and come to saving faith. Thus, they will perish in the coming judgment of God!

One other point, we are told in Exodus 9:26, **“Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.”** Which tells me that **“. . . the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.”** II Peter 2:9.

#### VERSES 27-35

As you read this it seems that Pharaoh is repenting but Moses rightly discerns that his words are empty, he was not going to let God's people go even after this plague is finished.

And Moses tells Pharaoh that he will stop the hail but also, he tells Pharaoh that he knows he won't let God's people go, but why?

Because he did not fear the Lord, which is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom!

Please understand that confession is worthless if it isn't connected to repentance or a change in a person's actions.

I think what we see with Pharaoh is what many people do today. They are in trouble; things are falling apart in their lives. This causes them to cry out to God for help, which is good.

That is what Pharaoh was doing!

But then, once deliverance comes from the situation that they are in, they are back to their old ways, they don't need God any longer.

Again, that is what Pharaoh was doing!

Remember what Paul wrote in II Corinthians 7:8-10, "**For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.**"

If Paul was speaking of his first letter to the Corinthians, full of corrections, it was difficult for him to send it, and yet, Paul knew it had to be sent.

And as they read it, they were hurt, they felt sorry, but that sorrow then led them to repent of their sin and get right with God.

I like the way that one writer summed it up for us regarding the pain of correction and what it does in our life. He wrote,

The whole process which the apostle is describing here may be likened to the work of a surgeon.



In order for him to remove a dangerously infected part from the human body, it is necessary for him to cut deep into the flesh. He does not rejoice in this causing pain to the patient, though he knows it must be done if the patient is to regain his health. Especially if the patient is a close friend, the surgeon is keenly aware of the suffering that will be necessary. But he realizes that this suffering is only temporary, and he is willing that it should be so in order that the final outcome might be favorable.

- William MacDonald

Exactly and that is what we see here with Paul, that he is rejoicing over the good that came from that letter, how they responded to it, at least some of them.

You see, for the Corinthians, their sorrow led to repentance; it led to a change in the direction that they were going.

Repentance is more than a feeling, it is an action word, and it speaks of turning around.

They were moving away from God by their actions, they repented and came back to God that led to salvation or *SOTERIA*, (so-tay-ree'-ah) in the Greek. This word speaks of more than just being born again, it encompasses all that God has for us, that our walk is not hindering God from pouring out His blessings upon us!

Now, what is true repentance?

First of all, it involves an awareness and understanding of our *SIN!*

Secondly, our emotions are involved. In other words, we need to feel bad for what we have done. We need to realize that it was wrong! Not make excuses for what we have done but admit we were wrong!

And the third point is simple. We must do the right thing, make a change in our behavior and follow what God has said in His Word! We were moving 180 degrees away from God and now we have repented, and we have turned around 180 degrees and are moving towards God, we are following our Good Shepherd!

That is true repentance.

But think about people who are sorry, prisons are full of them, they are sorry for getting caught.

That is worldly sorrow, and it does not lead to life, but to death. It does not cause a person to change but they continue to move in the same direction away from God. That kind of sorrow produces death, spiritual death in a person!

Remember what Paul said here in II Corinthians, “**For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.**” II Corinthians 7:10.

Pharaoh was sorry for the consequences of his actions, but once the trouble, once the danger was gone, he was still doing his own thing and not obeying God.

And as we will continue to see, we have three more plagues to go before Pharaoh will let the children of Israel go!