
DAILY READING

Exodus 9:22-35

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THE FIFTH PLAGUE: DEATH OF LIVESTOCK

9 ²² Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven and let there be hail throughout the land of Egypt—on people and animals and every plant of the field in the land of Egypt.” ²³ So Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the Lord sent thunder and hail. Lightning struck the land, and the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. ²⁴ The hail, with lightning flashing through it, was so severe that nothing like it had occurred in the land of Egypt since it had become a nation. ²⁵ Throughout the land of Egypt, the hail struck down everything in the field, both people and animals. The hail beat down every plant of the field and shattered every tree in the field. ²⁶ The only place it didn’t hail was in the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were.

²⁷ Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron. “I have sinned this time,” he said to them. “The Lord is the righteous one, and I and my people are the guilty ones. ²⁸ Make

an appeal to the Lord. There has been enough of God's thunder and hail. I will let you go; you don't need to stay any longer."

²⁹ Moses said to him, "When I have left the city, I will spread out my hands to the Lord. The thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, so that you may know the earth belongs to the Lord. ³⁰ But as for you and your officials, I know that you still do not fear the Lord God."

³¹ The flax and the barley were destroyed because the barley was ripe and the flax was budding, ³² but the wheat and the spelt were not destroyed since they are later crops.

³³ Moses left Pharaoh and the city, and spread out his hands to the Lord. Then the thunder and hail ceased, and rain no longer poured down on the land. ³⁴ When Pharaoh saw that the rain, hail, and thunder had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he and his officials. ³⁵ So Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he did not let the Israelites go, as the Lord had said through Moses.