

The Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Plagues – Murrain (plague), Boils, Hail and fire

In chapter eighth chapter we learned of the 2nd through the 4th plagues, which were frogs, gnats (translated incorrectly as lice) and flies. Though by themselves, or in small portions, these things are not all that damaging (annoying, yes, but not usually too damaging), the fact that YHVH sent them *in mass* to Egypt made them incredibly destructive. This made it not only difficult for the Egyptians to carry on their daily activities but it would have been hard to survive at all for even their food and water would have been inundated with these pests. We also learned of the amazing spiritual types these three plagues taught us: frogs are symbolic of evil spirits which can permeate into both our physical homes (through TV, the internet, music, video games, news, what we read, etc.) and our spiritual home (flesh body) and make us spiritually sick if we put up with them. We also learned how the gnats and flies were symbolic of the filth that the ‘king of the flies’ (dunghill = Satan) puts out. This refers to the lies that Satan and his servants tell to try to convert others to his evil rebellion. Satan’s lies are as destructive to our soul and the plagues were to flesh and we’ll see that the end of both is death (Heb 2:14). YHVH also made a clear distinction between Egypt and the land of Goshen showing us how, if we want to come out of spiritual bondage to Satan, *we must separate from sin*. This means we must use God’s Word to learn what sin is, look inside ourselves and work to kick it out. Thankfully, God’s Word and His Holy Spirit will help you with this lifelong process (of purification) but you will quickly see what a relief it is to get rid of your sins, which are truly burdensome to our soul. So, like God (YHVH) separated Egypt (bondage) from Israel (freedom), so likewise He will help you to separate from your sins (2 Cor 6:14-18, rev 18:4) so you can serve Him (righteousness) and go into the Promise Land of eternal life (1 John 5:13, Heb 11:16, 12:22).

We now move onto chapter none, which will cover the next three plagues. Now, frogs, gnats and flies are all unclean animals/insects, and what comes when a people are inundated with a lack of clean water and then innumerable pests? We shall soon see...

Exodus 9

1 Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

2 For if thou refuse to let them go, and wilt hold them still,

*3 Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy **cattle** which is in the field, upon the **horses**, upon the **asses**, upon the **camels**, upon the **oxen**, and upon the **sheep**: there shall be a very grievous murrain.*

After having endured their water source being contaminated, a massive influx of frogs and then swarms of gnats and then flies, the next plague is directed at the animals the Egyptians need to survive. Notice six types of animals are given here. Six in Biblical numerics stands for: *weakness of man, evils of Satan, and the manifestation of sin*. Certainly, all three meanings apply to the Egyptian’s religion and the mindset that it creates. *Murrain* in the Hebrew is #1698 and means: a *pestilence*. It is not surprising this is the next plague because the lack of clean water and then the pests naturally leads to bacterial epidemics among animals and humans. Never forget that God

created the heavens and the earth (Gen 1:1, Job 38-41, Ps 148:4-5, Isa 42:5, John 1:1-4, 14, Col 1:16-17, Rev 4:11). He therefore knows how to use His creation to either bless or curse His children. And cursing is one of God's ways of fighting evil upon the earth (Deut 28:59-61, Lev 26:21). It's also His way of chastising His children (Heb 12). He plagued Israel after they worshiped the golden calf (Ex 32:35), after they lusted after flesh to eat (Num 11:34), after the rebellion of Korah (Num 16) and after Israel joined to Baael-peor (Num 25). This was all before they entered into the Promise Land! There were many more times throughout Israel's history that YHVH brought plagues to chastise them. But none were so devastating as the ones He brought upon Egypt, which nearly wiped Egypt out as a nation.

Exodus 9

4 And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all that is the children's of Israel.

Here again we see YHVH made a distinction between Egypt and Israel. YHVH wanted Egypt to know that Israel was *not* their slaves anymore. Though they were in the land of Egypt (their territory), YHVH began to separate Israel apart from Egypt even before they came out of bondage by protecting them through all the plagues. This is a critical point to remember for it is an excellent reminder to us.

