

Exodus 9

Verses 1-7

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and speak to him, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, “Let My people go, that they may serve Me. ² For if you refuse to let *them* go and continue to hold them, ³ behold, the hand of the Lord will come *with* a very severe pestilence on your livestock which are in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the herds, and on the flocks. ⁴ But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing will die of all that belongs to the sons of Israel.”’” ⁵ The Lord set a definite time, saying, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.” ⁶ So the Lord did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the sons of Israel, not one died. ⁷ Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

5th plague – Livestock in the field

³ behold, the hand of the Lord will come *with* a very severe pestilence on your livestock which are in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the herds, and on the flocks.

This plague is restricted to the livestock in the field but in verse 6 it says all the livestock of Egypt died. However, this is not a problem because in verse 3, God had already limited the plague to those in the field, so is it was not necessary to restate the same restriction in verse 6. It seems that Occam's razor should apply in this situation.

⁴ But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing will die of all that belongs to the sons of Israel.

Starting with plague 3, the gnats, the magicians could not duplicate the miracle done by the Lord as they had in the first two plagues. Starting with plague 4, the flies, Israel was exempt from the plagues. Despite these miraculous signs it seems that the king still believed he could negotiate with God even though the Lord had shown no indication that a compromise was possible.

⁶ So the Lord did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the sons of Israel, not one died. ⁷ Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

The king should have recognized by now that the plagues were getting more and more severe (costly) but he will not allow himself to do the right thing for his own sake or for the people of Egypt.

Here again, it is not absolutely certain who hardened the king's heart.

See chart 905

Plague	Verse	Who hardened the king's heart	The King	The Lord	Not sure
Blood	7:22	Pharaoh's heart was hardened			x
Frogs	8:15	He (the king) hardened his heart	x		
Gnats	8:19	But Pharaoh's heart was hardened			x
Flies	8:32	But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also	x		
Livestock	9:7	But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened			x

Verses 8-12

⁸ Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Take for yourselves handfuls of soot from a kiln, and let Moses throw it toward the sky in the sight of Pharaoh. ⁹ It will become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and will become boils breaking out with sores on man and beast through all the land of Egypt." ¹⁰ So they took soot from a kiln, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses threw it toward the sky, and it became boils breaking out with sores on man and beast. ¹¹ The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians as well as on all the Egyptians. ¹² And the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not listen to them, just as the Lord had spoken to Moses.

6th plague - Boils

⁸ Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Take for yourselves handfuls of soot from a kiln, and let Moses throw it toward the sky in the sight of Pharaoh.

The Israelites had been forced to make bricks and now the ashes left over from the hardening of those bricks become painful boils on their oppressors. The law of reaping and sowing doesn't always happen quickly but time is on its side.

¹¹ The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians as well as on all the Egyptians.

The picture represented here says more than a 1000 words. People who stand against God will be unable to stand before Him in the end.

God is not a respecter of persons, Israel was also warned about rebelling against God and they were given the same punishment.

See Deut. 28:27

The LORD will afflict you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors, festering sores and the itch, from which you cannot be cured.

God judges' mankind and nations based on their actions not their heritage.

¹² And the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not listen to them, just as the Lord had spoken to Moses.

The language is quite clear here that the hardening of the king's heart came from God.

But one question that arises from this is; was God depriving the king of his free will? The answer to that question is both Yes and No. The king was denied his right (free will) to say "I give up" during this judgment process but the temporary denial of free will is not the same as a permanent denial of free will (predestination).

It is fair to assume that the king had numerous opportunities during his life to get right with God but chose not to do so. So yes, the king had free will prior to these judgments. For those who believe in predestination, the king never had a chance to get right with God because that is determined before one is born. Again, one cannot look at a temporary pause in someone's free will and conclude that it had always been that way.

There are numerous examples in the Bible where God hardened the hearts of certain people or nations at critical times to change the course of history but that is in no way the same as predestination as taught by most Calvinists.

In this verse the Lord hardened the Kings heart.

See chart 910

Plague	Verse	Who hardened the kings heart	The King	The Lord	Not sure
Blood	7:22	Pharaoh's heart was hardened			x
Frogs	8:15	He (the king) hardened his heart	x		
Gnats	8:19	But Pharaoh's heart was hardened			x
Flies	8:32	But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also	x		
Livestock	9:7	But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened			x
Boils	9:12	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart		x	

Verses 13 - 17

¹³ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. ¹⁴ For this time I will send all My plagues on you and your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth. ¹⁵ 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. 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. ¹⁷ Still you exalt yourself against My people by not letting them go.

For this time I will send all my plagues on you and your servants and your people so that you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth.

Egypt had a god for everything, but the Lord wants Egypt to know that there is no god like Him. There is no doubt that God chose Israel to be His special people but God was working with all the nations that they might come to know about Him. This is something that the Jewish people seemed to forget throughout their history. Many Christians make the same mistake during their time on this earth.

¹⁵ 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. 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.

