

Exodus Lesson 6
“The Plagues Worsen”
Exodus 9:34-35
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want us to continue to see the power & concern of our Awesome God.

Intro:

1. The plagues brought upon Egyptian are unique and interesting.
2. The hardness of Pharaoh's heart and his reactions to God are not so unique but are errors which we can learn from.

I. The 5th Plague – Death of Livestock (Exodus 9:1-7)

A. A difference is made between God's people and Pharaoh's

1. The livestock of Egypt die but not one of the people Israel's livestock was harmed.
2. God continues to wage war against the God's of Egypt while sparing the people of Israel.

B. God vs the Egyptian gods Hathor & Ptah

1. this plague showed God to be more powerful than some of the Egyptian gods. Hathor was the goddess of love, beauty, and joy. She was pictured as giving the pharaoh divine milk to drink. She was pictured as a cow. If the cows died, Hathor was sick and in trouble of dying herself. The Egyptians thought their beauty might fade away. And pharaoh would lose his godly food.

2. Ptah, the chief god of Memphis and considered the creator god, was symbolized by a live bull, known as the Apis bull. This bull also was believed to be the symbol of the River Nile. The Apis bull was cared for just as if he was a god. He was given special food, bathed and brushed daily, and even wore special clothes. When one died, he was mummified and buried just like a pharaoh. There is a tomb in Egypt with nothing but the burial chambers of these Apis bulls. It is estimated that it cost as much as \$100,000 to bury one of these bulls. And when one died, the priests would search the entire land to find a calf which met the requirements to be the Apis bull.

With most of the cattle being dead it would be very hard to find a replacement bull and very few baby bulls would be born for several years until the Egyptians could get cattle from other nations. It is possible that the Apis bull died in this plague (if he did not, it is possible he died from the hail later). With no Apis bull, the Egyptian god Ptah would seem to be very weak. He was supposed to be the creator god.

II. The 6th Plague – boils (Exodus 9:8-12)

A. Unable to stand before Pharaoh

1. The 6th plague was so strong that even the Magicians could not stand before Pharaoh.
2. This plague fell on man and animals.

B. God vs the Egyptian god Typhon & Imhotep

1. The Egyptians worshipped the god Typhon. Red bulls and very rarely even humans were sacrificed and burned on the grate of Typhon. The sacrifice was given the name Typhos. Then the ashes from the burned sacrifice was taken by the priests and thrown into the air. The Egyptians believed that if any of this ash fell on the skin of a living Egyptian, the person was

safe from any defilement (anything that would cause the person to be physically ill and therefore spiritually unclean).

2. Moses and Aaron did not take the ashes from the furnace of Typhon. The furnace which they took their ashes from was one that the Israelites used to make the mud bricks for the buildings of the Egyptians (the word in the Hebrew is the word for that type furnace). God was showing the Egyptians and particularly Pharaoh that Typhon was powerless. He was showing them that simple ashes from the slave furnaces could be made to have more power by the One True God than ashes from their 'holy' furnaces.

The bad sores would again make the Egyptian priests unclean for their religious practices. This was also a way to show God's power against their god of learning and medicine, Imhotep. Imhotep had been a very wise man and architect many years before the time of Moses. He was regarded very highly when alive and when he died the Egyptians believed he became a god. Imhotep was unable to prevent illness to come upon the Egyptians. Imhotep's wisdom was nothing compared to God's wisdom.

III. The 7th Plague – Hail (**Exodus 9:13-35**)

A. A warning given prior to the plague.

1. It's interesting that before this plague God seems to give a type of warning.
2. However, many did not heed it and it seems even Pharaoh shows a glimmer of fear.

B. God vs the Egyptian god Nut

1. The Egyptians worshipped Nut the sky goddess. She was sometimes represented as a woman without clothes, stretched across the skies. Her fingers touched one horizon and her toes touched the other. At other times she was represented as a cow standing tall above the sky. People are seen as looking up to her for care and protection from the elements. This plague of hail demonstrated that Nut had no power before the One True God. God controls the elements because He created them. The gods Reshpu and Ketesh were also supposed to be involved with controlling the elements and they were shown to be false.
2. The Egyptians believed that Nut lived in trees. This plague destroyed many of the trees of the land of Egypt (Psalm 78:47-48; Psalm 105:32-34). Nut's home was destroyed. She had no place to live. The gods Hathor and Sepes also lived in trees so they no longer had a place to live either. The sun god Ra was believed to appear each morning from between two sycamore trees. The destroying of the trees would hinder Ra's appearing as the Egyptians thought it should be.

Lessons for us & Conclusion

1. It is not uncommon as we see in the 7th plague, for God to use evil people to show His power and to draw people to Him.
2. Today we too can use bad situations to draw people to God – love, concern & benevolence.
3. A point here in Exodus continues to stand out, our God, is an Awesome God!
4. Full Invitation