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

1 Cor 10:11

As we learned from the very beginning of this great book, the Exodus is a type for us to see what it will be like coming out of Satan's wicked system, which will rule the world shortly before Jesus returns at His Second Advent. And while Satan's tribulation will be going on *before* Jesus returns (2 Thess 2), Jesus will begin to separate His people out *before* He returns. How? Remember the two witnesses are given the ability to *smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will* (Rev 11:6). Not only that, but Rev 15-16 tells us the *seven last plagues* are filled with *the wrath of God*. These plagues will be a witness to the entire world and will begin to help God's children spiritually come out of confusion. They will see the two witnesses teaching truth and then backing up what they say with plagues that happen exactly as they say they will... just as Moses and Aaron did. Revelations 7 tells us that before Satan even gets here there will be 144,000 of Israel spiritually sealed against deception from Satan, yet later in that chapter, we're told that...

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Rev 7:9-10

When John asked who these people were, he was told...

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

*14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, **These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.***

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Rev 7:13-17

So, aside from the 144,000 of Israel (spoken of in Rev 7 and 14), there's also going to be many people of *all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues* who come out of *great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb*. This is good news! And it shows us that these people were spiritually separated from confusion (deception) while still in bondage, just as God separated Israel from the plagues while they were still in Egypt, the land of their bondage. Over and over again we see the historical accounts in the Bible prove to be types for what will happen to us; and more often than not, these physical types are examples for the *spiritual* things we cannot see (Rom 1:20), such as the massive deception that is coming upon our people (<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/235>, <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/380>).

Exodus 9

*5 And **the LORD appointed a set time**, saying, To morrow the LORD shall do this thing in the land.*

*6 And the LORD did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died: **but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one**.*

7 And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

YHVH now makes another distinction to prove to Pharaoh that these plagues are not just 'happen stance'. He sets an 'appointed time' for the plague to smite the Egyptian's animals and, true to His Word, not one of the Israelites animals are hurt while all of the Egyptian's cattle died. The Companion Bible has a note on verse 6 that explains the words 'all the cattle' is a figure of speech that should have been rendered "all kinds of cattle". This is important to understand because the next plague will speak of cattle again and one would be pretty confused as to what cattle could have been impacted by the next plague if this one had literally killed all the cattle. It didn't kill *all* of the animals but all *kinds* of animals mentioned in verse 3.

As these plagues go along, it becomes more and more apparent that they are the ‘*finger of God*’, as the magicians told Pharaoh back in Exodus 8:19. But these plagues were not only a witness to the Egyptians; they were witnesses to Israel as well. Thus, we see that in our generation (we are the last generation of flesh - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/950>) we too are given appointed times to be weary of. Jesus warned us about the ‘abomination of desolation’ in Mth 24:15, Mk 13:14 and Lk 21:20. And He referenced back to the book of Daniel (Dan 9:27, 11:31-32) who also warned about this abomination being ‘set up’. What is this abomination? Paul explained it very clearly...

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

2 Thess 2:3-4

The ‘man of sin’ is Satan himself, who has already been sentenced to spiritual death (Heb 2:14, Ezek 28:18-19, Rev 20:10,14). And Satan (Rev 12:9, 20:2) will be cast to the earth, with his fallen angels, *before* the true Jesus Christ returns (Rev 12:7-13). In other words, there is not going to be a “Rapture” to fly Christians out of the world before the tribulation of the antichrist happens (<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/334>, <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/345>). That means, we must mentally, physically and spiritually prepare for the tribulation of the antichrist (who is Satan) by studying God’s Word (2 Tim 2:15) and putting on the Spiritual armor (Eph 6), so we are *not* like the foolish virgins (<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/286>) who miss entering into the Kingdom of Heaven (Mth 25) when the true Jesus Christ returns *after* the fake (Mth 7:22-23) (<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/208>). So, yes, being aware of the ‘appointed times’ (Dan 11, Hab 2:3, Acts 17:31) of our generation (the tribulation and plagues *we’ll* have to endure) is critical for our soul; for if we are unaware of the massive spiritual deception, *we will be caught up in it*, just as the people in Noah’s day were caught up by the floods (Matt 24:37-39, Rev 12:15).

