

Bible Study  
**Exodus 9**  
CATTLE, BOILS, HAIL

1. Cattle disease (9:1-7)

- The Egyptians viewed the bull as a symbol of power, fertility and vitality.

2. Boils on man and beast (9:8-12)

- *Matthew Henry*: “Before, Pharaoh had hardened his own heart, ... and now God justly gave him up to his own heart’s lusts, to a reprobate mind, and strong delusions, permitting Satan to blind him and harden him, and ordering everything, henceforward, so as to make him more and more obstinate.”

3. Very heavy hail (9:13-35)

- Nut was the female representative of the sky; Shu was the one who holds up the sky; Tefnut was the goddess of moisture.

## APPLICATION

- The LORD is sovereign over all things by His word (Ps. 33:6; Heb. 1:2; 2 Pet. 3:7).
- The LORD is sovereign over the weather. The hail plague was a unique miraculous event (v.18). But the Lord controls all the weather and weather patterns, whether normal (Gen. 8:22), abnormal, or massively destructive. **Amos 3:6; 4:7.**
- How do most people view “natural” disasters? “‘Mother Nature’ is fickle and cannot be trusted. In other words, there is no purpose or meaning to natural calamities” (Currid, 1:195).
- What happens when God’s destructive judgements fall both on the righteous and the wicked? Isaiah 57:1-2.
- “Pharaoh’s hardening reminds us that the LORD is free to save or to harden sinners as He wills, for He made us all and has the right to glorify Himself by wrath or mercy (Rom. 9:16-23). Therefore, let us fear the Lord and not tremble before the wicked no matter how stubborn and arrogant they are. God will get glory through them one way or the other” (*Reformation Heritage Bible*).