

Exodus 12 – Sign 03 Uncleanliness of Lice

Exodus (Names) – Changing the World

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Review the Triad

- Three sets of three signs in a repeating pattern
 - Pharaoh as high priest of Egypt – Religious
 - Announced
 - Pharaoh as King of Egypt – Governmental
 - Announced
 - Egyptian society – Cultural (Sharing guilt with Pharaoh)
 - Unannounced

Comment on the Culture

- Moses does not speak to Pharaoh thus this sign appears unannounced; however, Pharaoh and Egypt know it is from Moses, and his God
- This sign is a comment on the culture and society
 - Pharaoh only rules through the consent of the governed
 - God is teaching the beginnings of personal morality, accountability; i.e., everyone is responsible for the deeds of one's government, not just the leader(s)

Ancient World not Scientific

- The Ancient World did not catalog nature as we do
 - Every known species of animal, plant, microbial, and so forth have names both generic and “scientific”
 - Thus it is difficult to be precise about vague descriptions when reading the ancient languages
 - It’s easy to be confused and caution is our best guide

What Is Dust?

- What is Dust (אֵפֶר)?
 - Man is made from the dust (Ge 2:7)
 - Satan shall be identified with the those of the dust (Ge 3:14)
 - Man is dust to dust (Ec 3:20)
- Dust is the substance of the flesh, now sinful flesh, and shall not receive glory before God (1Co 1:29, 15:47)

Dust is Substance of Creation

- Taking the dust is an act of creation
 - God originally made man from dust
 - God, through Moses, makes something else from dust
- Pharaoh’s priests cannot duplicate this or any other sign because only God can create
 - Satan, and man, can only poorly copy God’s creation

What Does the Dust Become?

- This word is the problem in understanding these verses
 - (72) Depending on your translation may read
 - Gnats - Preferred by most modern translations
 - Lice - Preferred by most ancient writers and KJV
 - The word itself means "to fasten to" and is found in the Old Testament in this passage and two other passages (12:10, 12:11, 12:12)

Body Lice

- I stand with those closest to the original language and time period - lice
- Lice "fasten" onto people
- Gnats land, pierce the skin and leave quickly



Accords with Egyptian Culture

- The top two castes were fastidious in order to not be considered unclean and therefore unfit for their duties
 - The ruling family and priests removed every speck of body hair to avoid lice infestations and their diseases
 - Parasites, body lice, were a constant menace to health and people infested were considered lower in society

Body Lice Carries Typhus

- These people killed by
 - Endemic typhus carried by body lice (vector)
 - Filthy conditions encourage these epidemics
 - Starvation due to lack of supplies in the camps weakened them



Lost Cultures Basically Filthy

- Gnostic cultures throughout history display their lack of spiritual cleanliness as physical uncleanliness
 - Epidemics were common not just due to lack of medicines but due to the generally filthy conditions found in these societies
 - Christian missionaries carried the value of cleanliness into these cultures breaking the cycle of disease and filthiness (Christians carrying the Gospel of Salvation)

Modern Insanity

- Western Gnosticism seeks to return to the “holistic” naturalistic forms of healing of ancient times when there were no forms of healing
- Yet, a glimpse of the conditions in modern primarily pantheistic cultures reveal generally filthy conditions and a clamor for Western medicine

Dust Turns to Lice

- When Aaron strikes the dust with his staff
 - God creates lice out of the dust throughout Egypt
 - Egyptians are infected
 - Hebrews are infested
 - Animals are tormented
- Hebrews wallowing in Satan's religion has produced spiritual uncleanliness evidenced by lice borne illnesses

This Sign Not Ended

- There is no indication that Moses ended this sign
 - To break the cycle of body lice infestation and disease requires simple cleanliness
 - Wash the body and hair
 - Wash the clothes
 - Develop a habit of cleanliness to prevent reinfestations
- Washing themselves with God's Word would cleanse them spiritually

Pharaoh's Heart Hardened

- Pharaoh not be moved by his people suffering
 - Pharaoh already lived in relatively clean conditions
 - Probable that he did not suffer nor did his priests
- The Hebrew shows that Pharaoh did harden his heart, in order to maintain Ma'at, a Ma'at that was not harmony but disharmony with God and His word

The End of the First Cycle

- This cycle has shown Pharaoh, Hebrews and us
 - Their source of truth (knowledge) was corrupted
 - Their religion, and government, was demonically inspired to maintain their source of truth
 - The result of believing the lies resulted in spiritual and physical degradation, uncleanliness
- This cycle continues today

America's Uncleanliness

- The lament of a declining morality is nothing more than America, and Western culture in general
 - Rejecting God's truth and embracing Satan's lies
 - This has seeped into all forms of government resulting in declining standards of truth and embracing mind altering drugs to open the people to demonic forces
 - The general decline in cleanliness, even among Christians, mirrors the general decline in spiritual truth

Break the Cycle

- This cycle can be broken by
 - God's people remaining faithful to God's word
 - God's people spreading the Gospel in word and deed
 - God's people rejecting the filth of Gnosticism in their assemblies
 - God's people will to stand firm in suffering to Christ waiting for their glory in eternity future rather than some "healing" or scrap of the world NOW 06:6:20