

'Tis Just A Flesh Wound

Long Beach Alliance Church • March 6th, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians as well as on all the Egyptians.
~Exodus 9:11 (NASB)**

1) Echoes From The Past Without Warning

- A) While the nation of Egypt was still recovering from the loss of a significant number of livestock (Exodus 9:1-7), God sends Moses and Aaron to strike at Pharaoh & Egypt with another devastating plague (9:8).
- B) This plague (#6), comes without warning (much like the plague of gnats (plague #3), 8:16-19) and marks the end of the second cycle of plagues (#'s 4-6). Like the plague of gnats from dust, this plague is from kiln dust/soot (9:8).
- C) There is a real sense of justification against the oppression of Egypt in this judgment. Israel suffered many long hours of baking bricks in kilns under their "taskmasters" (1:14; 5:7-14). Now, the remnants (dust) of Egypt's oppression were thrown to God, and returned in judgment (9:8-9).
- D) The "boils" were so intense on the people, the burst open with "sores" (9:9). The word-picture is one of oozing, open, and painful sores which covered the body of both man and beast in Egypt (9:10).

2) God vs. Pharaoh ~ Round #6

- A) Of all the plagues from God up to this point, this is the first plague where the lives of the Egyptians were shown to be in real danger. This marks a change in how God is dealing with Egypt, now pouring out His wrath on people.
- B) As becomes increasingly clear through the progression of the plagues, this plague strikes at the theological foundations of Egypt's religious system. The Egyptian gods Sekhmet (goddess of power) and Imhotep (god of health/peace) were powerfully subdued by the LORD God of the Hebrews in this epidemic plague of boils and open sores.
- C) The total impotence of Egypt's gods are illustrated with oozing significance when Egypt's own magicians can't even stand before Moses due to their unclean wounds (9:11).

3) Plague #6 ~ The Hardening Of Pharaoh's Heart

- A) As with previous plagues, the heart of Pharaoh is hardened (heavy) toward God, and Pharaoh refuses to let God's people go to worship the LORD (9:12).
- B) However, for the first time, God is the agent hardening Pharaoh's heart (9:12). This is a sovereign and judicial act of God, leaving Pharaoh in rebellion against God (cf. 2nd Samuel 17:14; 1st Kings 12:15; Deuteronomy 2:30; Joshua 11:20).
- C) This change in how God is dealing with Pharaoh/Egypt, is a powerful reminder of what God has been teaching His people all along... God is in total control. God chooses to not show mercy to Egypt, a terrible sign for Egypt's future.

For further discussion with your family, spouse, or small group study... Is God's hardening of Pharaoh's heart consistent with the character of God as you know Him? Is it the prerogative of God to deal with mankind in whatever way He wishes? Can God cause calamity for man/mankind if He so desires? Is God responsible to provide mercy and grace for people? If God can save, must He save? Is trusting in God safe, or is their danger involved in trusting God?