

09 – Of God and gods: What is Truth?

Exodus (Names) – Changing the World

Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 7:1-13

Blasphemy or Worldview

- And the LORD said to Moses, “ See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. (Ex 4:15-16; 7:1 ESV)
- God is acknowledging Pharaoh’s sinful worldview
 - Moses is given “signs” to showing he also has “power”
 - Pharaoh must defeat Moses to defeat Moses’ God

God’s Answer to Moses Cry

- Moses asks why Pharaoh should listen to him since he has “uncircumcised” lips
 - Euphemism – Moses does not have Pharaoh’s standing
 - God’s answer is to show Moses that he will be Pharaoh’s “equal” based solely on God’s power and not on his own devices

God's Plan, Again

- God instructs Moses, and by implication Aaron, that He will demonstrate His power to Pharaoh, and his people (and by implication to all men who hear of His deeds)
- His power will be ignored until the final demonstration when Pharaoh will push them out of the land – then he will know that He is the God

Another Tradition Trap

- Our understanding of these words are influenced by the traditional English words used rather than a direct translation from the Hebrew
 - Sign (**אֵימֶת**) – This word is used in reference to:
 - Cain (Sign of Cain) (Gen 4:15)
 - Rehab (Asked for a sign from the spies) (Num 2:12)
 - Purpose of “signs” was to impart knowledge of God

Another Tradition Trap

- Wonder (**מוֹפֵת**) – This word is used in reference to God
 - Purpose of “wonders” is to point directly or indirectly to God; indeed, over half of the occurrences of this word refer to Exodus
 - Wonders does not point to the power of men but reveal that God is God, the only God

Consistent Translation Helps

- “When Pharaoh says to you, ‘ Prove yourselves by working a miracle,’” (Ex 7:9 ESV)
- The word *miracle* is the same word as *wonder* (מוֹפֵת)
- Pharaoh is actually telling them to prove that they are gods as he is
 - If they cannot then Pharaoh would probably execute them
 - They performed the *wonder* as requested to no avail

Making Sticks Crawl

- Aaron cast down his staff which became a snake
- The priests could do the same; however, Aaron’s staff devoured theirs showing this was no illusion
- We cannot speculate on the snakes being “real” snakes but we can accept the words as true because Pharaoh did not execute them nor was it an illusion or they would not have believed the *sign*

Snake is Pharaoh’s Symbol

- The use of a snake as a symbol was a direct attack on Pharaoh’s power
 - Only Pharaoh could wear the Uraeus (snake), symbol of Lower Egypt
 - If Pharaoh cannot control the symbol but loses the symbol to God’s symbol then it is a direct attack on the source of Pharaoh’s power and authority

Snake is God's Symbol

- God uses the snake to denote the:
 - Sinfulness of man
 - Source of man's power – Satan who is the serpent
 - Christ, God
 - Who comes in the likeness of sinful man to pay the penalty for sin and swallow up our sinful snake (old man)
 - Who sees the unrepentant people as snakes, judging them

Where did Plagues Come From?

- Wycliffe used this word in his translation in Exodus
- His intentions were for clarity but obfuscation was his result
- These are signs pointing to God being God, not plagues

Plague
 Late Middle English (as a plague, pestilence, epidemic) from Old French *plague*, from a noun meaning 'plague'.

The late 14th-century translation of the Bible, completed by John Wycliffe, introduced the word *plague* to English. It was in Latin *plaga* in the Vulgate and *plague* was part of the first English Bible. It was also used to refer to the *plague of Egypt*. According to Exodus, although there were other plagues upon the land of Egypt, only the *plague of the firstborn* was the most deadly. In the Bible, the word *plague* is used to refer to a pestilence or epidemic, such as the *plague of the firstborn*. The word *plague* is also used to refer to a great affliction or calamity, such as the *plague of the firstborn*. The word *plague* is also used to refer to a great affliction or calamity, such as the *plague of the firstborn*. The word *plague* is also used to refer to a great affliction or calamity, such as the *plague of the firstborn*.

Oxford
 English
 Dictionary

What is Wrong with Plagues?

