

## Exodus 9:1-17 Cattle & Boils

**Intro:** Have you ever been in a position where you chose to exhibit restraint?  
Physical advantage? Intellectual advantage? Financial advantage?  
Whatever the situation, it would not be fair if you exercised your advantage in full.

Genesis 34:24 Jacob wrestles all night. Yet, God could have prevailed at any moment.

### **The Cattle & The Boils. (Really Examples of Pestilence)**

#### **Overview: Read 9:13-17**

Our Outline Is Going to Have 4 Parts As We Look at These Events

- Part 1. Vs. 16 *"I have allowed you to remain in order to show **MY** Power"*
- Part 2. Vs. 16 *"I have allowed you to remain in order to proclaim **MY** Name"*
- Part 3. Vs. 17 *"Still you exalt yourself against **MY** People"*
- Part 4. Vs. 14 *"Now you will know that there is no one like Me in all the Earth"*

#### **Overview: Read 9:1-12**

- God is ratcheting up the stakes in His demonstration of sovereignty over the false God's of Egypt.
- So far signs & wonders have been annoying, inconvenient, and relatively external.
  - The Blood, Frogs, Gnats, & Flies marginally impacted Egypt's assets & people.
  - They have been an inconvenience. They had to go dig wells for fresh water.
  - They've been stinky. The frogs died and got piled up. 8:14 says they became foul.
  - They've been annoying. Insects, gnats landed on them, flew around in their faces.
  - This is not to minimize these events. But to reveal the escalation that is to come.

**Illustration:** Sayer got a small gnat in her eye while hiking.  
This is inconvenient & annoying, but it can be managed.

The Pestilence on The Livestock Is Now An Attack on Commerce, The Livelihood of Egypt

- Text says a sickness came upon all of the herds and they died.
- Horses, donkeys, camels, and on the flocks.
- This affects transportation. This affects military. This affects construction campaigns.

#### **God is Once Again Showing His Preeminence Over the False Gods of Egypt**

- Goddess Hathor depicted as a cow. Goddess of love, beauty, & joy.
- God named Khnum was a major god who was depicted with head of a ram.
- Hapis was a supposed mediator between men and the false gods of Egypt. Son of Hathor.
- Think about this attack in light of God's desired relationship w/ mankind.

(Egypt had a bull character that served as an intermediary for Pharaoh.....Moses was God's mediator)

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## **I. God Has Allowed Pharaoh to Remain In Order to Proclaim His NAME**

**Vs. 1** *“Speak to Pharaoh and say this; Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, Let My people go that they may serve Me.”*

**Vs. 3** *“if you refuse, the hand of Yahweh will come with severe pestilence”*

**Vs. 4** *“Yahweh will make a distinction....”*

**Vs. 5** *“Tomorrow Yahweh will do this thing...”*

**Vs. 13** *“Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews...”*

- I am the God of the Hebrews. You will know Me as the God of the Hebrews
- Other nations will hear what I’ve done and will refer to Me as the God of the Hebrews.
- Make no mistake this is My name, and these are My people.
- This has been a consistent theme throughout Exodus.
- Going back to **Ex. 3:13-15**. This is my memorial name. This is My name forever.
- Israel is to know who God is (**Ex. 3**)
- Egypt is to know who God is (**Ex. 7:5**) (By signs & Wonders)
- Now, in (**Vs. 16**) He has said that the **Whole Earth** will know His name.

### **God Is NOT Messing Around - This is Not A Divine Game of Truth or Dare.**

- It’s Almost As If Pharaoh Is Saying “I Dare You God”.
- God is saying “I dare YOU Pharaoh”.

**Illustration:** Rennie (age 2) peas at dinner. Not going to interrupt dinner. But when dinner is over..... Literally & willfully chose a spank over eating peas.

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## **II. God Has Allowed Pharaoh to Remain In Order to Show His Power**

### **Power revealed through Pestilence:**

**Vs. 3** *“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.”*

### **Power Revealed Through Time:**

**Vs. 5** *“The Lord set a definite time...tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.”*

### **Power Revealed Through Means & Methods- Soot Becomes an Optical Tool**

**Vs. 8-10** God reveals His power by uniquely causing soot that Moses and Aaron throw into the air to become boils on all the Egyptians and remaining beasts.

- Talk about a demonstration of power!!!
- God instructs Moses & Aaron to do this in the presence of Pharaoh.
- It was critical that Pharaoh witness this happening through the hands of God’s people.
- Remember that God said *“Moses, I will make you as God to Pharaoh...”*
- Pharaoh is witnessing things by Moses’s hands unlike anything any other man has ever done.

### **Power Revealed Through Superiority of Magic:**

- **Vs. 11** *“the magicians couldn’t even stand before Moses because the boils were all over them”*
  - The very sorcerers could sometimes replicate the signs and wonders of God.
  - This time can’t even send before Moses
  - They couldn’t cure themselves of these boils.
  - The couple of time we’ve seen the magicians they could not reverse or undo the plagues
    - Yet, Moses IS able to cure when he petitions to God. (**Ex. 8:29-31**)

## Power Revealed Over Pharaoh's Heart

- **Vs. 12** *"and the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart...."*

**Illustration:** Memorial Day Poison Ivy. I looked right at the poison ivy, told myself I'll be fine. 3 Weeks later and I still have bumps and rashes on my forearms. Stubborn, prideful.

