

“Pharaoh – Raised for Destruction”

(Exodus 9)

– The Plague on the Livestock (v1-7)

- **A “hard plague” for a “hard heart”**
- **Numbers 33:4 – “executing judgements on the gods of Egypt”**
 - **Ptah, Ra, Isis, Hathor, Apis (c.f. – the Golden Calf)**
 - **Apis being strongly masculine – representative of sexual prowess**
 - **Hathor being distinctly feminine – representative of pleasure / glamour**
 - **“Mistress of Jubilation...Queen of the Dance...Mistress of Music.....Queen of the Harp Playing...Lady of the Choral Dance.... Queen of Wreath Weaving...Mistress of Inebriety Without End”**
- **Compare the objects of their worship with the idols of our own age.**
 - **“meet the new boss, same as the old boss”**
 - **Romans 1:18-23**
- **The plague effected religion, agriculture, military readiness, textiles, transportation and basic food commodities.**
 - **“...in the field...” (v3)**
- **Romans 8:22 – The suffering of Creation**
- **Romans 8:1 – The safety of those “in Christ” (In Goshen)**

– The Plague of the Boils (v8-12)

- **The word translated ‘boils’ could mean a number of different skin ailments (dermatitis, boils, leprosy, smallpox etc)**
- **Deuteronomy 28:27, 35**
- **‘gods’ Amon-Re, Thoth, Imhotep, Sekhmet – all humiliated.**
- **“Medicine makes a wonderful tool but a poor deity. Whenever we get a prescription filled or go in for surgery or start chemotherapy, we should remember that all healing comes from God and that Christ alone is Lord of the body” (Ryken)**
 - **God alone decides who lives and who dies, not the surgeon.**
 - **God alone is sovereign over the body, not the medical aid.**
 - **God alone can diagnose the soul, not the psychologist.**
 - **God alone heals.**
- **The magicians are forced off their feet, and the pagan priests must deem themselves too defiled to worship what is itself defiled. Both must confess the plague is “the finger of God” (Exodus 8:19)**
 - **Psalm 1:5**
 - **Philippians 2:10-11**

– The Plague of Hail (v13-35)

- **Terror of the Lord (v20) & Exodus 10:7**
- **Worst plagues yet to come (v14)**
- **One of the worst judgments was the Lord hardening Pharaoh's heart (v12)**
 - **C.f. Romans 1:24-28.**
 - **We must never take for granted that we can repent and love God.**
- **The storm is unprecedented in all Egypt's history (v18, 24)**
- **The storm is a display of supremacy over all the works of all the dynasties of Egypt.**
- **The “mighty hand” of God in the Exodus is repeatedly mentioned in Scripture, WHICH MEANS it bears repeated, accurate, joyful and sober remembrance.**
 - **Psalm 18:7-15**

– The Plague of Hail (...continued...)

- Why wouldn't Pharaoh repent?
 - Sin is irrational, and makes us think and feel irrationally.
 - But God cracks open an eternal mystery in verse 16.
- The Lord raised up Pharaoh for the express purpose of manifesting His own glorious wrath.
 - His wrath is an expression of part of His glory; part of His being.
 - God put Pharaoh on the throne *SO THAT* this glory could be seen by us & others (Romans 9:17-23).
- Why did Pharaoh resist? Why did he harden his own heart? Why did God harden his heart?
 - So that God could make His power known (Ex 9:16).
 - SO THAT those who are objects of His mercy would celebrate His grace (Rom 9:17).
- WE KNOW we're sinners like Pharaoh....
- And we know that we're saved entirely by the grace of this same Jehovah Jesus Christ.