

Crushed

Long Beach Alliance Church • March 13th, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**For if by now I had put forth My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, you would then have been cut off from the earth. 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.
~Exodus 9:15-16 (NASB)**

1) Pharaoh The Object Lesson

- A) All of Egypt has been hammered by six painful plagues, but these serve as mere prelude to the final four plagues introduced by Moses with the customary request from God to Pharaoh to “Let My people go...” (Exodus 9:13).
- B) Rather than the normal interchange between Moses and Pharaoh, God describes His impending wrath to Pharaoh (9:14) and God’s divine reasons for making Pharaoh and Egypt an object lesson for eternity (9:15-16).

2) God vs. Pharaoh ~ Round #7

- A) Pharaoh’s continued arrogance (9:17) functions compatibly with God’s purposes bringing about the next plague (9:18).

- B) The plague of historically “heavy hail” (9:18) comes with a gracious warning from God for the preservation of both people and livestock (9:19), but also the threat of death.
- C) Notably, some Egyptians have figured out that God is not simply the God of the Hebrews, but also the God of Egypt, and they respond to God’s gracious warning (9:20), while others ignore God’s Word to them (9:21).
- D) Rather than appeal to their magicians, it seems that some in Egypt trade in their reliance on their gods (Nut, goddess of the sky; Isis & Seth, gods with agricultural influence) for submission to the LORD God of the Hebrews!

3) Plague #7 ~ God Crushes Egypt

- A) At God’s command, Moses initiates the plague of hail against Egypt (9:22-23), unleashing thunder, hail, and fire from the sky (9:24), completely crushing Egypt (9:25).
- B) Of course, in stark contrast, God’s people are miraculously preserved (9:26), bringing Pharaoh to a limited and insincere repentance and request for mercy (9:27-28).
- C) Moses is not fooled by Pharaoh’s insincere promises, but asks God to relent as a further sign to Pharaoh of God’s total control over Egypt (9:29-30).
- D) Sure enough, once God relents from the plague, Pharaoh’s heart returns to sin and is hardened once again (9:33-35). When the heat is off, Pharaoh goes back to his old ways...

For further discussion with your family, spouse, or small group study... Are you drawn closer to God because of His judgment or because of His grace? What motivates change in your life? Does judgment produce change (in your opinion/observation) in the lives of others? Have you been insincere in your repentance to the Lord? How do you measure authentic repentance? Can a person really have a relationship with God and continue in habitual sin?