**September 28, 2022**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

588 S.E. 7th Street, Webster, FL 33597; (352) 568-2833

**Bishop James Hall, Pastor**

**Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Diocesan**

**“NO HAIL IN GOSHEN”**

**Exodus 9:17-35**

***Exodus 9:17-18***

***17 "As yet exaltest thou thyself against my people, that thou wilt not let them go?"***

***18 "Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now."***

We see, here, that Pharaoh thought too highly of himself, and God was about to bring him down. Because of Pharaoh’s willfulness, plague number seven was coming. The Lord was about to rain down the worst hail Egypt had ever experienced. Pharaoh was being told that he thought he was better than these Hebrews (who are God's chosen). Pharaoh has made himself ruler over them. There will be no playing around. Within 24 hours, God was going to rain hail like they had never seen before; there would be damaging hail to anything, or anyone, out in it. This was not just ordinary hail but would be more severe than Egypt had ever witnessed.

***Exodus 9:19 "Send therefore now, [and] gather thy cattle, and all that thou hast in the field; [for upon] every man and beast which shall be found in the field, and shall not be brought home, the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall die."***

Yet once more God tempered judgment with mercy and urged the man to bring all the livestock (that had survived the fifth plague) into the shelters. (Perhaps the Egyptians had traded with the Israelites for their animals or had bartered with other nations to restock.) Every person and animal outside when the hail fell would be killed. This was a grave warning from God. It seemed as though by now, many would be listening and heeding these warnings. Every time God had spoken through Moses and Aaron, whatever they had vowed, happened. God is truth. Pharaoh could not be trusted, because he did not tell the truth. His word meant nothing. We will see in the next verse, that some had begun to believe, and heed the warnings from God.

***Exodus 9:20-21***

***20 "He that feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses:"***

***21 "And he that regarded not the word of the LORD left his servants and his cattle in the field."***

By this time, there were some of Pharaoh’s officials who feared the word of the Lord and brought their livestock in. They had seen the wonders done with the rod that God had given Moses. They believed and did just as they were warned to do. They stayed in the house and brought their animals in, too, to keep them from being killed by the hail. But others followed the example of their king. We can surely see, again, our society, today, in this. We who are reading and heeding, the Word of the Lord are in the ark of safety waiting to go to our promised land (heaven) with our Deliverer (Jesus). Those who are not reading and heeding the Word of the Lord are living worldly lives, much like these Egyptians. The day of reckoning is here, just as the next 24 hours would bring these careless Egyptians to death. The similarities are overwhelming.

***Exodus 9:22-24***

***22 "And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt."***

***23 "And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt."***

***24 "So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation."***

What God says He will do, He does. Also, we must note the peculiarity of this hail. Regular hail is not accompanied by fire. Many times, God is associated with fire; and that is the reason we see fire with this hail. It is to prove to the Pharaoh, where it came from. Take note, one more time, this was not Satan doing this. It was God. This, we see, was an exact happening of what God had promised. It is bad to be under attack of the devil, but it is much worse to be under attack by God. There is nowhere to go for help when you have angered God to this terrible point.

***Hebrews 10:30-31***

***30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.***

***31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.***

***Exodus 9:25 "And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that [was] in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field."***

You reap, what you sow. The Pharaoh had been very cruel to the children of Israel without cause. God didn't overlook it. This was partially in payment for his cruelty to them. In we read of this same hail mingled with fire. Both the hail in Exodus and in Revelation were punishment from God on evil men.

***Revelation 8:7 "The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up."***

***Exodus 9:26-27***

***26 "Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel [were], was there no hail."***

***27 "And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: the LORD [is] righteous, and I and my people [are] wicked."***

You see, here, that God protected His own. A severe hailstorm mixed with lightning fell on the land, killing both people and animals but God again spared the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were. This distinction makes it clear that this was not the work of Mother Nature, a fictitious figure often wrongly credited with the marvels of the natural world; it was the work of Father God, the true Creator and sustainer of all. The first step toward repentance and getting help from God, is to admit you have sinned, and that the terrible things that are happening to you, done by God, are justified, because of that sin. Here, it appears for the moment, that Pharaoh truly wanted to repent and start anew. Pharaoh confessed his guilt and the Lord’s righteousness.

