

## Exodus 15 – Sign 06 Breath of Judgment

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

### Third Sign – Second Triad

- This third sign is accomplished without coming before Pharaoh in either his
  - Priestly role
  - Kingship role
- This sign demonstrates to the Egyptian society the results of their sinful philosophy that is predicated on their sinful words and concepts

And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from the kiln, and let Moses throw them in the air in the sight of Pharaoh. It shall become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and become boils breaking out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt." So they took soot from the kiln and stood before Pharaoh. And Moses threw it in the air, and it became boils breaking out in sores on man and beast. And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils came upon the magicians and upon all the Egyptians. But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had spoken to Moses.

(Exodus 9:8-12 ESVST)

## Punishment or Warning?

- At first blush this appears to be nothing more than a punishment on the Egyptians for not letting the Hebrews leave to worship God; however, this is inconsistent with the previous signs
- To discover the true intent of this sign one must look at the Hebrew words to understand what God is communicating to the Egyptians, Hebrews and us

## Handfuls of Soot?

- The Hebrew word, translated as soot, is used only in this passage making its translation difficult at best
- It's closely linked to a Hebrew word that means to breath out in a negative sense – lies (Dt 19:5, 9)
- We do know that this is the waste product of the furnace meaning it is worthless, like chaff (Job 3:17)

## Kiln

- This word is also used mainly in Exodus; however, it is used one other time – in Genesis (Ge 19:28)
  - Sodom and Gomorrah: The smoke of their destruction was as the smoke from a *kiln* (device used to refine ore)
- The imagery conveyed is that of refinement of metals with the byproduct of that process being shown as worthless: dross and ashes or soot

## Rich Imagery in the Bible

- Hebrews are taken out of the “furnace” of Egypt to be a people of God (De 4:20)
  - Egypt is the device that refined the people preparing them to be God’s people
  - Without the furnace of Egypt there would be no Israel
- Thus, God used the kiln, that destroyed Sodom, to refine His people because He chose them over Egypt

## But Israel Rejected God

- Israel did not consistently walk in the Law of God but followed the ways of sinful man, and Satan (Mal 3:1-3)
- God promises to refine Israel, first through the message of John, the Baptist (Baptism of repentance)
  - He will purify the priesthood so that they deliver the message of His Gospel of salvation
  - God’s Word must be clearly, cleanly presented to people

## God Did Not Reject Israel

- God prepares Israel for His Son, their Messiah, our Savior (Ex. 15:7-9)
  - Though they reject their Messiah, striking Him
  - He will preserve a third for His name and
  - He will refine them in the furnace (kiln) purging them of their sin (dross), preparing them for His return

## Christ to Return to His Own

- Isaiah tells of the Day when Christ will return for His own, when they are ready to return to Him because of the refining He has accomplished in them (Is. 30:19-22)
- This is the ushering in of the Millennial Kingdom in the days of the Great Tribulation
- However, this also applies to the Church

## God Refines Christians Today

- Peter, as a Jew and as a Christian, will demonstrate the reality of God's refinement through the melding of man's flesh and Satan's demonic sinful desires into a crucible of refinement (2Pe. 22:30-34)
- This continues even today in what I have called the Hagiazio Process (Sanctification) (1Pe. 12:5-8; 1Pe. 4:16-18)

## Moses Scatters the Soot

- Thus, the words of the Egyptian's religion/philosophy have been tested in the furnace/kiln of God's judgment and found worthless
  - This results in an eternity in God's kiln (Lake of Fire) undergoing fire that can never purify because they rejected God's gold (Ex. 13:20)
- God is warning the Egyptians, Hebrews and us of sin

## Boils/Sores – Outward Sign of Inward Sin



- Moses scatters the soot into the wind (Holy Spirit) who reveals to man his sin (Ex. 16:8-11)
- Holy Spirit reproves the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment in grace, mercy

## Boils – Furnace of the Flesh

- Job is the first person in the Bible to experience boils/sores as a tool of Satan to accomplish the will of God - Repentance (Job. 2:1-10)
  - Job did not sin with his lips but the remainder of Job's words in this book, until confronted by God, are a diatribe of his righteousness which means God who allowed this must be unrighteous; i.e., God is sinful!
  - Job was religious but not saved until after his trials

## Job Learned What Egypt Did Not

- Elihu condemns Job and is NOT condemned by God showing that Job was not saved at this time (Job 34:5-10, 35:12)
  - If God had not pointed Job out to Satan as His righteous slave
  - Satan would not have wanted to break Job's religion
  - Job would not have lost his religion and gained true faith in God

## Man Rejects God's Refinement

- In the Great Tribulation God will again afflict mankind with boils/sores to remind them that all their words of philosophy, religion and global governance can only lead to their eternal purification (Rev. 16:1-3)
- We come full circle learning what this short, simple section of the Bible teaches: *Words communicate our mind and have consequences that follow us into eternity*

## Pharaoh's Priests Unclean

- The boils made Pharaoh and his priestly caste unclean even by their own standards
  - Boils could be defined as any type of oozing or spreading skin lesion to include leprosy
  - This was considered unclean by the Mosaic Law (Lev. 13:18,22)
  - Those with these lesions had to live apart from society as an example of unholiness, yet Christ came to bring holiness to those who were unholy; i.e., repentant sinners

## Could Not Stand Before a God

- Since Moses was considered a god on the same level as Pharaoh, the priests could not come before him
- They suffered the effects of their false religion as did those they ministered to also suffered
- They could not heal themselves, demonstrating their powerlessness contrasting with God's powerfulness

## Hardening of the Heart

- Pharaoh, Egyptians, Israel, Us and all mankind have hardened our hearts against God since Adam's sin
- When confronted with truth our hearts reveal our sin
- Yet, God chooses to retrieve some to demonstrate His graciousness in spite of Satan's, and man's, charge of God's unrighteousness (Joh 3:12-23; 37:23-26; Ro 9:19-26; 1Pe 1:17)