



Exodus

GOD'S MIRACULOUS DEMONSTRATION OF POWER

Exodus 9

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Signs and Plagues

God's deliverance of His people from bondage will include "signs" and "plagues" - all demonstrations of His power. The plagues are all evidence of God's preeminence over the various "gods" of the Egyptians. The plagues are also signs to God's people that will encourage them in their confidence in God.

Plague on Livestock

The fifth plague was aimed at the gods and goddesses represented by the livestock of the Egyptians. Cattle were sacred to the Egyptians. The gods and goddesses of Egypt often were portrayed through images of cows, bulls, and calves. At the great temple in Memphis, a venerable live bull was kept in a sacred enclosure at all times, believed to be the re-incarnation of Apis. Elaborate funeral niches have been found where these sacred bulls were laid to rest after festive funeral ceremonies.

Plague of Boils

Next, God inflicted a plague that mocked the healing power of the Egyptian magicians and used the brick-making industry as the instrument of pain. The magicians of Egypt were known to use the spreading of ashes in all manner of healing and blessing ceremonies. Now, as Moses stands before Pharaoh, they are unable to stand before Moses.

Plague of Hailstorm

The destruction through plagues intensifies with this manifestation of God's power. This plague is unique so far in that God offered Pharaoh and Egypt an opportunity to protect themselves from the devastation. He also explained the rationale behind the demonstrations of power.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

1. God is going to deliver Israel through a holistic expression of redemption. There will be no shortcuts.
2. Glorifying God is at the very heart of the reason for human existence.
3. Idolatry is simply not an option for the people of God!
4. God is an omnipotent God and He has no equal (9:14).
5. God will be praised throughout the earth (9:16).
6. The earth is the LORD'S! (9:29)