HAIL FROM HEAVEN

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**DATE: 9/23/2018 pm**

**TEXT: Exodus 9:13-35 (Stand and Read)**

**INTRODUCTION**

We pick up our study in the Life of Moses with the 7th Plague tonight

The Word of the Lord is becoming very uncomfortable for Pharaoh because he would not obey

All this king had to do was submit to God's command

The fact that he has continued to resist in spite of the previous plagues is a clear indication of the hardness of his heart

He doesn't care who suffers

He is determined to have his own way no matter what the cost

In his mind, he believes he is superior to Moses’ God

But God has continued to demonstrate His mercy in spite of the king's rebellion

He could have wipe him out after his first refusal, but He didn’t

The Lord has gradually increased the pressure after each refusal to obey, and Pharaoh's time is running out

 People act the same way today, with destructive results

Unfortunately, some of these folks are so-called Christians

There are 2 words in the Christian vocabulary which cannot go together when it comes to obeying God

And they are - *No God*

If someone persist in their rebellion, we can also expect chastening

In Egypt's case, they reaped the Hail from Heaven

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “PLAGUES AND PESTILENCE” – vs. 13-17**

The third cycle of plagues begins here

This cycle will be more severe than the previous ones and more detailed in description

The times of mild warnings are gone

This is the longest warning so far, probably because it will be the most destructive plague up to this point

In **v.13**, the Lord picks up again where He left off

If Pharaoh is going to please God, he must Obey

God says again - ***“Let My people go”***

The Lord is knocking at the door of Pharaoh's heart

The message of the Lord is very simple, Obey

The phrase ***“at this time”*** in **v.14** come from a Hebrew word which means *stroke, anvil,* or *hoof-beat*

This phrase points to a rapid and continuous succession of blows

Like a blacksmith hammering metal on an anvil,

God has been hammering at the hard heart of Pharaoh for the purpose of getting him to conform to His will

Like the rapid hoof beat of a running horse, God has been sending one plague after another to try to bring the king to a point of repentance

Pharaoh had the Burger King attitude, though …

*He wanted to have it his way*

The result was self-destruction

The purpose of the chastisement is revealed in **v. 14**

***“That thou mayest know there is none else like Me in all the earth”***

The principle here is that God uses Chastisement, Tribulation, or Hail from Heaven, to get people’s attention

**v. 15 – *“For now I will stretch out My hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth”***

God could have wiped out Egypt totally by this point, but He didn't

In mercy, He was giving Pharaoh one opportunity after another to repent and obey the Lord's command

But Soon, Pharaoh's time would be up

God’s Grace and Mercy will not be extended indefinitely

**A. The ‘Purpose’ – v. 16**

***“And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee My power; and that My Name may be declared throughout all the earth”***

**1.** God kept Pharaoh alive

And allowed him to remain and sustained him in his position for the purpose of revealing and glorifying Himself

He spared this king for a Purpose,

Which was to show His power and to spread His fame throughout the earth

**Psalm 75:7 – “*But God is the Judge: He putteth down one, and setteth up another”***

**Daniel 2:21 – “*And He changeth the times and the seasons: He removeth kings, and setteth up kings: He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:”***

**2.** The Lord knew Pharaoh’s Heart

The Lord knew that the attitudes of this king would lead to a conflict and its Results

Pharaoh's Halt to God's commands would Exalt God

His Irreverence would Illuminate the glory of the Lord

His Resistance would bring Respect and Reverence

God would reveal Himself through Pharaoh's Resistance, Rebellion, and Resolve to disobey

The anger of this king would lead to the praise of God

**Psalm 76:10 – “*Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee: the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain”***

God can find a use for even the most wicked of persons

(He can even glorify Himself through that angry, mean person in your life)

**Proverbs 16:4 – “*The Lord hath made all things for Himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil”***

**3.** God will be Glorified

We will all glorify God in one way or another,

Some will glorify God in obedience while some will glorify God in disobedience like this king

Those who glorify God in disobedience will do so through the judgment they receive for their disobedience

**Romans 14:11 – *“For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God”***

**Philippians 2:11 – *“And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”***

This was how Pharaoh glorified God

As such, Pharaoh received no blessing for glorifying God;

For only obedience is blessed of the Lord

Are we bringing honor and glory to the Lord with our life, our actions, and our attitudes?