Exodus 9

8 And the LORD said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh.

9 And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt.

10 And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast.

11 And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians.

12 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken unto Moses.

This next plague came also ‘without warning’ and we see that, from both Moses and Aaron, action was required. They went before Pharaoh and Aaron took handfuls of ‘ashes of the furnace’. Moses then sprinkled these ashes towards heaven *in front of Pharaoh*, which means he tossed the ashes up in the air. The *Companion Bible* has a note about these ‘ashes from the furnace’ and says they were likely ashes from one of the altars on which human sacrifices were sometimes offered. Human sacrifices were likely being offered frequently during the plagues to try and avert more plagues. So, the irony here is that YHVH (through Moses and Aaron) produced another plague from the very ashes of the Egyptian altars where they sacrificed *humans* in an attempt to avert more plagues. In other words, *the very ‘religious’ tools* of the heathen (sacrificing humans = murder) *were used to heap more plagues on them*. This plague caused a lot of personal suffering among the Egyptians and even Pharaoh’s magicians were plagued so badly with the boils that they could not even attempt to ‘duplicate’ this plague let alone go stand in the presence of the king. The word ‘blains’ is #76 and means an *inflammatory pustule* (as eruption) so these boils were large, broke open and oozed. If you have ever had just *one* small boil (just think of how painful pimples can be), you will somewhat understand the kind of suffering this caused the Egyptians and why it was such a good tool for YHVH to use to prove that He is the only true God and that He has complete power over all His creation. Yet still, Pharaoh’s heart was again hardened because YHVH Himself hardened Pharaoh’s heart.

Exodus 9

13 And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Again, YHVH demanded Pharaoh let Israel go so that they may serve Him. This reminds us that we can only serve YHVH (the true God who created everything) OR Satan (who is *not* our Creator; he is only of God’s creations, Ezek 28:13,15) – we *cannot* serve both (Mth 6:24). True freedom comes from truth (John 8:32) and the truth is that, *to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness* (Rom 6:16). We should be careful to remember this because the *wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord* (Rom 6:23) and we will reap what we sew in life (Gal 6:7-10).

Exodus 9

*14 For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; **that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth.***

This is an important verse because it documents that YHVH was not just freeing Israel but He was also trying to turn the hearts of the Egyptians *to Him*. He said He would send the plagues to the *heart* of Pharaoh, his servants and his people so that they may know there is none like Him in all the earth. Thus, through the plagues (hard times) He would ‘touch their hearts’. This is essentially the entire reason we are living in these flesh bodies. While many people complain about the ‘unfun’ and inconvenient parts of life in the flesh, the truth is that this is the foundation

of God's brilliant plan of Salvation (the plan to save His children from Satan's deception). Life in the flesh teaches us so many things. We have the opportunity to learn what it's like to be a parent, which helps us to understand why God (YHVH) treats us the way He does for He is our *Heavenly Father*. We also directly experience consequences of our sins *and* the sins of others. So, we not only learn that our sins hurt ourselves but they hurt others too. The other side of that coin, of course, is that other's sins hurt us as well. We can also see the direct link between blessings that come from obeying God verses cursings that come from disobeying Him. And lastly, perhaps most importantly, we learn what death is for without understanding that, we truly cannot make a choice between life and death. For how can you choose between two things when you really don't understand what one of them is? To better grasp this, it is necessary to study up on what the Bible says about the Three World Ages, the first chapter of Genesis and the 3rd chapter of 2 Peter. The links below will take you to studies for this subject of the purpose of our life in this flesh body...

