

Exodus 16 – Sign 07 Storm of Judgment

Exodus (Names) - Changing the World

Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 9:13-35

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 – Third Triad

- This first sign of the final triad confronts Pharaoh in his priestly role with a warning of the finality to come
- God clearly warns Pharaoh that he could have been struck down at any time in order to demonstrate to him, Egypt, Hebrews, the ancient nations and us the mercy and long suffering grace of God

Pharaoh's (Satan's) Pride

- The root cause of Pharaoh's obstinance to release the Hebrews was pride
 - To release the Hebrews is to acknowledge the supremacy of God over himself as god and his philosophy (gods)
 - Pharaoh alternately hardened his heart and made his heart heavy showing that he knew he was in the wrong (Ex 7:19-21)

Physical Signs of Spiritual Forces

- These physical forces can be signs of underlying spiritual forces
 - If these forces are controlled then they are linked with God's Holy Spirit
 - If these forces are uncontrolled then they are linked to demonic forces

Signs of Demonic Forces

- Fire - Killed Job's servants and sheep (Job 1:13-16)
- Wind - Killed Job's children (Job 1:18-19; Dn 7:2)
- Water - Symbols of Satan's Gentile Kingdoms (Dn 7:2-8)

Signs of God's Spirit

- Fire - Pentecost and the Church (Ac 2:1-4)
- Wind - Pentecost and the Church (Ac 2:1-4)
- Water - Baptism of Christ with the Holy Spirit (Jn 1:29-34)

Seventh Sign - Spiritual Forces

- God will give Pharaoh a sample of what it means to be given up to the forces he worships in the form of a terrible storm probably similar to the storms that herald the coming Cataclysm (Flood)
 - Fire - Fire of God from heaven (lightening)
 - Water - Liquid and frozen (hail)
 - Wind - The force that drives the storm, carrying the rain

God's Mercy Remains Active

- God demonstrates His long suffering and mercy by warning Pharaoh and his people of the coming cataclysm to befall them
 - Those who believed moved their slaves and cattle into shelter
 - Those who did not believe kept their livestock and slaves in the fields

God's Power Over His Creation

- In order to demonstrate His power God openly controls when the terrible storm will start and stop
 - This prevents Pharaoh from claiming Moses just used a coincidental storm
 - Moses, and God, are seen as the true power behind nature

Storm Destroyed the Crops

- Kingdoms heavily depended on husbandry and agriculture for their survival and their wealth
 - Industry was virtually unknown until the 18th century
 - Wealth was mined or produced in the form of animals and crops (Egypt the "bread basket" of the Romans)
 - Destruction of their husbandry and agricultural resources could cripple or destroy kingdoms

Not all Crops Destroyed

- Moses makes clear that God did not destroy all the Egyptian's crops.
 - Flax and barley were early crops and therefore destroyed by the hail
 - However, the wheat and the emmer (farrow) had not yet sprouted so they were spared
 - Demonstration of God's mercy

Contradictory Response

- When God shows mercy and long suffering, man responds with stiff-necked pride
 - Moses confronts Pharaoh with the fact that he will respond with pride because the wheat and farrow are not destroyed
 - Lost man cannot not understand nor accept the mercy of God; thus, Pharaoh sinned

Pharaoh's Heart

- This is the first sign in which Pharaoh both:
 - Made his heart heavy (sinned knowingly)
 - Hardened his heart (rejected the mercy and truth of God)
- This demonstrates the mounting tension of these signs that will lead to its devastating conclusion

Spiritual Destruction

- The spiritual forces Pharaoh, and all mankind, worship are demonic and have no love for man (1Co-10:20)
- Man does not control these forces and when God allows, these forces clearly demonstrate their destructive nature (Isa-9:12; 32:7-17)

Man Agrees to His Sin

- When man is given the truth of God he: (Ro. 1:18-12)
 - Rejects God's truth
 - Substitutes his own truth in the form of worshiping created forces and objects
 - Finds comfort in those who sin as he/she does (Birds of a feather flock together)

Pharaoh Chooses the Next Sign

- Because Pharaoh believes he still has some power left in the form of the coming wheat and farrow crops, he determines the result of the next sign
- This final triad of signs will decimate Egypt as a Kingdom demonstrating to the ancient world the power and truth of God as she will take a century or more to recover to a semblance of her former power