**B. The ‘Pride’ – v. 17**

***“As yet exaltest thou thyself against My people, that thou wilt not let them go?”***

The Bible tells us that this king has Exalted himself against God and His people

The word ***“exaltest”*** means *to oppose, to raise a mound or bank of rock or dirt, to obstruct*

This is what Pharaoh has been doing

He has been obstructing the worship of God's people and their exit from Egypt

God will deal with those who try to obstruct or oppose His will and work, and not obey His commands

A cocky spirit of pride will destroy someone’s life

Many a person has ruined their life because of their cockiness

When someone becomes unteachable, he becomes unusable

He cannot be directed because he is going his own way

The most difficult people that I have dealt with in my life are those who are unteachable, cocky, proud, and think they know it all

You can't help anyone with this kind of attitude

In fact, God calls them a fool

[**Obadiah 1:4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ob+1%3A4) **– “*Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord”***

[**Matthew 23:12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+23%3A12) **– “*And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted”***

[**Psalm 73:6**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+73%3A6) **– “*Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment”***

[**Proverbs 16:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+16%3A18) **– “*Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall”***

Pride can manifest itself in several attitudes

-- I don't need God

-- I can run my own life better than the Lord

-- Who is God to tell me what to do?

**THE “PLAGUES AND PESTILENCE”**

**II. THE “PRONOUNCEMENT” – vs. 18-21 …**

Egypt's fish and meat stocks have been decimated

God now places attention upon the crops and vegetation

The Lord warns Pharaoh that the *Mother of all Storms* is coming

God's message to Pharaoh is, *You haven't seen anything yet!*

Could this Judgment be avoided?

Yes, if Pharaoh would obey

God gives him plenty of time to obey and prepare for what was coming

-- In mercy, God warned the world in Noah's day that judgment was coming

-- In mercy, God warned Nineveh

-- In mercy, the Lord warned Pharaoh

-- In mercy, He has warned us of the return of Christ and the coming Judgment

When God warns about Hell, it is not because He hates sinners, but because He loves them

God doesn't send people to Hell

People’s own free will sends them there

Men reject the message of Conscience and Creation

[**Romans 1:20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A20) **– “*For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”***

**A. The Hail Storm**

 **1.** The *Nature* of the Hail Storm

The Lord said it would Rain Hail – **v. 18**

We are all familiar with Hail

But how does Hail Form? How does this happen?

Drops of rain falling through a cold region of the atmosphere are frozen as they are sucked back up by an upward draft of air, freeze, and are converted into hail stones

Thus, the hail is produced by rain

When it begins to fall, it's rain; but during its descent it begins to freeze and is converted into hail; thus, it is literally true that it rains hail

The farther a hail-stone falls the larger it generally is, because in its descent, it meets with innumerable particles of water which attach and freeze to it, and thus its bulk is continually increasing until it reaches the earth

In Pharaoh’s case, if natural means were used, we can suppose that the atmosphere was loaded with moisture, which, becoming condensed and frozen, and having a considerable space to fall through, were of an unusually large size

**2.** The *Supernatural Nature* of the Storm

But this was more than a Normal Thunderstorm

There have been many storms of the natural kind, that have been exceedingly dreadful hailstorms

For Example …

On July 11, 1990, a severe thunderstorm developed near Estes Park Colorado and traveled southeast, dropping golf ball to baseball sized hail, in a swath that was at times, 5 to 10 miles wide. Some of the hardest hit areas included the southeast side of Boulder, downtown Denver, Littleton, the east side of Lakewood, Castle Rock and Franktown. Thousands of homes sustained major damage to roofs, windows and siding. Tens of thousands of automobiles were battered by the hailstones, many, a complete loss. Street signs were stripped of paint, traffic signals and street lights were broken, and thousands of shrubs, plants and trees were stripped of their foliage. In many neighborhoods, the storm drains became so overwhelmed by the hail, that it caused streets and basements to flood. In northwest Denver, 47 people were injured by the hail when they got stuck on rides at an amusement park. Losses totaled over $600 million, at the time, making it the costliest hailstorm in that state’s history.

On June 9th 2017 a major storm system lasting over a week created severe hail and high wind damage, reaching from Minnesota to Texas to Virginia to New York. The Minneapolis metro area suffered especially, receiving hail damage to many buildings and vehicles. The total damage for this event was estimated to be over $2.5 billion.

