

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

EXODUS 9

Exodus 9

Chapter nine continues the devastating series of plagues God is sending upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians showing His mighty power and that no people or nation, even Egypt can stand against the God of all the earth and in particular, the God of the Hebrew people. Chapter eight introduced us to the second, third and fourth plagues, frogs, lice, flies respectively. The third plague was different than others to that point, in that the magicians began to say to Pharaoh, **"this is the finger of God"** as they realized this is no game. Whoever this God of the Hebrews was, He was more powerful than their tricks and magic. Pharaoh's heart grew more hardened. The swarms of flies brought Pharaoh to a new realization, so he summons Moses and Aaron and sought a compromise. Moses refused to compromise, and instead demanded a total release to serve the God of the Israelites in the wilderness, the place of God's choosing. Pharaoh relented. But when Moses asked for the plague to be removed by God, Pharaoh balked and would not let the people go. In chapter 9:4, everything changes with God's dealings with Pharaoh. God sends Moses to tell Pharaoh, **"And the LORD will make a difference between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt. So, nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel"** (9:4).

This was a sea change, because up until this point there was no difference anywhere in the land, but now God was showing that not only could He bring about plagues, but He could make a distinction in the affected. Now he further showed His power by appointing a set time they would start and stop (see 9:5). The fifth, sixth and seventh plagues are released on Pharaoh and Egypt, but at the end of the sixth plague something changed. This time, God **"hardened the heart of Pharaoh"** (see 9:12). God now began to harden Pharaoh to bring about final judgment.

Prayer and Action Steps

God has a plan. He has a plan for everything and every person. His plans are perfect. His timing is perfect. But we are impatient and want to see the end from the beginning. God rarely works that way, rather he leads us step by step, giving us light to see only the next step. Moses knew the final destination, but at times, it was difficult along the way. Pray today for the grace of God to trust His loving heart and hand even when and before we know all the details. Encourage someone today to keep trusting God and to continue in the walk of obedience.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____

