

Exodus 14 – Sign 05 Pestilence of Sin

Exodus (Names) – Changing the World
Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 9:1-7

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

Second 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 King

- God commands Moses to confront Pharaoh as King of Egypt in his court which legalizes his request to leave
- The King of Egypt has judicial authority over the people, society and the land but there are limits to his authority and power as set by God who is above all authority

Pestilence – Fear of Death



- Until the 20th century pestilence was virtually uncontrollable
- Antibiotics ushered in a “golden age” of health
- Yet, viral diseases still strike death as God wills

Modern Man’s Foolishness



- Due to antibiotics modern man believes he controls pestilence
- His “control” has only increased his sinfulness rather than shown him his need for salvation in Christ

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
- If you do not allow this then all livestock will be struck with a pestilence and die
 - The Hebrews livestock will be spared
 - This starts suddenly at the appointed time, tomorrow

Pestilence – The New Threat

- There is no reference to pestilence in Genesis
- The first Bible reference occurs in Exodus 5:3 when the Hebrews tell Pharaoh that if they are not allowed to go and worship God then He will strike them with pestilence (God did not say this, it's an empty threat)

What Is Known About Pestilence

- Since the acknowledgement of the “Germ Theory” man knows that unsanitary conditions and poor health habits contribute to the spread of diseases lumped under the term, pestilence
 - Viral
 - Bacterial
 - Misc: Fungal, Parasitic

Spiritual-Physical Cleanliness

- I have shown in previous lessons the link between spiritual and physical cleanliness
 - The physical mirrors the spiritual
 - Unclean spiritually leads to poor health habits physically
 - Pestilence thrives in unclean social environments promoting spread of diseases among tightly packed living environments

Physical Spread True for Herds

- Herd animals are tightly packed animals by nature
 - They live in their own wastes
 - They are in very close contact
 - They are susceptible to pestilence once disease is introduced into the herd
- Whole herds have to be eliminated to stop the spread of diseases, even today (chickens and pigs for example)

Bible Shows God Allows Pestilence

- Man brings pestilence on himself through his rejection of God (Isa 1:18-32)
- This can be traced through the Bible
 - If Israel turns from God they will suffer pestilence (Lev 26:23-25; De 28:20-24)
 - Israel and David suffered pestilence at God's hand for their sinful pride before David repented (2Sa 24; 1Ch 21)

People Can Avoid Pestilence

- If people will turn to God, repenting of their sin and seek God's forgiveness and salvation then He will heal them (2Ch. 7:11-14)
 - Promise given to Israel to remain in the land
 - Promise can be applied to individuals spiritually today (healed of their sin) (Is. 5:15-16)
- Purpose of pestilence is turn people to God (2Ch. 20:9, Am. 4:2)

Four Horsemen of Apocalypse

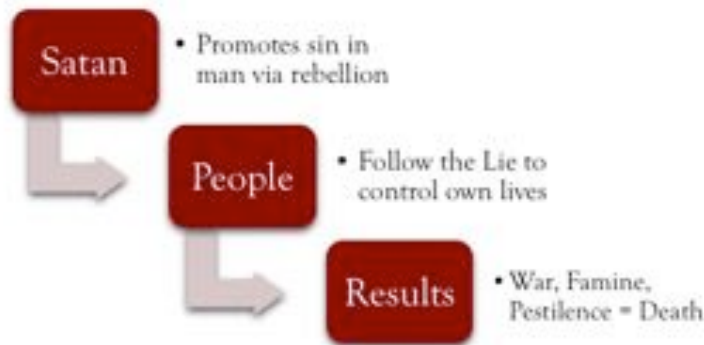


- These should not be seen as punishment on sinful man by an angry God
- These are the natural results of sinful man in control apart from God, we see them even today

Four Horsemen Are Us

- The Old Testament is clear that when man turns from God then He *allows*
 - War
 - Famine
 - Pestilence
- They are the fruit of man seeking to control his destiny apart from God

God Gave Them Up to Their Dreams



False Claim – Theodicy

- Man claims that God promotes harm to man as punishment for sin to force man to do good
- Actually, God *allows* man to experience the results of his own leadership, actually Satan's leadership, to promote his repentance and encourage his salvation
- God then provides an escape from man's own hell – grace

Pharaoh Did Not Learn

- Pharaoh saw the results of his sin
 - Death of all Egyptian livestock
 - Yet, God spared the people so they could learn and repent
- Pharaoh rejected God's grace and Pharaoh made his heart heavy
 - He knew he was rejecting God in order to preserve his rule that would produce: war, famine and pestilence

We Are the Same Today

- Sexual immorality has promoted the pestilence that has come to be known as AIDS
 - Man rejected that this was a disease spread by immorality
 - Man persecuted, hmm, prosecuted anyone who suggested that repentance would prevent this disease to spread to others

Newer Diseases Today

- The list is growing yearly with the pestilences that threaten mankind for which we have no antibiotics
- Famine is increasing, not because of lack of food, but because of poor economics usually due to the greed of rulers that put its people in danger of death
- Wars are increasing among cultures crossing national boundaries, ignoring traditional political controls

Result of Pestilence

- Man continues to reject God
- Man would rather live in a world he "controls" rather than submit to God and live with God's peace
- Modern man is walking in Pharaoh's footsteps, enjoying the fruit of his sin worshiping the very forces that are destroying him: war, famine and pestilence