Someone writing about the History of Italy said *“that in 1510, there was for some time a horrible darkness, thicker than that of night, after which the clouds broke into thunder and lightning, and there fell a shower of hailstones which destroyed all the beasts, birds, and even fish of the country. It was attended with a strong smell of Sulphur, and the stones were of a bluish color, some of them weighing one hundred pounds.”*

It is interesting to note that hailstones of this size

… will fall during the Tribulation

**Revelation 16:21 – *“And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; …”***

A talent is around 100-120 pounds

God not only says that the Plague of Hail will be of unusual size

But fire will also be present

**v. 24 - *“and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous”***

That’s a Supernatural Storm!

**B. The ‘Principle for Blessing’ – v.19**

Not only does God make a Pronouncement of the coming of the Hail Storm

But He also warns them to get there belonging in out of harm’s way

***“Send therefore now, and gather thy cattle, and all that thou hast in the field; for upon every man and beast which shall be found in the field, and shall not be brought home, the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall die”***

God demonstrates His mercy again

God is giving them a chance to believe His Word

Divine clemency is offered to Pharaoh

The clemency is not in an Opportunity to Stop the plague as before,

But is a warning on how to avoid the Effects of the plague

Pharaoh is told that the people and the beasts can be spared if they will stay under shelter

The Lord is saying, *“Do what I say and you will be OK”*

**C. The ‘People’s Response’ – vs. 20,21**

***“He that feared the Word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses:” “And he that regarded not the Word of the LORD left his servants and his cattle in the field”***

These two verses sum it all up

[**Acts 28:24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+28%3A24) **– “*And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not”***

Those that feared the Word of the Lord obeyed

The reward of their faith was the survival of their cattle and servants

Their obedience involved taking a definite stand

They chose to believe God instead of Pharaoh

[**Isaiah 55:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+55%3A11) **– “*So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it”***

Even in the country of Egypt, God's Word did not return void or empty

Someone will always be affected by the Word of God

[**Acts 17:34**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+17%3A34) **– “*Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them”***

[**Philippians 4:22**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+4%3A22) **– “*All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household”***

Even though Pharaoh was hardened, all the people were not indifferent toward God's commands

In life, some folks obey the Word and some folks reject it like the king

When they reject it, they pay a price

[**Isaiah 5:24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+5%3A24) **– “*Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the Law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the Word of the Holy One of Israel”***

[**Zechariah 7:12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+7%3A12) **– “*Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the Law, and the Words which the Lord of hosts hath sent in His spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the Lord of hosts”***

The Egyptians that left their cattle in the field, left the Word of God, left blessing, and left their peace

We need to learn from their mistakes

**THE “PLAGUE AND PESTILENCE”**

**THE “PRONOUNCEMENT”**

**III. THE “PERFORMANCE” – vs. 22-35**

Pharaoh thought there were some things that were hard to believe in the message from the Lord

Nevertheless, God keeps His Word

This is His promise to us

[**Ezekiel 12:25**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+12%3A25) **– “*For I am the Lord: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the Word, and will perform it, saith the Lord God.”***

[**Matthew 5:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+5%3A18) **– “*For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled”***

[**Luke 21:33**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+21%3A33) **– “*Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away”***

This plague touches both men and beast

Men died from the huge stones of ice falling like boulders from Heaven

This plague was also an attack to discredit the gods of Egypt

-- Nut—sky goddess

-- Osiris—god of crops and fertility, He couldn't protect the crops

-- Set—god of storms, He couldn’t stop this storm

-- Isis—goddess of the air

The time of year is believed to be around mid-February

In Egypt the cattle are sent into open pasture from January to April when the grass was abundant

They remain in the stalls the rest of the year

The barley was in the ear

It ripens in February in Northern Egypt

It was the food of the poor and for the horses

The phrase ***“flax bolled”*** means it was in blossom which takes place in Mid-February and early March

Flax was used to make linen and was used exclusively by the priest

White linen is a picture of righteousness

In the Book of Revelation it pictured the righteousness of the saints

The destruction of the flax was a reminder of God's attitude toward our own righteousness

It is as filthy rags in the sight of God

This is the message that the Lord is trying to get across to the king of Egypt

You can't save yourself

Only the Lord can do this

**CONCLUSION**

 Pharaoh cried out to Moses to plea for him – **vs. 27, 28**

Moses entreats the LORD for him – **v. 33**

But as soon as Pharaoh see the reprieve, he changes his mind and refuses to Let God’s People go – **vs. 34, 35**

The result of such self-deceptive, dishonest, and faulty thinking is twofold

-- It further pushes back God

-- And it forces God to deal justly

**HAIL FROM HEAVEN**