If God didn't care about Egypt He could have ended them and their nation long before now but God loves all of humanity and wants all the earth to know of his greatness. Because of the plagues and the Red Sea disaster the news of these events would reach the whole world. We know that while this was a severe judgment on Egypt it was not a final judgment and future generations would have an opportunity to get right with the Lord. God gives people and nations second chances.

¹⁷ Still you exalt yourself against My people by not letting them go.

Even though the Lord had hardened the king's heart on the last plague the king was still responsible for the other times when he could have made the right decision but failed to do so. King David repented of his sin with Bathsheba and the Lord forgave him (so he did not die) but he still suffered the consequences of that sin.

Verses 18-21

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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.'"" ²⁰ The one among the servants of Pharaoh who feared the word of the Lord made his servants and his livestock flee into the houses; ²¹ but he who paid no regard to the word of the Lord left his servants and his livestock in the field.

7th plague – Hail

¹⁸ 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.

Secular historians say that a unified kingdom was formed in 3150 BC by King Menes

However, we know Egypt had to form after the global flood ended in 3097 BC. In addition, the population after the flood was only 8 people and it took about 400 years for the people to reach a population that could build the tower of babel. God confused their language around 2700 BC and the people split into 70 nations and went their separate ways. Once they got to Egypt they could have formed a unified kingdom within a short time so a more realistic date would be shortly after 2700 BC.

Of course, secular historians reject bible history in favor of their own understanding of world events. But just look at how their dates have changed over the last century. Their dates keep getting shorter and shorter as new evidence brings them closer and closer to the dates given in the bible.

¹⁹ 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.

For the first time, the Egyptians had a means of escaping the plague. All they had to do was listen to what the Lord had to say and obey Him.

²⁰ The one among the servants of Pharaoh who feared the word of the Lord made his servants and his livestock flee into the houses; ²¹ but he who paid no regard to the word of the Lord left his servants and his livestock in the field.

We find out here that there were some Egyptians that believed in the Lord. Those that didn't payed a heavy price for their unbelief.

It must be pointed out that those who survived worked for a servant of the king that feared the word of the Lord. This also means that others died because they worked for a servant of the king that did not believe. Unfortunately, in this life the lives of some believers are not always independent from the decisions of those in charge, but our salvation is based on our faith alone not on those who lead us.

Verses 22 - 26

²² Now the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that hail may fall on all the land of Egypt, on man and on beast and on every plant of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.” ²³ Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. ²⁴ So there was hail, and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very severe, such as had not been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. ²⁵ The hail struck all that was in the field through all the land of Egypt, both man and beast; the hail also struck every plant of the field and shattered every tree of the field. ²⁶ Only in the land of Goshen, where the sons of Israel were, there was no hail.

²⁵ The hail struck all that was in the field through all the land of Egypt, both man and beast; the hail also struck every plant of the field and shattered every tree of the field.

The loss of human life and the financial toll to the Egyptian economy had to be enormous. The Egyptians of this generation were reaping what had been sown for many generations.

Verses 27 - 29

²⁷ Then Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “I have sinned this time; the Lord is the righteous one, and I and my people are the wicked ones. ²⁸ Make supplication to the Lord, for there has been enough of God’s thunder and hail; and I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer.” ²⁹ Moses said to him, “As soon as I go out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the Lord; the thunder will cease and there will be hail no longer, that you may know that the earth is the Lord’s.

²⁷ Then Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “I have sinned this time; the Lord is the righteous one, and I and my people are the wicked ones.

There is a big problem with this confession. The king says, “This time”. What is God to think, the other six times were just a misunderstanding?

A bad leader always has loyal yes men that confirm he is doing the right thing. These were the unbelieving servants that thought and acted like the king.

²⁹ Moses said to him, “As soon as I go out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the Lord; the thunder will cease and there will be hail no longer, that you may know that the earth is the Lord’s.

The hail started at the Lord’s command and it ended that way.

Verses 30 - 35

³⁰ But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the Lord God.”

³¹ (Now the flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud. ³² But the wheat and the spelt were not ruined, for they *ripen* late.)

³³ So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread out his hands to the Lord; and the thunder and the hail ceased, and rain no longer poured on the earth. ³⁴ But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he and his servants. ³⁵ Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not let the sons of Israel go, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses.

³⁰ But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the Lord God

Moses was not fooled by the king’s “repentance”.

³¹ (Now the flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud. ³² But the wheat and the spelt were not ruined, for they *ripen* late.)

Both of these were important crops to the Egyptians. Flax was used to make linen and barley was used as food for men and animals. The time of this plague was in late January or in early February.

Spelt is a grain similar to wheat and they ripen in late march or early April.

³⁴ But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he and his servants. ³⁵ Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not let the sons of Israel go, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses.

This time the king hardened his heart. See chart 910

See pic 915

Plague	Verse	Who hardened the kings heart	The King	The Lord	Not sure
Blood	7:22	Pharaoh's heart was hardened			x
Frogs	8:15	He (the king) hardened his heart	x		
Gnats	8:19	But Pharaoh's heart was hardened			x
Flies	8:32	But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also	x		
Livestock	9:7	But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened			x
Boils	9:12	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart		x	
Hail	9:34	He sinned again and hardened his heart	x		

These two verses are very important because they tell us where the "not sure" responses belong.