- The wrong word gives the wrong connotation altering the meaning of the passage (changing God's word)
- These are not nuisances that God is inflicting on Egypt, they are demonstrations of His power as God
- These are in fact *signs* and *wonders* giving knowledge of and demonstrating the truth and existence of God

Patterns of Threes

- The signs are divided into three groups of three following a specific pattern for a specific reason
- The tenth sign is outside of the pattern because it represents the true “*sign*” of God, the power over death
- Pharaoh, Egypt, the ancient world discovered that the God of the Hebrews was the true God, the source of life (Power over death means power over life)

Pharaoh, King, Citizen

- The first sign of each set: God instructs Moses to speak to Pharaoh at his priestly work of praying at the Nile, presumably with the priestly caste
- The second sign of each set: God instructs Moses to go to Pharaoh, presumably while at court as king
- The third sign of each set: God instructs Moses to do the sign away from Pharaoh, coming unannounced

Pharaoh Does Not Believe

- While *signs* and *wonders* give knowledge of and point to God, they are not the *means* of salvation
- The lost are not saved except by the word of God empowered by the Holy Spirit based solely on the work of Christ
- People who want *signs* have little understanding of the Bible and the power of God, they want worldly gain

The Real Question-What is Truth?

- For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate said to him, “ What is truth?” (J- 18:37-38 ESV)
- Pharaoh believed, sincerely, that he was the source of truth; in a way he was correct, he represented the truth of the sinful man - unable to seek after and understand God, unable to see salvation by his power

Science is Our False Religion

- Kuhn himself tacitly acknowledges: “The transfer of allegiance from paradigm to paradigm is a conversion experience [sic] that cannot be forced.” If all this is so in physics and chemistry, it is much more so in psychology and the social sciences-which are, in large part, fake sciences or pseudo religions. Thomas Stephen Szasz. Schizophrenia: The Sacred Symbol of Psychiatry (Kindle Locations 1945-1947). Kindle Edition.

Science Serves the State

- Since science is a human endeavor carried out by persons living in actual societies, it seems to me inevitable that science -all science-should come under the domination of prevailing social institutions and values. In short, all science is bound to be, to some extent, the servant of the modern nation-state and its ideology. Thomas Stephen Szasz. Schizophrenia: The Sacred Symbol of Psychiatry (Kindle Locations 1929-1930). Kindle Edition.

Science is not Truth but Doubt

- Statistics, and therefore science, can only advise on probability – they cannot determine The Truth. And Truth, with a capital T, is forever just beyond one's grasp.
- And all this because scientists weren't honest enough, or quick enough, to say that science wasn't about Truth, handed down on tablets of stone from above, and even then, only to the elect; but Doubt, which anyone (even girls) could grasp, provided they had a modicum of wit and concentration. (*Notice the denigration of God's Truth?*)

<http://www.theguardian.com/science/occams-corner/2013/sep/19/science-religion-not-be-questioned>

Science is Today's Religion

- It has provided greater *signs* and *wonders* except for God
 - *Signs* – Give knowledge of their God
 - *Wonders* – Point to the existence of their God
- In short, science (hard and soft) is the means of cultural salvation
 - Society – Equality, Fraternity, Liberty
 - Personal – Medicine, Psychology

Plato's Republic is Proving True

- Plato believed that each form of leadership leads to the next form
 - Honorable – Did not meet the basic needs of man
 - Oligarchy – The rich few who could meet their goals
 - Democracy – Rule of the mob who could meet no goals
 - Tyranny – Rule of one who could meet his goal, in fear

Real Truth of Science – Satan

- The few rich and powerful use the honorable nephilim to establish tyranny over the mob who seek nothing more than signs and wonder expressing the truth of their religion hoping for societal salvation through science
- Science is nothing more than a form of Gnosticism that bows with ALL other religions honoring the supremacy of Gnosticism, whose true god is Satan

Science – Fear and Doubt

- Science, indeed, all of man' knowledge cannot peer beyond this physical façade, this universe
 - Science cannot give knowledge of Absolute, only doubt
 - Doubt only results in fear since nothing material is fixed
 - Hope only arises in moving from the material to the spiritual – Gnosticism which appears as truth to all men
- You have been raised to worship science as truth, overlaying it over biblical truth, a secondary, inferior form of truth