

Exodus 17 - Sign 08 Locusts of Judgment

Exodus (Names) - Changing the World

Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 10:1-20

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

Rising Crescendo

- Each triad of signs has increased in intensity, raising the tension pointing to the final demonstration of God's truth and power over His creation
- This second sign of the third triad confronts Pharaoh in his kingly role in a more blunt fashion than has been previously observed, and Pharaoh is more aggressive against Moses

Issues of the Heart

- This sign reveals that Pharaoh's heart, and the hearts of the Egyptians, as being the core of their rebellion
 - When God says He has made Pharaoh's heart *heavy*, He is referring to the *guilt* Pharaoh is feeling, Ma'at ceased
 - Pharaoh's dilemma:
 - Keep rebelling against God and live in his guilt or
 - Submit to God and have his guilt, and crown, removed

Pharaoh Refuses to Humble

- God bluntly asks, through Moses, how long he will refuse to humble himself before God
 - This direct confrontation is public, before the court, and thus, before all of Egypt
 - Pharaoh has people humble themselves to him
 - If he acknowledges God as supreme he also admits that the Egyptian culture rests on lies; i.e., he is not a god

Stubbornness of Sin

- The natural man cannot submit to God for it makes no sense to him, the Gospel is madness, does not compute
 - Without God's intervention Pharaoh cannot repent
 - Pharaoh agrees with his heart, his sin, he does not entertain the thought of repentance
- Pharaoh responds with "power"; i.e., powerlessness

Locusts of Judgment

- Because Pharaoh will not submit to God even though his country has been crippled by the sign of the storms
- God will demonstrate His power with another sign that decimates Pharaoh's agricultural wealth and thus the power of his government and his military
- Locusts: the Locusts of Judgment

This is *not* a 1950s Sci-Fi movie!



Notice the Metaphors

- God causes an east wind (Magog) to blow all night
 - We know the wind is a sign of spiritual forces and occurring at night signals a negative impact
 - These are demonic spiritual forces the Egyptians have worshiped that God has allowed more control in Egypt
- The locusts are a metaphor for the demonic spiritual forces that will torment the Egyptians only, for a time

Ravenous Locusts

- The physical locusts are ravenous, stripping the land of every greenery possible then moving on, carried by the wind
- Demonic forces are ravenous, tormenting the people who worship them until they are forced to move to relent; that is, God in His mercy has set limits to their destructiveness in order to save some (Ex 9:14-24)

Idols are Representations

- The idols worshiped by each culture are nothing more than physical representations of the spiritual demonic forces they are actually worshiping
- The demonic forces *never* change but their representations can be unique to each culture
- An atheistic culture, such as ours, worships ourselves as idols, but the forces being worshiped are demonic

Egyptians are Afraid

- The men of the court demand that Pharaoh acquiesce to the demands of Moses
 - Egypt is crippled, why further weaken her inviting attack
 - Pharaoh obviously has no power, nor do the other gods
- Pharaoh tries to negotiate with Moses to allow only the men to go to worship God (compromise like a *good* democracy to achieve a settlement)

Moses Refuses to Compromise

- Moses says that *everyone* must go with all their possessions to hold a **feast** to the Lord
 - This is the first time this word is used in the Bible
 - This **feast** invites everyone to have a personal intimate, relationship with the Lord
 - In Egypt, only the priests can come before their gods
 - Pharaoh **drives** (increased aggressiveness) them from the court; Moses, under God's direction, calls the locusts

Revelation is the Key

- I have said for many years that Revelation is the final exam to one's knowledge of the Bible
- Revelation gives a clue to understanding the metaphors in this presentation - the locusts
- This demonstrates the interdependence of Scripture, the Old Covenant is as essential as the New Covenant

Metaphor of Locusts (Re 9:1-20)



Differences and Similarities

Physical Locusts

- Have no king (vs 30:27)
- Attack only plants
- Do not kill people
- Cause great misery

Spiritual Locusts

- Have a king, Apollyon
- Attack only lost people
- Do not kill people
- Cause great misery

Spiritual Demonic Forces

- Satan is their king and is given the power to release them from the abyssos, by God Who gave him the key
- Their king has one mission, the torment of those who are not God's people
 - To demonstrate their utter sinfulness in every situation
 - He orchestrates their torment through their religions and, like Pharaoh, (for the same reason) cannot repent

Characteristics of these Locusts

- They are very numerous, like locusts, rising out of the smoke (darkened wind)
- They have the tormenting sting of scorpions, striking unexpectedly from cover causing chronic pain
- Their reign is limited both in time and in scope
 - They do not attack the people of God, as in Egypt

Illustrations of Rebellion

- These locusts have crowns - they are given power and authority over the people who worship them
- They have the hair of women - women who rule are in rebellion against God, leading astray rebellious people
- They have human faces - they appear as people of light but cause only heavy (guilty), hardened hearts

Illustrations of Rebellion

- They have the teeth of lions - Like Satan they roar like lions but do not kill, only ensnare spiritually via *words*
- They have breastplates of iron - They are spirits and cannot be killed; thus, men are powerless against them
- They have the sound of horses - They move rapidly overwhelming the lost whom they torment

Pharaoh Admits His Sin

- Under the onslaught of the locusts, Pharaoh admits:
 - His sin and thus his powerlessness
 - Asks Moses to intervene to remove the locusts
- Pharaoh *hardens* his heart when the locusts are removed
 - God does not intervene to save Pharaoh
 - Though the locusts are removed, the demons are not