

The Finger Of God

Long Beach Alliance Church • February 13th, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

~Exodus 8:19 (NASB)

1) A Plague Without Warning

- A) The plague of blood (Exodus 7:14-25) was preceded “in the morning” by a request from God to Pharaoh to “let My people go,” with a warning to Pharaoh of the impending plague against Egypt and her gods.
- B) The second plague of frogs (8:1-15) was preceded by Moses simply “going to Pharaoh” to request that Pharaoh “let My people go,” and another warning to Pharaoh of the next impending plague against Egypt.
- C) The third plague of gnats/lice (8:16-19) occurs without warning. Further, there is no request to Pharaoh to “let My people go.” The third plague strikes as a wave of judgment against Pharaoh and Egypt unexpectedly.
- D) This cycle (or wave) of plagues will be repeated in exactly the same pattern as the judgments progress. The plagues can be broken into three waves, with the tenth plague serving as a disastrous climax against Pharaoh’s Egypt.

2) God vs. Pharaoh ~ Round #3

- A) Note that the first plagues come the water and from the earth (dust). The next plague will come from the air. The plagues are coming from all parts of the ecosystem (water, earth, air).
- B) This thorough attack on the mystical/magical/scientific belief systems of Egypt clearly revealed God’s authority over all things, and leaves Egypt shaken.
- C) The dust of the ground, from where life had originally come (creation) and to where life will eventually go (“dust to dust” – death) becomes a sign to all of Egypt of Pharaoh’s mortality, and as their representative, the fragile mortality of all the peoples of Egypt.

3) Plague #3 ~ The Dust Of Annoying Death

- A) Following God’s command (8:16), Aaron strikes his staff against the “dust” of Egypt resulting in gnats/lice covering the land (8:17).
- B) Unlike previous plagues though, Egypt’s magicians cannot duplicate this miracle (8:18), a severe blow to Pharaoh’s attempts to control Moses & Aaron for his purposes.
- C) The magicians state the obvious to Pharaoh, that this powerful plague must have come from God Himself, literally from God’s own hand (“the finger of God,” 8:19).
- D) However, Pharaoh’s heart is determined and stubborn (8:19), and he will not concede that God’s people do not belong to Pharaoh. Pharaoh refuses God’s revelation, and thrusts Egypt into increasingly worse plagues!