### God afflicted Egypt with painful boils and sores all over their bodies.

- Body of Amenhotep II Pharaoh of the Exodus shows signs of sores all over his body.
- We don't really know what the resolution to this miracle was?
- Did these slowly go away, or was this a long-lasting affliction?

### Scars Often Tell Stories.

- God Sent a Plague That Landed Right on the Egyptians' bodies.
- This is not a mere inconvenience of digging a new well for water.
- This is more than piles of rotting frogs.
- This can't be escaped when you're lying in bed all night and can't find a comfortable position

### God Has Done An Interesting Thing Here:

- Israelites likely had physical bodily evidence of their slavery- God expects them to tell their kids.
- Likewise, Egyptians had physical bodily evidence- God expects them to tell their kids.

Last Point I Want to Make About This Is That God Has Now Revealed His Power Over Illness & Health

- The waters were turned to blood.
- The frogs, gnats, & flies were multiplied revealing power over the animals, the air, the land.
- Now we see power and sovereignty over disease and infirmity.

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## III. God Has Allowed Pharaoh to Remain In Order to Reveal His People

### God Reveals Hebrews Belong to Him, Not Pharaoh

**Vs. 1** *"let MY people go that they may serve ME"*

**Vs. 2-3** *"if you refuse to let MY people go, I'm going to come with pestilence"*

### God Promises That His People will Be Revealed Through Unique Distinction

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

**Vs. 6** *"...all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the sons of Israel, not one died."*

**Vs. 7** *"And Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead."*

- Isn't this a fascinating example of the precise surgical nature of God's omnipotence?
- God uniquely and selectively afflicted Egypt's herds and left the Hebrew herds untouched.
- Vs. 7 says that Pharaoh sent. In other words he had delegates go survey the damages for themselves.

**Vs. 11** *"for the boils were on the magicians as well as on all the Egyptians."*

- While this doesn't state the outright distinction, context reveals boils only affected the Egyptians
- The magicians were afflicted, all the Egyptians were afflicted
- Moses and Aaron were not affected.
- The pattern of scripture would also reveal that God's people are typically not the objects of His wrath.

Israel Is Still God's Chosen People to This Day. God Is Preserving a Remnant for Himself

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## **IV. God Declares That He Is Going to Amplify His Signs & Wonders**

### **Read Vs. 13-17**

**Vs. 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."*

### **2 Points About Translation of This Verse**

#### **1. "...all my plagues on you" = Literal "Send all My plagues to your heart..."**

- This is what God promised Moses
  - I will harden Pharaoh's heart so that I may multiply My signs & wonders.
  - It will be Pharaoh's heart that will continue to dig-in and resist God.
  - Every time Pharaoh resists God's signs & wonders he sins and makes his own heart **"heavy"** (The Egyptian Negative Confession). according to Egyptian afterlife.

#### **2. Tone To Be Understood In This Verse**

- If we look at the literal text, it says exactly what most translations render.
- NASB, LSB, ESV are word for word translations
- NIV is a thought for thought translation, expresses a tone that is meant to be understood.
- NIV** *"Let my people go, or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you, against your officials, and against your people so that you may know there is no one like Me in all the earth."*

NIV Is A Good Rendering Because Big Shift in Tone For the Remainder of the Plagues

- **Vs. 14,15,16** *"From now on, you're going to feel the full force of My plagues so that you will know there is no one like Me in all the **Earth**. If I had put forth My hand and struck you with pestilence you would have been cut off from there **Earth**. But I have allowed you to live to show you MY POWER, to PROCLAIM MY NAME through all the **Earth**."*

### **As If God is Saying "Pharaoh, You have No Idea How Powerful I Am."**

- We have highlighted how the fabric of the plagues reveals an escalation
- The tone will dramatically shift from this point forward.
  - Vs. 18 *"heavy hail such as has never been seen...."*
  - Vs. 24 *"hail & lightning, very severe, such as had not been in land of Egypt...."*
  - Vs. 27 Pharaoh recognizes sin, but reneges
  - Vs. 30 Moses knows that Pharaoh is still not repenting
  - Vs. 10:1-2 *"hardened heart so I can make a mockery of Egypt...."*
  - Vs. 10:7 *"Do you realize that Egypt is destroyed?"*
  - Vs. 10:28-29 *"Get away from me....surely you will die..."*

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### **Summary:**

Today God Continues to Allow Everything To Happen In Order To Reveal His Name, His Power, & His People

- Why are evil people still permitted to exist and wreak havoc on society?
  - Because it is the contrast of evil that allows us to see the goodness of God.
  - We cannot appreciate the grace of God if we know nothing of the condemnation for sin.
  - God reveals His Name, His Power, & His People in the contrast of evil.
  - God wins souls for Himself when people turn to Him because they have no other hope
  - God used the evil of crucifixion to show the ultimate demonstration of power over sin.
- We are left here as redeemed souls who still bear the scars of sin.
- We are to tell others, "you see this scar, this was me in my sin, but God delivered me."
- We are to be God's agents that He uses to go before the Pharaoh's in our lives.