Three World Ages: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/190?single>

Genesis 1: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Genesis/21

2 Pt 3: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Peter/277

Exodus 9

15 For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth.

This is not a threat; it's another promise of what YHVH would soon DO. Now, when the Bible uses the term 'cut off' it means 'to die' (Ps 34:16, 37:9, 22, 34, 38, 101:8, 109:13, 15, Prov 2:22). In other words, YHVH is warning the Pharaoh that many of his people would be soon dying because of the next few plagues. The word 'pestilence' here is #1698 and has been translated in the KJV as - *murrain*, *pestilence*, and *plague*, so all three words are synonyms.

Exodus 9

16 And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.

The Companion Bible has a note on this verse that says the words 'raised thee up' should have been rendered: 'made thee to stand', i.e., "preserved thee" through all the plagues and till the end. In other words, YHVH was making sure Pharaoh had not, and would not, die from any of the plagues. He was impacted by them, obviously, but YHVH made sure he did not die from them. And the reason is to show him YHVH's power so that His name (YHVH) would be declared throughout all the earth. Remember, Egypt was the most powerful nation in the known world at that time and therefore, word about their defeat by the God of Israel (YHVH) would get around and last for *many* years (Joshua 2:9-11, 1 Sam 4:6-8). YHVH has a way of making His name known and the reason He does so is to turn the hearts of His children back to Him, and away from other gods that cannot profit them (1 Sam 12:20-22). But how would YHVH change Pharaoh's heart when He kept hardening it? He would stop hardening it after He was done

showing Egypt His great and mighty power (Ex 14:17-18). Romans 9:17-18 declares that YHVH has the right to harden hearts of those He chooses. The reason is revealed in Rom 9:23 when He says that He 'afore prepared unto glory'. It's the same reason He was able to say that He hated Esau but loved Jacob (Rom 9:13, Mal 1:3). Certainly, YHVH is **not** unfair...

*He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and **without iniquity, just and right is he.***

Deut 32:4

*Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for **the ways of the LORD are right**, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.*

Hos 14:9

How then can YHVH raise Pharaoh just for the purpose of hardening his heart? The reason is quite simple: God (YHVH) knew Pharaoh before he was even born. Likewise, He also knew Cyrus before he was born and chose to use him too for a specific purpose (Isa 45:1, 2 Chron 36:22). Same with Jeremiah; he was chosen to be a prophet (Jer 1:5). He also knew *you* before your life in this flesh body, and all of the people living in the world today. And, as Romans 9 also explains, there are certain people God chooses to use *because* He knows them from the *first* earth age. And while He knows *all* of His children (because we were all in the first earth age) not everyone is chosen by God to do specific things. Most people have free will to do what they want; only a few are chosen for certain things and that's because God knows He can trust them. The Scriptures speak of this in many places. Links to further study this vital subject are below...

Ephesians 1: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/237>

Romans 8: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Romans/39

Romans 9: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Romans/40

Three World Ages: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/190?single>

Was Our Fate Decided: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/337>

Free Will or By Force: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/260>

What were we like in the Beginning? <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/322>

Where Are All the People Who Have Died? <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/323>

Exodus 9

*17 As yet exaltest thou thyself **against my people**, that thou wilt not let them go?*

Notice that after the last two plagues (the murrain/plague and the boils), Pharaoh did not call Moses in again and try to bargain with YHVH nor did he lie to him again. He simply endured the plagues and (because he didn't let Israel go) the plagues kept coming. We see from this verse that pride is what God used to harden Pharaoh's heart and it is a very common trait (pride) for those who are in power. Remember, Pharaoh was king over the most powerful nation in the world (at that time). He was also worshiped as a god by his own people. So, for him to acknowledge that

the God of Israel (who were his *slaves*) was more powerful than he was... would have been an excruciatingly painful thing to do. Anyone who has been humbled knows it's a very painful experience, which is why so many people do not like to do it! Yet, humility is a requirement for those who want to 'follow Jesus' and be a part of the Kingdom of God (i.e., be in the government of Jesus Christ, which is the Body of Christ) (Mth 18:1-2, 23:11-12, James 4:6,10, 1 Pt 5:5-6).

