

**Exegetical Notes, Exodus 9:13-21**  
**“The Humbling Hand of God, Part #6a: Hail”**

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**Exodus 9:13-21**

**Verse 13-14**

*Then YHWH said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what YHWH, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me, or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth.’”*

- Again, God tells Moses to go and stand before Pharaoh. He is to do this early in the morning and he is to repeat the demand of YHWH that Pharaoh release the Hebrew slaves to go into the desert to worship.
- The Egyptians have already felt God’s humbling hand five times. But this time God says that they will feel the full weight of that hand. While it may be hard to imagine, given the first five plagues, that God has held back in his judgment of Egypt, that is clearly the implication of this warning.
- The purpose of God’s heavy judgment of Egypt is also revealed. It is happening so that all of Egypt will know that YHWH is El Shaddai; that there is no power greater than his on the face of the earth.

**Verse 15**

*“For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth.”*

- In this verse God points Pharaoh to His great power. He could have simply destroyed Egypt with one blow of his heavy humbling hand.
- However, in the same sentence God points to his great mercy. Even though Egypt has been harshly judged for her refusal to

acknowledge Him as El Shaddai, she still exists! God could simply have wiped her off the face of the earth.

### **Verse 16**

***“But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.***

- Without her even knowing his name, YHWH has picked Egypt to play a special role in the history of the world. She has been picked as the instrument through which God will display his power to the entire world and by which his name will be known throughout the world.
- Paul quotes this verse in Romans 9:17 as proof of the absolute sovereignty of YHWH in the world. The historical purpose of ancient Egypt, the reason she was given such riches and power, was to show the absolute power of God.
- The point here is that everything has a reason within the plan and purpose of God. We may not be able to understand or even see what God is doing. Certainly Egypt and Pharaoh could not see God’s plan for them. But, none-the-less, God is at work accomplishing his purposes through the flow of history. The promise of Romans 8:28 is realized in this simple fact. God is at work to bring good, his purpose, from all that happens.

### **Verse 17-18a**

***“You still set yourself against my people and will not let them go.***

***Therefore,.....***

- Pharaoh still stands in opposition to the revealed will of God. He simply will not do what God has asked of him. He puts himself in the way of God’s sovereignty. He will not bend to the will of YHWH.
- “Therefore!” The word means “because of this.” Because Pharaoh will not bend to the will of God all that follows happens! God’s judgment is not arbitrary but related to cause. Egypt suffers for a reason and it is within her power to remove the suffering by dealing with the cause of it.

### **Verse 18b-19**

***“...at this time tomorrow I will send the worst hailstorm that has ever fallen on Egypt from the day it was founded till now. Give an order now to bring your livestock and everything you have in the field to a place of***

***shelter, because the hail will fall on every man and animal that has not brought in and is still out in the field, and they will die.”***

- God gave Egypt a 24-hour warning. The Egyptians were about to experience a devastating hailstorm. Hailstorms were rare in Egypt. This storm would be so severe that it would kill anything that was out in the open.

### **Verse 20-22**

***Those officials of Pharaoh who feared the word of YHWH hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside. But those who ignored the word of YHWH left their slaves and livestock in the field.***

- Apparently God’s plan to force Egypt to acknowledge his name was working, for now some of Pharaoh’s officials are listening for God’s voice in Moses’ words. Those who had begun to understand, heeded the warning God had given them through Moses and brought the livestock and slaves inside.
- However, there remains a group who are as obstinate as Pharaoh.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *The Humbling Hand of God! Part # 6a: Hail*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)