

With Our Flocks and With Our Herds Will We Go

Exodus 9:8 – 10:9

~ Our Spiritual Safari endured the murrain in Egypt in our last report - and it wasn't pretty. We saw the Egyptians worshipping a bunch of sick and dying cows. Candidly, I hope we all got a few laughs – I know I did. Well, Pharaoh's magicians aren't laughing anymore because their false religion is out of business. Unfortunately, Pharaoh's heart is still hardened – and who hardened it? God? – No, friends! Pharaoh hardened his own heart! Further, God is now going to make Pharaoh stand by his decision to harden his heart. So, it seems like an endless and useless request for Moses to make to "... let my people go." Candidly, it doesn't seem like we are getting anywhere with the Lord right now. Well, God's plan is still to use Pharaoh to demonstrate His power to the children of Israel and throughout all the earth! We will now look upon God using the wrath of man to praise Himself; and it is both terrifying and glorious!

The land of Egypt is the land of no rain. Their average rainfall annually is around one inch! Well, they're going to get some real rain and hail in this report; the kind that they could have done without. The question arises now for the Egyptian standing around in our safari: do they believe God like the Israelite? The one's who believed God led their cattle to shelter; the one's that did not believe God will leave their cattle out in the field to die. The ones that did not believe God were judged by the hail and their lives and livelihoods were destroyed. They were all given the same chance to believe and accept God at His Word. There's no sense blaming Him for people's choice to reject Christ. Do you really believe God today, friends? Let's all ask ourselves that question - and then answer it....

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8 And the LORD said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh.

9 And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt.

10 And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast.

11 And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians.

12 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken unto Moses.

13 And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

14 For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth.

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.

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.

17 As yet exaltest thou thyself against my people, that thou wilt not let them go?

18 Behold, to morrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now.

19 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 .

20 He that feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses:

21 And he that regarded not the word of the LORD left his servants and his cattle in the field.

~ Isis is the goddess of the air. Much is said about her in the religions of Egypt. She is a prominent and principal member of the Theophany. The hail is directly aimed at her. The hail touches mankind and that's very important to note. This all denotes a message from God of an ultimate judgment that is now is coming. It is unwise today to continue to live as if nothing will ever happen to you in judgment. Those who believe that God doesn't judge sin are just a day away from discovering they are entirely wrong. Those who claim there is no hell or judgment only do so because they are covering up a sin in their lives that they refuse to give up. They are attempting to convince themselves that what they are doing is somehow okay. Every time. It's just that simple. That's the way it was in the days of Noah, and it will be that way again when Christ returns....

22 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.

23 And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.

24 So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

25 And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field.

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

27 And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: the LORD is righteous, and I and my people are wicked.

28 Intreat the LORD (for it is enough) that there be no more mighty thunderings and hail; and I will let you go, and ye shall stay no longer.

29 And Moses said unto him, As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that thou mayest know how that the earth is the LORD'S.

30 But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the LORD God.

31 And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was balled.

32 But the wheat and the rie were not smitten: for they were not grown up.

33 And Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread abroad his hands unto the LORD: and the thunders and hail ceased, and the rain was not poured upon the earth.

34 And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants.

35 And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, neither would he let the children of Israel go; as the LORD had spoken by Moses.

~ Well, it seems as if Pharaoh simply isn't going to let the children of Israel go. He has totally hardened his heart. As soon as we realize what it is going to take to convince Pharaoh to let them go, we realize we do not want to look upon that! At least, I don't! God has many reasons for doing what He does. One reason this is all happening is to force Pharaoh to reveal what type of man he truly is. Another is to display His might and power to the children of Israel. God could have removed Israel from the land of Egypt without any contact with Pharaoh at all. God could have packed them up in the middle of the night without notice and been gone without a trace before the sun came up. God is giving Pharaoh an opportunity for salvation. God is also demonstrating His abilities before they get all the way out there in the desert - where trusting Him is going to become nearly impossible....

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1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I might shew these my signs before him:

2 And that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; that ye may know how that I am the LORD.

3 And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.

4 Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to morrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast:

5 And they shall cover the face of the earth, that one cannot be able to see the earth: and they shall eat the residue of that which is escaped, which remaineth unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which groweth for you out of the field:

6 And they shall fill thy houses, and the houses of all thy servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians; which neither thy fathers, nor thy fathers' fathers have seen, since the day that they were upon the earth unto this day. And he turned himself, and went out from Pharaoh.

7 And Pharaoh's servants said unto him, How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?

8 And Moses and Aaron were brought again unto Pharaoh: and he said unto them, Go, serve the LORD your God: but who are they that shall go?

9 And Moses said, We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go; for we must hold a feast unto the LORD.

~ So, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God with the land of Egypt in total chaos. It is being decimated by these plagues. How long are you and I today going to continue on in the ways of the world? Pharaoh has a new compromise for Moses now, too: go worship but leave all the young. Pharaoh knew that if they got a three days head start, they wouldn't be coming back - they would just keep going - unless they didn't have their children. This section of Scripture holds a great pattern and draws a succinct corollary for believers today; and we outlined four compromises the church makes with the world today in our previous safari report. If you have not read that report I highly suggest you go back and do so now. The child of God today is always tempted with compromise. All four of these compromises parallel the Christian life every time. See, the lost world doesn't mind if we want to be a Christian - as long as we aren't what they deem "narrow minded" – which means believing the Bible is the Word of God. "Don't insist that certain things become a practice," says the world to the Christian. The world sends this subtle message to the Christian man and woman today: "... we'll love you unless you will not compromise with the Word of God!"

The best temptations Satan has to offer are incredibly subtle and nearly impossible to detect. I think a whole lot of Christians reading this right now have lives that are all wrapped up in the pleasures of this world and, as a result, their children are being brought up in the ways of Egypt - not of God. Most modern children are prepared for Egyptian life, so a huge rift is created in the average Christian home simply by proxy. The typical university level education is absolutely contrary to fundamental conservative theology at its finest. Well, we're told we must get along in the world - and the child of God is certainly in the world - so, it would seem logical that the child in the world should get in and make all the money he can and get involved in the world. Right?

Well, I'm not very smart, obviously, but I never ask a question in my reports that I don't know the answer to - and I do know that worldly success, wealth, education and the accomplishment of earthly endeavors are the most subtle deception that comes to a man today. It is the foremost problem in any home. Where there is rebellion, education is generally the epicenter of disagreement. See, the moment you get away from sound doctrine you err. It matters not what subject we are talking about. Seriously, what did you expect when you sent your children to an institution of the world and they came home and laughed at God? We get so ambitious for our children to get out there into the world and then we witness them become hopelessly lost. That's a tragic scene without recourse, my beloved. This is biting and subtle. What are you learning? Anything? What are you knowledgeable of? What are you teaching your children today? What are you demonstrating to your friends today? How are you allowing Christ to live through you? ~

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