So, (because Pharaoh did not call for Moses after the last two plagues), YHVH had Moses ask Pharaoh if he was going to still be prideful and exalt himself over His people by not letting them go. Of course, we know the answer to this because God has already told us in Ex 3:19, 4:21. But YHVH is about to give Pharaoh warning for the next plague, which we will see is a test of faith for all those in Egypt...

Exodus 9

18 Behold, to morrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now.

19 Send therefore now, and gather thy cattle, and all that thou hast in the field; for upon every man and beast which shall be found in the field, and shall not be brought home, the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall die.

20 He that feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses:

21 And he that regarded not the word of the LORD left his servants and his cattle in the field.

God (YHVH), through Moses, warns Pharaoh that they will soon have 'grievous' hail in Egypt and that they should get their animals and people out of the fields and into a building somewhere. Hail in Lower Egypt (southern part) is very rare so this was indeed a mighty plague. It's worth noting that an earthquake, and resulting volcanic and gas eruptions, can explain the first seven plagues as well as the hail and fire falling; it's called volcanic hail. But for all the plagues to happen *when* and *where* and precisely *how* YHVH said they would happen proves these plagues were caused and controlled by Almighty God, YHVH. Remember, He uses His nature for His will and He can bless or curse with it. So, YHVH gave the Egyptians time and everyone who was smart enough to fear God (YHVH) quickly got their animals and all people under their authority inside buildings. This was not only a test of faith (Ps 11:4, Jer 17:10) but also a way to punish the rebels.

Exodus 9

*22 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, (herb is #6212 in the Hebrew and it means: to glisten (or be green); **grass** (or any tender shoot). throughout the land of Egypt.*

23 And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.

*24 So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, **such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.***

25 And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field.

Notice that Aaron has not been mentioned for a while now. Moses apparently has gotten over his shyness and feelings of inadequacies. Likely, all the plagues have increased *his* faith. So, after the Egyptians were given time to get their animals and people inside, YHWH tells Moses to stretch out his hand (with his rod) toward heaven and, at the exact time he did that, YHWH sent thunder, hail and fire (which ran along the ground). Note that the hail smote every herb, which means green thing, grass or shoot. The hail also broke all the trees and killed the animals. So, this greatly impacted their food sources. Another thing to note is that fire and hail together are not natural; but it does happen in some cases, as we touched on earlier regarding the volcanic hail. The Psalms gives us a little bit more insight about this plague...

47 He destroyed their vines with hail, and their sycomore trees with frost.

48 He gave up their cattle also to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunderbolts.

Ps 78:47-48

29 He turned their waters into blood, and slew their fish.

30 Their land brought forth frogs in abundance, in the chambers of their kings.

31 He spake, and there came divers sorts of flies, and lice in all their coasts.

32 He gave them hail for rain, and flaming fire in their land.

33 He smote their vines also and their fig trees; and brake the trees of their coasts.

Ps 105:29-33

So, the hail and fire mingled with hail destroyed everything that it came in contact with it. People, animals, trees, crops, grass... things the Egyptians needed to survive were destroyed with that 'grievous' hail and fire!

We cannot leave studying this plague without looking at how the Bible uses symbolism for fire and hail to describe things both literal and spiritual in nature. Yes, the Bible does use hail and fire as a metaphor to explain spiritual things such as the kind of spiritual destruction that will come with Satan's deception (2 Thess 2). Consider the following...

1 Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!

*2 Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, which **as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing,** shall cast down to the earth with the hand...*

...14 Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem.

15 Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

*17 Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and **the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies**, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.*

18 And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.

Isa 28:1-2, 14-18

We see here in Isaiah, YHVH clearly uses hail to describe how truth will hit these vile men in the head and sweep away the lies they have put in their mind. In other words, it's a way to say they'll get a very 'hard' reality check! We are warned of similar things coming in the 'latter days' we live in. For example: in Revelations 8, shortly before the first trump sounds, we're told (in vs 5) that: after an angel filled a censer with fire (from the altar of God), he cast it down *to the earth*. After that *there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake* and the first trump then sounds. What is the first trump?

