

Exodus 13 – Sign 04 Demonic Flies

Exodus (Names) – Changing the World

Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 8:20-32

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

First Sign – Second Triad

- The first triad was basically spiritual; that is, the physical signs pointed to spiritual problems that left uncorrected would result in spiritual death (just as physical death is a metaphor for the spiritual death since the soul never ceases to exist)
- The second triad demonstrates the destructive nature of demonic spiritual forces in the material world

Pharaoh as High Priest

- God commands Moses to confront Pharaoh at the Nile while he is about his priestly duties interceding for his people to maintain Ma'at
- Pharaoh truly believes that he has access to true spiritual beings, and power, to achieve a balance between success and failure (good and evil) for his culture, God is going to disabuse him of this thought

The Intercessory Request

- Let my people go to worship me in the wilderness; i.e., let my people go (they are not your people) to worship me for their salvation in their own nation
- God never orders His people to rebel and summarily leave Egypt of their own accord but consistently demands that Pharaoh (Satan who is behind Pharaoh) to release them since he is their titular head

There are always choices

- There are always choice...you may not like your choices but there are choices.
- Pharaoh has a choice
 - Let the people go, or
 - God will fill the land with flies (What?!)

Why Flies?

- If you think of house flies they are a nuisance and can carry diseases
- If you lived in Maine, and further north, you understand that flies “bite” and swarm by the tens of thousands



Beelzebub

- We must search the Bible for its definition of flies
- Since Christ addresses this issue head-on that is where we will start
- Medieval, and later, art corrupted this concept



Beelzebub Means...

- According to the Jewish Encyclopedia this name may have had several meanings but seems to have been associated with the Philistine city of Ekron and its idols which the early Jews associated with flies, a derogatory comment on their arch enemies the Greeks (2K 1:2-10)
 - Baal Zebul - Lord of the heavenly mansion
 - Baal Zebub - Lord of the dung

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/2712-beelzebub>

Beelzebul is Satan

- Christ cast a demon out of a man publically
 - People said, "Can this be the son of David" (Christ)
 - Pharisees said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons."
 - Christ replies, "And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself." (Mt 12:22-28)
- Beelzebul is identified as Satan by Christ and Pharisees

Satan is Lord of the Demons

- Everyone acknowledges that Beelzebul is Satan, Lord of the Demons
- The ancient Jews not only identified Beelzebul as Satan but also as "lord of the flies (flies frequently associated with dung)", a derisionary term for ancient Philistine idols and the forces behind the idols (1Co 10:18-20)

Therefore, Flies Equate to Demons

- When God sends flies upon Egypt He is, in fact, warning them that their reliance upon idolatry is an alliance with demonic forces that will prey upon them
 - In other words, there is no Ma'at with demonic forces
 - Demonic possession in the Gospels always results in a self-destructive, out of control person or animal (Mt 9:26-32)
- The demons they trust, prey upon and torment them

Hebrews are Spared

- These “flies” do not appear in Goshen, where the Hebrews dwell
 - It is not that the Hebrews are more “righteous”
 - It is not that the Hebrews are more faithful
 - It is not that the Hebrews are more holy
- It is God who protects His people as He wills, then and today (not of works lest any man should boast) (Ro 2:9, 9:11)

These Flies “Bite”

- This sign is alluded to several times in the Old Testament
 - Psalms tells us that these flies devoured (bite) (Ps 49)
 - This means that these were not just “pesky” house flies
 - These were “Maine” flies that swarmed by the tens of thousands, biting and tormenting everyone (Moose have been known to have been driven to death by the thousands of bites of these tormenting flies)

Pharaoh Suffers

- With this sign Pharaoh himself, and his priestly caste, feel the bites
- Now, Pharaoh wants to deal because he himself is tormented
 - Pharaoh and Moses dicker about where to go to sacrifice
 - Pharaoh, like Satan, does not deal in “good faith”

Pharaoh Grants Permission

- Pharaoh tells Moses to remove the flies and he will let them go and sacrifice to God in the wilderness
- Moses does not believe him, warning Pharaoh not to renege on his promise
- Moses prays on the morrow for the removal of the flies, which God answers, and Pharaoh reneges on his deal

Pharaoh Violates his Heart

- Pharaoh is the example to all Egyptians on how to live honorably, keeping one's heart *light* by keeping Ma'at
- However, once again Pharaoh violates his own heart and Ma'at by renegeing on his pledge to Moses
- By his own standards he has endangered his salvation – all sin lies to both the practitioner and the watcher

Sin Preys Upon the Sinner

- The practical results of sin is torment
 - Guilt warns the practitioner of impending danger
 - Practice of sin never satisfies but constantly demands more and more and more and more until death
 - The sinner's own heart testifies against him (Is. 59:12)
- God's love casts out fear of judgment (1Jn 4:18)

Pharaoh Learned Nothing

- The flies, the demons, gain entrance into our lives through our sin nature as evidenced by our sins
- Sin does not satisfy but only attracts demons and sinners to further corrupt our nature
- This inward corruption is evidenced by outward unrest both personally and corporately: locally, nationally and internationally – as James said, lust begets wars (Ja 4:1-24)

Man Has Learned Nothing

- The more man rejects the Word of God for the lies of the sin the more violent the world becomes
- The Gospel produces peace and those who practice the Gospel will reproduce that peace in their lives (Ro 5:22)
- If the world has become more violent it is only because those who practice sin are gaining ascendancy as God allows in these end times, our times