***Exodus 9:28 "Intreat the LORD (for [it is] enough) that there be no [more] mighty thunderings and hail; and I will let you go, and ye shall stay no longer."***

Here, we see Pharaoh almost begging Moses to go, and talk with God for him. You would think that he was sincere, as bad as this hail was. It was obviously from God because the Hebrews were not experiencing this horrible hail. We must remember how evil Pharaoh was. It really surprises me, that Moses believed him.

***Exodus 9:29-30***

***29 "And Moses said unto him, As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; [and] the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that thou mayest know how that the earth [is] the LORD'S."***

***30 "But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the LORD God."***

On the surface, it appeared that the man was changing. Moses therefore promised to appeal to the Lord, and the hail would stop. But God had given Moses spiritual insight into Pharaoh’s heart. Before the meeting ended, Moses told him, I know that you still do not fear the Lord God. Indeed, the king of Egypt was willing to say what was necessary to cause a change in his wretched circumstances. But there had been no spiritual change in his heart. We see, here, that Moses and Aaron would leave the city, and, probably, go into Goshen, where the other Hebrews were. The complaining of the Hebrews had long since stopped. Probably, the one thing that convinced them more than anything else, was because these last few judgments had fallen on the Egyptians, and spared the Hebrews, who lived in the same country. Moses prayed with his hands lifted in the sky. God loves for us to praise Him as we pray. We know that the world, and everything in it, belongs to God. In Revelation we read that God created all things, and that they were created for His pleasure.

***Revelation 4:11 "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."***

We read another Scripture in Psalms that makes us know for sure that the earth, and everything in it, and on it, are God's. Moses knew in his heart, that even this hail had not really affected Pharaoh and these people.

***Psalms 24:1 "{A Psalm of David.} The earth [is] the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."***

***Exodus 9:31-32***

***31 "And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley [was] in the ear, and the flax [was] bolled."***

***32 "But the wheat and the rie were not smitten: for they [were] not grown up."***

Verses 31 and 32 were describing the damage done to the fields. The flax was used in clothing (making linen), and the barley was used to make beer. So, you see, these were not primary food sources. The wheat and rye were food substances, and they were not really damaged. Even in the midst of all this devastation, God had been merciful to Egypt. The flax and the barley were destroyed, but the wheat and the spelt were preserved because they were not yet in season.

***Exodus 9:33-35***

***33 "And Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread abroad his hands unto the LORD: and the thunders and hail ceased, and the rain was not poured upon the earth."***

***34 "And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants."***

***35 "And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, neither would he let the children of Israel go; as the LORD had spoken by Moses."***

Moses did just as he promised, and God did just as He promised, also. We see in the next verse, that Pharaoh (a symbol of evil) lied. He did not do what he promised. God’s judgment was severe, but he had not wiped out the entire food supply. Shockingly, Pharaoh saw this as opportunity to persist in rebellion. When the plague was lifted, Pharaoh hardened his heart and held tight to his slaves. We see, the actions of a very evil man. The instant the pressure was removed from him and his people, he and the people went right back into sin. This is the same thing in our world today. We see sin everywhere getting worse every day. It is because we have an easy life. God allows wars, depressions, famines, earthquakes, and other things that we have no control over, to happen to make us aware of how badly we need Him. We will quickly see in the next lesson, that God was not through with Pharaoh. God would do whatever was necessary to make Pharaoh bow to His commands.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What terrible plague came upon Egypt?
2. Who made Pharaoh ruler of the Hebrews?
3. What did Moses and Aaron tell the people to do, before this terrible plague strikes?
4. If they did not heed this warning, what would happen to them?
5. God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. Pharaoh was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. Were there a few believers, even in Pharaoh's servants?
8. What was Moses to do, to start the plague?
9. What was unusual about this hail?
10. What did this fire, probably, indicate?
11. Was it Satan, or God that brought the plague?
12. What is worse than Satan attacking us?
13. Where is there another mention of hail with fire?
14. What is the first step in getting help from God?
15. How did Moses feel about Pharaoh's repentance?
16. What was the one thing that convinced the Hebrews that Moses was truly the deliverer?
17. What was Moses doing, when he raised his hands in prayer?
18. What two farm products were destroyed?
19. Which two were spared?
20. What did Pharaoh do, when the hail stopped?