*The first angel sounded, and there followed **hail and fire mingled with blood**, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.*

Rev 8:7

The first trump *is hail mingled with fire*. In the Book of Revelations (which means "to reveal"), Jesus warns us of things that are soon to come (Rev 1:1). And many of the things we are warned about have types found in this great book of Exodus, as we already found out with the plagues of the frogs and flies (which are likened to the evil spirits that will 'swarm' upon the world when Satan and his fallen angels are here; they help immensely with the deception). And now this first trump warns us about hail and fire mingled with blood that destroy the third part of trees and all the grass. While this sounds quite scary to our flesh mind, we must remember that God's Word (especially in the Revelations) is filled with figures of speech, metaphors and analogies to give us a picture (image) of what will happen in people's *hearts and minds* because we cannot see deception like we can see trees and grass being burnt (Rom 1:20). We should also remember that trees and grass are often used in the Bible to symbolize *people* (Gen 2:9, 6-17, Ezek 31, Hosea 14:8, Mk 8:24, Ps 103:15, Isa 51:12, 1 Pt 1:24). So, while God (YHVH) can certainly use literal hail to plague the earth (and might do so through the two witnesses – Rev 11:6), He clearly warns us what will happen *spiritually* to people through the analogy of hail and fire. When Satan is here he will "sweep people off their feet" with lies, just as hail and fire consumed the people, animals and all vegetation in Egypt (2 Thess 2, Rev 13:5-6, 12-15). And our people like to have it so (Rev 13:8). But, when the two witnesses start their testimony (Rev 11) truth will hitting people in the head as hard as hail and the truth burning their soul as hot as the fire God sent from heaven in the days of Egypt (Isa 28:2, 17, Deut 4:24, 9:3, Heb 12:29). The analogy for hail and fire is thus a double-edged sword (Heb 4:12).

But this is not the only place Revelations speaks hail or fire. We're also told hail will be used later on in the spiritual battle of these end days...

*15 And the **seventh angel sounded**; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

*19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and **there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.***

Rev 11:15-19

*17 And the **seventh angel** poured out his **vial** into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.*

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

*21 And there fell upon men a **great hail** out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of **the plague of the hail**; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.*

Rev 16:17-21

So, we see again, that YHVH will use hail to fight with (it's actually part of his armament, as Rev 11:19 tells us). And because these things happen at the seventh trump and the seventh vial, they are happening right before our dear Savior, Jesus Christ returns! And while hail and fire can be used to represent spiritual destruction (through deception), rest assured, however, that the return of Jesus Christ will be literal (Rev 20:4-6). Jesus will be returning to clean the earth (2 Pt 3), put an end to Satan's wicked reign (Rev 20:1-3) and institute a thousand years of teaching His Word before the Great White Throne Judgment Day (Ezek 44:23-24, Rev 20:4-6, 10-15).

Fire too is used in the book of Revelations to warn us of what is shortly to come when Satan is here on earth, pretending to be the world's savior (2 Thess 2). Rev 8:8, Rev 9:14-21, 11:5, 13:13, 16:8, 18:8 all tell us that fire is also used in warfare and some places (like Rev 9 and 11) are specifically explained to be used in *spiritual* warfare. For our God is a *consuming fire* (Deut 4:24, 9:3, Heb 12:29) and He can use His fire both physically and spiritually.

We could go on to further study hail and fire but, since we are studying the great book of Exodus right now, we shall return to it. We have covered enough Scriptures to make the point that this plague in Exodus is a type for how God will use hail and fire. both physically and spiritually, to clean people's hearts and to clean the earth as well. And that is the great lesson we learn from this type of hail and fire in this seventh plague of the Exodus.

Exodus 9

*26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, **was there no hail.***

Again, YHVH makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel to prove to Pharaoh that it is YHVH, God Almighty, bringing on the plagues and not just some 'freak of nature'.

Exodus 9

*27 And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: **the LORD is righteous, and I and my people are wicked.***

28 Intreat the LORD (for it is enough) that there be no more mighty thunderings and hail; and I will let you go, and ye shall stay no longer.

