

Buzzard Bait

Long Beach Alliance Church • February 27th, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing will die of all that belongs to the sons of Israel.
~Exodus 9:4 (NASB)**

1) The Hand Of God

- A) As with many of the plagues against Egypt, Moses makes an appeal to Pharaoh on behalf of God to “let My people go, that they may serve Me” (Exodus 9:1).
- B) Like the previous plague of suffocating swarms of flies (8:20-32), Moses warns Pharaoh that if he continued to hold God’s people, another plague is coming (9:2).
- C) Note that if Pharaoh continues to resist, “the hand of the LORD” will come against Egypt (9:3). This is a popular idiom (figure of speech) in Scripture (also “the arm,” “outstretched arm,” “right hand,” and “mighty hand”) which referred to God’s indisputable power and authority.
- D) The threat against Egypt is the most severe of all the plagues up to this point. The threat against the “livestock” (9:3) would have enormous economic impact against Egypt, while preserving Israel with great abundance (9:4).

2) God vs. Pharaoh ~ Round #5

- A) The threat against the livestock of Egypt, which included all the domesticated livestock “in the field” (horses, donkeys, camels, sheep, and especially cattle) was a terrible blow to numerous Egyptian gods, especially those of cattle.
- B) Previous plagues in Egypt would have been terrible nuisances, even causing some temporary pain. However, this plague would have devastating economic and religious implications for the common man.
- C) Pharaoh’s rejection, while not recorded, “goes without saying,” and results in the devastating plague. For Pharaoh, submitting to God was virtually out of the question, since it would be an economically (slave nation), and theologically (weaker gods) impossible leadership position.

3) Plague #5 ~ Devastation Of Egyptian Livestock

- A) Just as God promised, all the livestock “in the field” of Egypt (9:3, 6) die the next day. God reveals Himself to the entire nation as being superior to the gods of Egypt.
- B) Further, God distinguishes “the sons of Israel” (9:6) from Egypt in dramatic fashion by preserving all the livestock of Israel throughout Egypt (esp. in Goshen).
- C) Despite this powerful and devastating plague, Pharaoh continues to be unwilling to submit to the true God of Egypt, the LORD (9:7). His heart remains “heavy” (hardened) against God and Israel.

For further discussion with your family, spouse, or small group study... Why does God choose to use these plagues against Egypt? How do they reveal Him? If they are revelation, what do they reveal about God? How are the plagues and the glory of God connected? Are the plagues consistent with God’s character? Do you find some plagues which are not consistent (irreconcilable) with the character of God? Discuss your concerns and insights...