

Structure

1. 9:13–17: The LORD declares His purposes in His judgment.

- a. v.13—the LORD commands Moses to tell Pharaoh to “Let me people go, that they may serve me.”
- b. v.14—the LORD’s purpose in the plagues—so that you may know there is none like me in all the earth
- c. v.15—the LORD’s power over life and death
- d. v.16—the LORD’s purpose in raising up Pharaoh—so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth
- e. v.17—Pharaoh’s problem—he is exalting his own name over the LORD’s

2. 9:18–26: The LORD pledges to judge and provides provision for some to be spared

- a. v.18—the LORD pledges to send judgement
- b. 19: God pledges a provision of safety to those who fear and obey
- c. 20–21: Egyptians respond to the promise of provision and declare who they fear
 - i. v.20—Egyptians who feared the LORD acted to save their slaves and livestock
 - ii. v.21—Egyptians who ignored the word of the LORD did not act to save their slaves and livestock
- d. 22–26: God commands Moses and delivers hail.
 - i. v.22—the LORD commands Moses to act to bring the pledged judgement of hail
 - ii. v.23a—Moses obeys
 - iii. v.23b—the LORD sends the pledged judgement of hail
 - iv. v.24—the unique severity of the hail
 - v. v.25—the hail destroyed man and beast left in the fields and all planted things
 - vi. v.26—the LORD provides safety for his people from the hail

3. 9:27–35: Pharaoh’s ploy to escape judgement

- a. 27–28: Pharaoh ploy-induced promises.
 - i. v.27—Pharaoh summons Moses and Aaron and reveals his heart is not changed
 - ii. v.28—Pharaoh attempts to dictate the terms of a negotiation with the LORD
- b. 29–33: Moses’s indictment on Pharaoh’s heart and reveals his ploy
 - i. v.29—Moses agrees to end the hail “so that you may know the earth is the Lord’s” not because Pharaoh is repentant
 - ii. v.30—Moses reveals the truth about Pharaoh’s heart/his ploy
 1. v.31—the destruction of the flax and barley
 2. v.32—the wheat and emmer spared because they had not grown yet (loophole)
 - iii. v.33—Moses delivers on his promise to ask the LORD to end the hail
- c. 34–35: Pharaoh betrays his promise, just as the LORD had said
 - i. v.34—Pharaoh, getting what he wanted, hardened his heart yet again
 - ii. v.35—Pharaoh did not let the people go, “just as the LORD had spoken through Moses

Unifying Theme

The LORD, faithful to what He pledges, declares His purposes in His judgement—to proclaim His name in all the earth—and pledges (a) that those who fear Him will be spared and (b) those who remain hard hearted will be punished.

Author’s Aim

Moses’s main aim is to emphasize the purpose of the pledged judgement of the LORD—to exalt the name of the LORD—and to show the life-sparing provision pledged when we fear the word of the LORD by proclaiming His name as great.