*29 And Moses said unto him, **As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD;** and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; **that thou mayest know how that the earth is the LORD's.***

Pharaoh finally had enough and called for Moses and Aaron. And, in what sounds like real repentance, admits that YHVH is righteous while he and his people (the Egyptians) were wicked. That truly is the first step in repentance but as Romans 10:9 explains, confession must be followed by *belief* in one's heart. And Mth 7:16-20 tells us that we are to judge people by their fruit (works), not based only on what they say, so...

Exodus 9

30 But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the LORD God.

Moses is growing in faith and finally remembers what YHVH has told him: He will continue to harden Pharaoh's heart until all the plagues are accomplished. Therefore, Moses can see through this 'repentance' and knows it will not be long lasting because Pharaoh will not let them go free.

*By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and **by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.***

Prov 16:6

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

Ps 19:9

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Prov 8:13

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Prov 9:10

To fear the LORD (YHVH) means you fear to do evil; therefore, you learn the difference between good and evil (Isa 5:20, Heb 5:14) and work to put away your evil thoughts, words and actions. This then is why fear of YHVH is the beginning of wisdom. If Pharaoh truly was repentant, he would have turned from his wicked works, stopped worshiping false gods and turned to YHVH for help and, of course, he would have let Israel go!

Exodus 9

31 And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was bolled.

32 But the wheat and the rie were not smitten: for they were not grown up.

Flax was used to make clothing (Prov 31:13, Hosea 2:9, Joshua 2:9) and barley was called ‘poor man’s bread’ because it was cheaper than wheat. So, the hail and fire impacted these two crops (which ripen mid-February to the first of March in Egypt) but the wheat and rie (#3698, spelt) were not grown up enough to be damaged. So, there was still hope for the latter crops to produce food for the Egyptians.

Exodus 9

33 And Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread abroad his hands unto the LORD: and the thunders and hail ceased, and the rain was not poured upon the earth.

So, once again, Moses went out of the city and prayed to God (YHVH) that the thunders, hail and rain would stop and God stopped *it at the behest of Moses*. We must remember the kind of relationship Moses had with YHVH. Moses *worked for YHVH* (not the other way around) and was asking for something that was in YHVH’s will, would glorify *Him* and would also help to bring His lost children back to Him. He did not go out and ask for a new car, a new home, prestige, riches, etc. *Moses was a humble servant of God* (Num 12:3) and *was not self-serving*; He served YHVH, the only Living God. It was because of this that YHVH responded by performing Moses’ request. In John 14:14 Jesus said: *If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it* but many people overlook the condition given in the next verse: *If ye love me, keep my commandments* (John 14:15). Those who love God (YHVH) *serve Him* and they don’t ask Him for things to feed their pride, greed or selfishness.

Ps 37:4 tells us to: *Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart*. But there’s a condition there too; we can’t overlook the conditions in God’s Words or we will never receive His blessings because we’ll never DO anything worthy of receiving His

blessings. IF you delight yourself in YHVH, you won't be selfish or greedy. Your heart will be pure and *your desire will be to do what God wants*. In other words, your desire will be in line with God's will, whatever that might be for your life.

So, maybe you are not the richest, most popular, best looking or well-liked person in your community. So what. James 4:4 tells us that: *whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God*. So, we should be careful who we try to please. Why do we try to conform to the world? What does it matter if we have clothes that are in style? Or if we have the newest things that everyone else has? Trying to "keep up with the Jones" *IS trying to conform to the world* and we should be very weary of doing so because, the path to being friends with the world IS also the path to being an enemy of YHVH. It spiritually (mentally) puts us at odds with YHVH because we're trying to "fit in" with the world... *that is confirming to it*. Never forget God calls us to come out of confusion (Rev 18:4) and separate from sin (2 Cor 6:14-18). Moses well knew this by now. He left his home and lifestyle (which he probably enjoyed shepherding very much). He uprooted his family to serve the Lord (YHVH) at an age when most of us hope to be 'happily retired'. Yet, Moses' work *had only begun*.

