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The Seventh Plague—The Destruction of Crops and Cattle by Hail

By David DeWitt

“But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth. Still you exalt yourself against My people by not letting them go. Behold, about this time tomorrow, I will send a very heavy hail, such as has not been seen in Egypt from the day it was founded until now. Now therefore send, bring your livestock and whatever you have in the field to safety. Every man and beast that is found in the field and is not brought home, when the hail comes down on them, will die.” The one among the servants of Pharaoh who feared the word of the Lord made his servants and his livestock flee into the houses; but he who paid no regard to the word of the Lord left his servants and his livestock in the field (Exodus 9:16-21).

- When God told Moses to announce this plague, *a very heavy hail, such as has not been seen in Egypt from the day it was founded until now* (v. 18), He added a significant statement of purpose, and the main idea of the chapter. God told Pharaoh why he is still alive:

(1) *in order to show you My power and*

(2) *in order to proclaim My name through all the earth* (v. 16).

- This gives us one reason why God does what He does, to proclaim His power and His name throughout the earth, even to unbelievers.
- Apparently, there were some Egyptians who believed in God. *The one among the servants of Pharaoh who feared the word of the LORD made his servants and his livestock flee into the houses.* Probably they were Egyptians who lived among the Israelites in Goshen (v. 26).
- In verse 27, when he experienced the force of the hail, Pharaoh said, *“I have sinned this time; the LORD is the righteous one.”* This sounds like a repentance and belief in God, but it wasn’t (9:30; 34–35).

PT: Just because someone confesses their sin and fears God does not make them a believer. Only belief makes one a believer.

Verses 31–32 tell us that the author was acquainted with the details of the growing seasons in Egypt as, of course, Moses was, having grown up there (*Now the flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud. But the wheat and the spelt were not ruined, for they ripen late*).

Application: Do not teach that God will ultimately fix the world, but that God will ultimately proclaim Himself to the people of the world, and not just for their salvation, but that they may be forced to know His power and His name *through all the earth*. That was one of the purposes for Israel, the church, and here His plagues before Pharaoh.

God is not going to save the world, or fix the world, or remake it into an eternal home. He’s going to destroy the earth and send unbelievers to the lake of fire in the outer darkness. But what He is going to say to the earth is something like He said to Pharaoh.

Exodus 9:16 *But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth.*