Here are the two verses:

³⁴ **But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he and his servants.**

³⁵ **Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not let the sons of Israel go, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses.**

Verse 34 informs us that the king hardened his heart.

Verse 35 says the same thing but with a different wording.

The "not sure" column has the same wording as verse 35 so we know that all of these belong in the column where the king hardens his own heart.

The new chart is quite revealing:

See pic 920

Plague	Verse	Who hardened the kings heart	King	Lord
Blood	7:22	Pharaoh's heart was hardened	x	
Frogs	8:15	He hardened his heart	x	
Gnats	8:19	But Pharaoh's heart was hardened	x	
Flies	8:32	But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also	x	
Livestock	9:7	But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened	x	
Boils	9:12	But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart		x
Hail	9:34	he sinned again and hardened his heart	x	

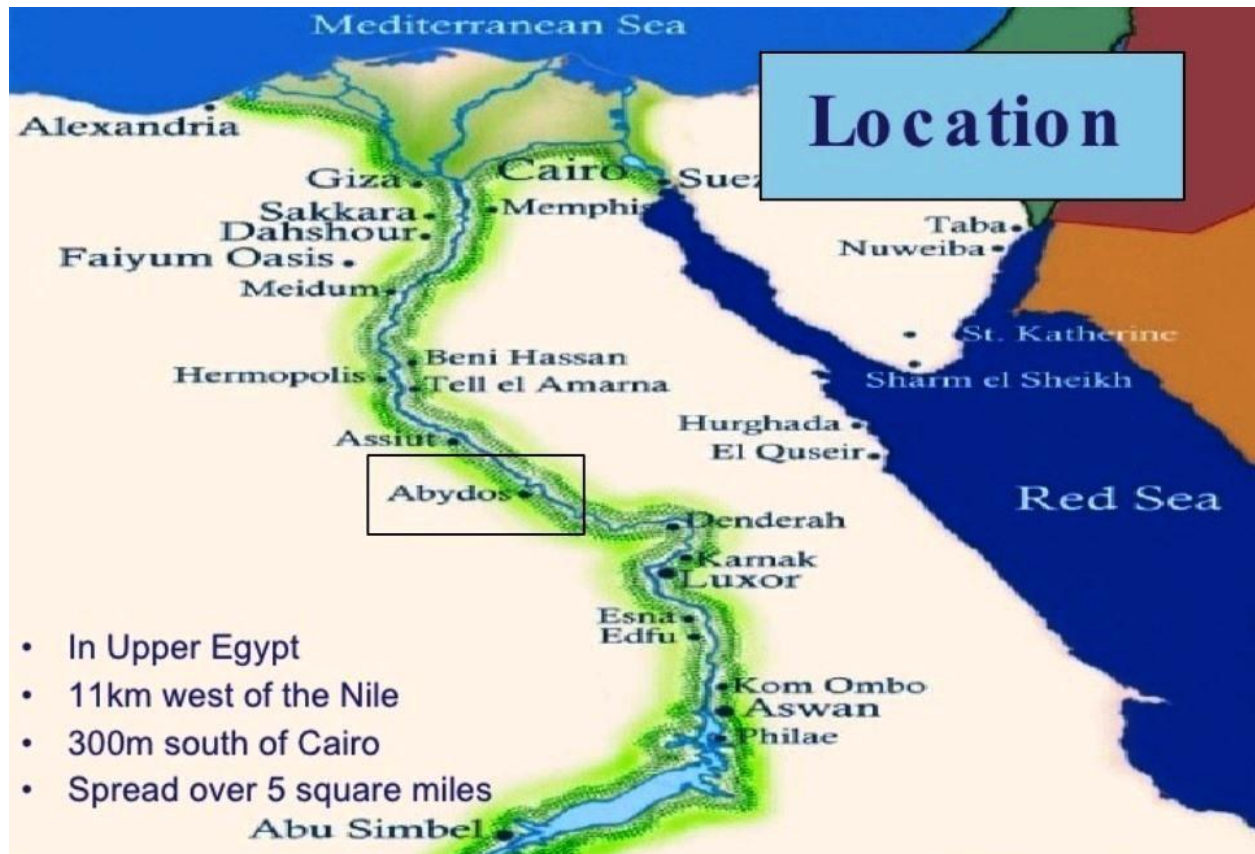
Every time the king had a choice (free will) he hardened his own heart. So far the Lord has only hardened the king's heart one time.

This plague revealed the fecklessness of several of their gods.

1. Their sky-goddess, Nut, could not protect them from the hail.
2. Isis and Seth were gods over agricultural, but they failed to protect the crops.
3. The Egyptians believed that Osiris gave them the gift of barley but he could protect their barley crop.

A large temple was built to honor Osiris at Abydos

See map 925



There is now a Muslim temple built near the old temple ruins at Abydos.

See pic 930

