

Moses – part 9
The Lord Strikes Egypt with Boils and Hail
by Victor Torres

We have seen the Lord send all sorts of plagues on Egypt to make them suffer. This is what He does to our old man. There comes a point in our life that we think, "if I only have enough money, then all my problems would be solved". However, wanting to get rich actually gives us more problems than solutions.

Mar 4:19 (CEV) But they start worrying about the needs of this life. **They are fooled by the desire to get rich and to have all kinds of other things.** So the message gets choked out, and they never produce anything.

The apostle Paul saw firsthand how attractive the things of this world can be as most of his companions in spreading the gospel left him.

2Ti 4:10 (CEV) Demas **loves the things of this world so much that he left me** and went to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus has gone to Dalmatia.

2Ti 4:11 Only Luke has stayed with me. Mark can be very helpful to me, so please find him and bring him with you.

All these plagues show us how determined the Lord is to destroy our old man and bring on the birth of the new man. He wants us to change our life and realize that all we had been striving for is vanity.

Ecc 12:8 (MKJV) Vanity of vanities, says the preacher; all *is* vanity.

Until we realize this and start serving Him, we are like the Pharaoh who can't let go of God's people.

Exo 8:25 (ESV) Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God within the land."

We also saw that Moses did not accept this compromise, as the Lord will not meet us halfway. The Lord wants a complete change of character.

Exo 8:26 (ESV) But Moses said, "It would not be right to do so, for the offerings we shall sacrifice to the LORD our God are an abomination to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice offerings abominable to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not stone us?"

Exo 8:27 (ESV) **We must go three days' journey** into the wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our God **as he tells us.**"

This three-days journey, if you remember, is a symbol of our complete separation from the desires of the flesh. This is what He tells us, and we had better pay attention, as did Moses.

Exo 8:28 (ESV) So Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only you must not go very far away. Plead for me."

Exo 8:29 Then Moses said, "Behold, I am going out from you and I will plead with the LORD that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people, tomorrow. Only let not Pharaoh cheat again by not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD."

Exo 8:30 So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD.

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

Exo 8:32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and did not let the people go.

So far we have seen how we apply these stories to our life. That is how we apply His words spiritually. But we should never forget that His words will also apply in a physical sense as He will also destroy all flesh in the future. The destruction of all flesh is what this next part of the story is telling us.

Exo 9:1 (CEV) The LORD sent Moses with this message for the king of Egypt: The LORD God of the Hebrews commands you to let his people go, so they can worship him.

Exo 9:2 If you keep refusing,

Exo 9:3 he will bring a terrible disease on your horses and donkeys, your camels and cattle, and your sheep and goats.

Exo 9:4 But the LORD will protect the animals that belong to the people of Israel, and none of theirs will die.

Exo 9:5 Tomorrow is the day the LORD has set to do this.

Exo 9:6 It happened the next day--**all of the animals belonging to the Egyptians died, but the Israelites did not lose even one.**

Exo 9:7 When the king found out, **he was still too stubborn to let the people go**

What does this mean to us, that all flesh will be destroyed? It means we shouldn't put our hopes and dreams on this world. We should hope for a better

world, when we are no longer slaves of the desires of this flesh. All these physical things that people work for so hard: new cars, big houses, lavish lifestyles, will one day be gone and these people who depend on these things to be happy will be the saddest.

Most of us are too proud to admit that we are wrong. It is the same pride that is keeping the pharaoh of Egypt from letting the Hebrews go.

Exo 9:8 (KJV) 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.

Exo 9:9 And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth *with* blains (the boils are erupting) **upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt.**

Exo 9:10 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.

Exo 9:11 And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; **for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians.**

This is the first plague that directly affects the bodies of the Egyptians. And to give you an idea of what boils are, here's an excerpt from Wikipedia:

Boils are bumpy, red, pus-filled lumps around a hair follicle that are tender, warm, **and very painful**. They range from pea-sized to golf ball-sized. A yellow or white point at the center of the lump can be seen when the boil is ready to drain or discharge pus. **In a severe infection, an individual may experience fever, swollen lymph nodes, and fatigue.**

So these things are not only gross looking, they are also very painful. This is the same thing that Satan (with the Lord's permission) gave Job who was also insisting on his self-righteousness.

Job 2:6 (KJV) And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he *is* in thine hand; but save his life.

Job 2:7 So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, **and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.**

Job was stricken with very painful boils from head to toe. It was so painful Job couldn't do anything but sit in a heap of ashes and scrape himself with a piece of broken pot.

In the end, Job, who is a symbol of the elect, realized he had no righteousness and admitted that he is a horrible person.

Job 40:4 (KJV) **Behold, I am vile** [horrible]! What shall I answer You? I will lay my hand on my mouth.

Unlike Job however, the Pharaoh's heart was hardened once again by the Lord.

Exo 9:12 (ESV) **But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh**, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had spoken to Moses.

Some of you might be tempted to think, "what a mean person God is". But He would only be mean if He didn't plan to save pharaoh in the end also. Most Christian religion teaches that. They say Pharaoh will still end up in hell despite the Bible saying it very clearly that it was the Lord who hardened Pharaoh's heart.

In these next verses, it is explained why the Lord kept on hardening Pharaoh's heart:

Exo 9:13 (ESV) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present 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.

Exo 9:14 For this time I will send all my plagues on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth.

Exo 9:15 For by now I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth.

Exo 9:16 **But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.**

That's why the Lord kept on hardening Pharaoh's heart – to show His power and so that His name will be proclaimed in all the earth.

These are all supernatural events. There are people out there who try to explain these things can naturally occur. But you are so blessed if you are given the faith to believe all these miracles the Lord performed through Moses and Aaron.

Exo 9:17 (ESV) You are still exalting yourself against my people and will not let them go.

Exo 9:18 Behold, about this time tomorrow I will cause very heavy hail to fall, such as never has been in Egypt from the day it was founded until now.

Exo 9:19 Now therefore send, get your livestock and all that you have in the field into safe shelter, for every man and beast that is in the field and is not brought home will die when the hail falls on them."''

Exo 9:20 Then whoever feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh hurried his slaves and his livestock into the houses,

Exo 9:21 **but whoever did not pay attention to the word of the LORD left his slaves and his livestock in the field.**

The field is the world, the church world. If we don't pay attention to the word of the Lord and still trust in the churches of this world, our life would be destroyed just as those slaves who left their livestock in the field.

Exo 9:22 (ESV) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, so that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, on man and beast and every plant of the field, in the land of Egypt."

Exo 9:23 Then Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.

Exo 9:24 There was hail and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very heavy hail, such as had never been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

Exo 9:25 The hail struck down everything that was in the field in all the land of Egypt, both man and beast. And the hail struck down every plant of the field and broke every tree of the field.

Exo 9:26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the people of Israel were, was there no hail.

Very heavy hail in the desert? Hail mixed with fire flashing continually? These are all terrifying events in the life of Pharaoh.

And the Lord will also send us "hailstorms" and "fire" in our life to humble us and make us pay complete attention to His words.

Psa 148:7 (KJV) Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps:

Psa 148:8 **Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word:**

Psa 148:9 Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars:

Psa 148:10 Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:

Psa 148:11 Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth:

Psa 148:12 Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children:

Psa 148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory *is* above the earth and heaven.