

# Through the Bible for Children: Exodus Lesson 10

## PESTILENCE, BOILS, AND HAIL

### Exodus 9

The Lord said to Moses, "Go tell Pharaoh that the God of the Hebrews says, 'Let my people go, so that they may serve me. If you refuse to let them go, the Lord will bring an awful pestilence upon all of your animals, your horses, donkeys, camels, oxen, and sheep. The Lord will divide the animals of the children of Israel from yours and they will not be touched by the pestilence.' The Lord has said that He will do this thing tomorrow."

The next day the Lord did as He had said. All the livestock of Egypt died, but the animals of the Israelites were protected and not one of them died.

Pharaoh sent his servants to find out if any of the animals of the Hebrews had died. When he knew that not one of the animals of Israel had died, he did not repent, instead he hardened his heart even more. He would not let the people of Israel leave.

Again the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron. He said, "Take handfuls of ashes that are left from a fire in the furnace and scatter them towards the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. The ashes will become small dust in the land of Egypt, causing boils to break out on all the people of Egypt, and on any animals that remain."

Then Moses and Aaron took ashes out of the furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses scattered the ashes towards heaven and boils broke out on all the people, including Pharaoh, and on all the animals.

The pain from the boils was so awful, that the magicians of Pharaoh could not stand before Moses. They were covered from head to foot with the painful sores, just as all the other people of Egypt and their animals were. The magicians of Egypt had no power to remove the boils, for they had no power against God.

Now the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, so that he would not listen to Moses and Aaron. It was no longer possible for Pharaoh to listen to God.

After this the Lord told Moses to get up early in the morning and go to speak before Pharaoh. God said, "Tell Pharaoh, 'The Lord God of the Hebrews says, Let my people go that they may serve me. I will send my plagues upon your heart, and upon all your servants, so that you will know that there is none like me in all the earth. I will stretch out my hand to destroy your people. I have raised you up for this reason, so that I may show all the world my power, and that my name may be declared in all the earth. Will you still lift yourself up against my people and refuse to let them go? Now listen, at about this time tomorrow I will cause the sky to rain down a very terrible hail, such as you have never seen in Egypt before. Instruct your people to bring in any animals that they have left. For whatever beast or person that is left out in the open will be killed by the hail that I will send.'"

Then all those Egyptians who feared the word of the Lord brought their animals into shelter and they themselves stayed inside, but those who did not fear the word of the Lord left their animals out in the field.

The Lord said to Moses, "Stretch your hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in the land of Egypt."

When Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven, the Lord sent thunder and hail. Fire ran along the ground, and fire and hail mingled together throughout the land of

Egypt. There was no safe place in the land of Egypt, except indoors. The hail destroyed throughout the land of Egypt. It destroyed everything that was not inside a building. The hail and fire killed man and beast, and destroyed every growing thing. It broke down every tree. Only the land of Goshen where the Israelites lived was free from the fire and hail.

When Pharaoh saw all this he called for Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and I and my people are wicked. Pray to the Lord for me, so that the thundering and hail will stop. I will let you go."

Moses answered Pharaoh, "As soon as I leave the city, I will spread my hands to the Lord and pray that the thunder stop. Neither will there be any more hail, so that you will know that the earth is the Lord's. But I know you and your servants. I know that you will not fear the Lord."

Because of the hail, the flax and the barley of the Egyptians was destroyed, but the wheat and the rye were not destroyed because they were not yet ripe.

Moses left the presence of Pharaoh and spread his hands to the Lord, so that the thunders and hail stopped.

When Pharaoh saw that the destruction was over, he sinned even more and hardened his heart, both he and his servants. He would not let the children of Israel go as he had promised.

It must have been discouraging for Moses and God's people to have Pharaoh promise again and again to let them go and then break his promise. People often break the promises that they make to God when they are in trouble. They do not really want to obey God, but instead are trying to get their own selfish way. God is not surprised by this, and he has a reason for allowing it. So it was as God sent the plagues and Pharaoh resisted Him. God had His own plan in all of this. He wanted His people to learn to trust Him, and He wanted all Egypt and even all the world to know that He alone is God and all the earth is His to use as He pleases for His own purpose.

In these three plagues, God was again coming against the gods of Egypt. The fifth plague of cattle disease was against Apis, the sacred bull god. The sixth plague, boils, was against Typhon. The seventh plague, hail and fire, was against Shu, the god of the atmosphere.

It may seem strange to us that the Egyptians worshipped so many different gods, it seems like they had a god for every animal and force in nature. But even in America, any person that does not worship the True God worships gods of his own making. It may be money, it may be pleasure, it may be a career, or any other thing that is more important to us than God. An object of worship does not necessarily have to have a god name attached to it. It is important for each of us to examine our hearts and make sure that we are worshipping and trusting in God alone.

**LEARN:** Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power Shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name.

Psalm 66:3,4





1. Color each picture.
  2. Draw birds on the Egyptian.
  3. Color and cut out flowers.
  4. Cut out trail balls.
  5. Paste flowers and trail on lightning picture.
  4. Paste each picture on construction paper.
- Add to your plague book at home.