The world wants us to think of life as being a self-serving journey. "What do you want to do when you grow up?" is a popular question for young people. Society always pushes us to think about ourselves instead of our Heavenly Father's will. That's why so many people are unhappy. Everyone wants to be millionaires who don't have to do a damn thing but enjoy all the fleshly pleasures of life. Even self-professed Christians have this mentality, which is why the "prosperity message" is ever so luring to them. "God wants you to be happy" they say. "You should make a lot of money and enjoy life to its fullest pleasures". Well, God *does* want us to be happy but He warns us over and over in His Word to be careful of the 'pleasures' of life because they are actually quite harmful to our soul...

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

1 John 2:15-17

1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

1 Peter 4:1-4

The Scriptures are clear: lust is of the world and lust is not always sexual. Ephesians 2:3 tells us lust can be of our mind; they are simply things we desire, such as fitting in with the world, being liked and being accepted. These are strong fleshly urges that we must learn to overcome if we are going to be pleasing to our Heavenly Father. Who do you truly love? (Mth 6:24, 1 Tim 6:10). As Peter points out, it does require suffering in the flesh to cease from sin. It's hard work to put off your sins and keep them out of your heart, mind and actions BUT it is worth it. What will make you truly happy in this life? The way to true peace of mind and happiness is putting off the things of the world along with our lusts and pride. *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee* (Isa 26:3).

Instead, we should seek God's will in our life. *It does **not** matter what WE want to be when we grow up: it matters what God's will is for us.* Remember, He is the one who gives the talents and it's our duty to find it and use it to the best of our ability (Mth 25:14-29). It does not matter if our talent is what we want to do or not; it's our duty to obey God and use our God given talents to serve Him. (Note to the rebellious in heart: once you find your God given talent and submit to His will for you in life, you will learn that serving Him in the way He wants you to serve Him *will make you happier than you ever thought possible. That's where true joy and peace of mind* comes from regardless of how many earthly riches you have or do not have). Moses learned this lesson very well in the 40 years he served YHVH. Remember how much Moses did not want to go to Egypt to help YHVH free Israel? He pretty much argued with God about it and even asked for Him to send someone else! But once Moses *finally* submitted to Him, *his faith grew* and he was extremely blessed, not by man's riches (Heb 11:26), but he was blessed by God, YHVH. Consider what is *eternally* written of him...

10 And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

11 In all the signs and the wonders, which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh, and to all his servants, and to all his land,

12 And in all that mighty hand, and in all the great terror which Moses shewed in the sight of all Israel.

Deut 34:10-12

Moses became world renown *forever*. Moses is *still* famous and he will forever be so because he served the Living God Almighty, whose name is YHVH! Would that have happened if he remained a shepherd as HE wanted? Nope. Never would have happened. But, because He *submitted to God's will in His life* (and did not seek to be popular with the people of the world), Moses was blessed indeed. He was even one of two men communicating with Jesus Christ on the Mount of transfiguration! (Mth 17:1-5)

Exodus 9

34 And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants.

35 And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, neither would he let the children of Israel go; as the LORD had spoken by Moses.

And yet again Pharaoh's heart was hardened. Not only was his heart hardened but also his servant's hearts. Again, this is typical of people. When things are 'bad' they cry out to God but when they get relief, they forget God. Our Heavenly Father calls us to think on a higher level than animals do because...

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:4-10

It boils down to the way we think. We can be carnally minded, which means we think (and act) like mere animals (i.e., we 'walk after the flesh'). Or, we can learn to think like our Heavenly Father and live our life for Him (i.e., we 'walk after the Spirit'). Again, this boils down to your desires and lusts. Eternal life does *not* come from lusting after fleshly things (1 Cor 10:6, Gal 5:16, James 1:14-15). Eternal life comes from lusting after our Heavenly Father's Word and will (Ps 119:40, 131, Mth 5:6). The question remains: which way will you choose?

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

1 John 2:15-17

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

23 *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

24 *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:*

25 *And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*

26 *And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:*

27 *And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

Matt 7:21-27

AMEN.